

# Gray Matter Fall 2018 - Course Catalog

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## History

### **African American History – The Harlem Renaissance**

**Teacher:** Karen Minzer

**Grades:** 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesday Only

**Class Time:** 9:30 – 10:45 am

**Duration:** 1.25 hours per week, 32 wks

**Fee(s):**

**Full Tuition**

**Supply Fee**

\$720.00

\$10

**Description:**

This class introduces students to the variety of cultural expressions that came to be celebrated as “the Harlem Renaissance.” This era is best known for literary styles that defined African American scholarship and urban life in the decades between the World Wars. The textbook will provide social history of the era through photographs and sound clips, and offers access to a range of poems, novel excerpts, news articles, visual arts and memoirs that help bring early Harlem back to life. (suitable for Middle and High school levels)

**Class format:** Class discussion based on lecture, slides and media clips presented by Karen Minzer. Throughout the semester, students will experience some of the significant music, theater, speeches, visual arts, and fashion trends of the era. The assignments will help relate these artistic expressions to their historical context, tracing the continuing legacy of the Harlem Renaissance in American popular culture.

**Evaluations:** Tests will be multiple choice and brief essay responses.

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Homework:**

Students can expect to spend 1-3 hours per week.

**Class Materials:**

**Textbooks:** Wintz, Cary. *Harlem Speaks: A Living History of the Harlem Renaissance*. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks MediaFusion, 2006. ISBN: 978-1402204364

**Textbook (additional for High School-level students):** Langston Hughes, “The Big Sea”.

Bound composition book  
Colored pencils  
Pens, pencils  
Optional: Laptop or Tablet

The supply fee of \$10 allows the teacher to provide resources and materials.

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$720.00 due at time of registration.
2. Semester tuition of \$360 due at time of registration and second semester payment of \$360 due by January 15<sup>th</sup>
3. Monthly payments of \$80. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$80 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1. No tuition is due in May.

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### **American History**

**Teacher:** Collin Eye

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesday Only

**Class Time:** 1:00 – 2:45 pm

**Duration:** 1.75 hours per week, 32 wks

**Fee(s):**

**Full Tuition**

**Supply Fee**

\$756.00

\$10

**Description:** What is America? The culmination of the European Enlightenment, a nation of immigrants, a new world empire, the center of innovation and discovery, the land of the free? The question has a different answer depending on who you asked, and when. In this class we study the history that's shaped these ideas, from discovery, colonization, and Revolution, to Civil War and Reconstruction, to World War I and Prohibition, to Great Depression and World War II, to Cold War and the Digital Age.

Students learn to thoroughly research various topics on their own, and to form a whole picture from various scraps of sometimes-contradictory accounts. Students will present their research to the class in weekly discussions where we'll discuss the discovered material and the research methods used to find it.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 1-3 hours per week.

**Class Materials:** 3-ring binder devoted to this class only  
Notebook paper  
Pens/pencils  
Colored pencils  
Internet access at home for homework assignments

No textbook is required.

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$756.00 due at time of registration.
2. Semester tuition of \$378 due at time of registration and second semester payment of \$378 due by January 15<sup>th</sup>
3. Monthly payments of \$84. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$84 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1. No tuition is due in May.

## High School World Geography

**Teacher:** Julie Poe

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesday/Thursday

**Class Time:** 3:45 – 5:00 pm

**Duration:** 2.5 hours per week, 32 wks

**Fee(s):**

**Full Tuition**

**Supply Fee**

\$720.00

\$50

**Description:**

It becomes more important every day for us to have a deeper understanding of the world. We need to pursue knowledge of not only where countries are on a map, but also what factors shape the culture, economics, and politics of those countries. Geography blends the study of natural environments with human societies. It has become increasingly difficult for textbooks to stay current in this field, so we will use various online and periodical-style resources.

Students will be expected to do reading and research at home in order to fully participate in the class. Each student will also choose one global issue (such as literacy or climate change or gender equality) to follow through all the regions we study, preparing informational maps to share.

This world geography course is high school level and therefore appropriately rigorous. However, we will still enjoy foods and guests from different countries!

**This course satisfies the high school requirement for a world geography course.**

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 2-4 hours per week.

**Class Materials:** 3-ring binder devoted to this class only  
Notebook paper  
Pens/pencils  
Colored pencils  
Internet access at home for homework assignments

No textbook is required.

The supply fee of \$50 allows the teacher to provide resources and materials.

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$720.00 due at time of registration.
  2. Semester tuition of \$360 due at time of registration and second semester payment of \$360 due by January 15<sup>th</sup>
  3. Monthly payments of \$80. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$80 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1. No tuition is due in May.
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**Middle School World Geography**

**Teacher:** Julie Poe

**Grades:** 6, 7, 8

**Class Schedule:** Wednesday Only

**Class Time:** 1:00 - 2:30 pm

**Duration:** 1.5 hours per week, 32 wks

**Fee(s):**

**Full Tuition**

**Supply Fee**

\$450.00

\$50

**Description:**

In this class, as in most geography classes, we use maps, books, and the Internet to gain more information about this world where we all reside. But that is just the beginning. I believe that getting to know people helps us get to know their countries, so I often ask friends from different countries to visit our class.

I also believe we learn best when we use as many of our senses as possible. We will taste foods, listen to music, hear stories, make things with our hands and learn a few words and phrases in other languages.

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Homework:**

Students can expect to spend 1 hour per week.

**Class Materials:**

3-ring binder devoted to this class only  
Notebook paper  
Pens/pencils  
Colored pencils

Students also need access to a current atlas or the Internet for completing assignments. For example: National Geographic Student World Atlas, 4th edition, ISBN-13: 978-1-426-317751

The supply fee of \$50 allows the teacher to provide resources and materials.

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$450.00 due at time of registration.
  2. Semester tuition of \$225 due at time of registration and second semester payment of \$225 due by January 15<sup>th</sup>
  3. Monthly payments of \$50. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$50 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1. No tuition is due in May.
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**Texas History**

**Teacher:** Karen Minzer

**Grades:** 6, 7, 8

**Class Schedule:** Monday Only

**Class Time:** 11:00 – 12:15 pm

**Duration:** 1.25 hours per week, 32 wks

**Fee(s):**

**Full Tuition**

**Supply Fee**

\$720.00

\$10

**Description:**

The story of Texas is expansive, heroic, colorful, dramatic, tragic, consequential. The list of adjectives is never-ending. Join us as we explore historical facts, data interpretation, geographic and cultural heritage diversities from Texas' ancient origins to the 21st century.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 1-2 hours per week.

**Class Materials:** **Textbook:** *Celebrating Texas: Honoring the Past, Building the Future*; McDougal Littell; (Grades 6-8, Student Edition); ISBN-10: **0-0-618-15512-0** ISBN-13: **978-0-618-15512-5**  
Published by: McDougal Littell, Hardcover, 736 pages

**Textbook:** *The Buena Vista Dilemma: Whether to Become "Gringos"* Uranga, Jose  
ISBN-10: 0595272614 ISBN-13: 978-0595272617  
Published by: iUniverse, Inc. (May 7, 2003), Paper back, 156 pages

Bound composition book  
Colored pencils  
Pens, pencils  
Notebook paper

**Caution:** Be careful to order the right textbook. Several books on the market have the title *Celebrating Texas*. Check the ISBN-13 number for the correct one! New and used textbooks are available online or at Home Educator's Resource in Lewisville.

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$720.00 due at time of registration.
2. Semester tuition of \$360 due at time of registration and second semester payment of \$360 due by January 15<sup>th</sup>
3. Monthly payments of \$80. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$80 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1. No tuition is due in May.

## World History thru Art (Monday)

**Teacher:** Karen Minzer

**Grades:** 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Mondays Only

**Class Time:** 1:00 – 2:30 pm

**Duration:** 1.5 hours per week, 32 wks

**Fee(s):**

**Full Tuition**

**Supply Fee**

\$720.00

\$10

**Description:**

This course combines an introduction to masterpieces of Art History and World History. Art monuments, from the Renaissance to the modern period, are presented alongside the development of European political theater and world-wide colonialization through 20<sup>th</sup> century wars. Works by Michelangelo, Rembrandt, the Impressionists, van Gogh, Picasso, and many other artists are combined with discussion in the context of their historical and social setting. Suitable for both Middle School and High School, as essay assignments are tailored to individualized interests. Laptop or ipad are suggested for notes.

**Class format:** Slide-illustrated lectures, student presentations and class discussion of textbooks.

**Evaluations:** Brief essay topics will be assigned to each students to share in class, based on their personal interests. Exams will consist of slide identifications, comparisons, brief essays explaining the significance of the artworks and events, multiple choice, short answer questions, and extra credit. Blue Book required.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 1-3 hours per week.

**Class Materials:** **Textbook:** Robert Strayer, *Ways of the World*, Vol. 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition ISBN-13: 978-0312583491  
**Textbook:** Cole, Bruce. *The Informed Eye: Understanding Masterpieces of Western Art*. Lanham, MD: Ivan R. Dee, 1999

Bound composition book  
Blue Book  
Colored pencils  
Pens, pencils  
Optional: Laptop or Tablet

NOTE: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of this *Ways of the World* is much less expensive.

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$720.00 due at time of registration.
  2. Semester tuition of \$360 due at time of registration and second semester payment of \$360 due by January 15<sup>th</sup>
  3. Monthly payments of \$80. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$80 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1. No tuition is due in May.
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**World History thru Art (Tuesday)**

**Teacher:** Karen Minzer

**Grades:** 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesdays Only

**Class Time:** 1:00 – 2:30 pm

**Duration:** 1.5 hours per week, 32 wks

**Fee(s):**

**Full Tuition**

**Supply Fee**

\$720.00

\$10

**Description:**

This course combines an introduction to masterpieces of Art History and World History. Art monuments, from the Renaissance to the modern period, are presented alongside the development of European political theater and world-wide colonialization through 20<sup>th</sup> century wars. Works by Michelangelo, Rembrandt, the Impressionists, van Gogh, Picasso, and many other artists are combined with discussion in the context of their historical and social setting. Suitable for both Middle School and High School, as essay assignments are tailored to individualized interests. Laptop or ipad are suggested for notes.

**Class format:** Slide-illustrated lectures, student presentations and class discussion of textbooks.

**Evaluations:** Brief essay topics will be assigned to each students to share in class, based on their personal interests. Exams will consist of slide identifications, comparisons, brief essays explaining the significance of the artworks and events, multiple choice, short answer questions, and extra credit. Blue Book required.

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Homework:**

Students can expect to spend 1-3 hours per week.

**Class Materials:**

**Textbook:** Robert Strayer, *Ways of the World*, Vol. 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition ISBN-13: 978-0312583491

**Textbook:** Cole, Bruce. *The Informed Eye: Understanding Masterpieces of Western Art*. Lanham, MD: Ivan R. Dee, 1999

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Blue Book  
Colored pencils  
Pens, pencils  
Optional: Laptop or Tablet

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