

## AICE Course Descriptions 2020/2021

The aim of **AICE English General Paper** is to improve learners' skills in reading and writing and the ability to think critically about contemporary issues. It also seeks to improve communication in English. As they explore modern issues in this course, learners become aware that not everyone sees the world as they do. Where we live and what we value play important roles in shaping our views. Students should strive to approach modern matters with both maturity and sensitivity. Activities featured in the scheme of work are designed to help them do this. Learners will take responsibility to pay attention in core courses such as science, math, history, and the arts to help reinforce their understanding of these topics. The strategies for reading and writing explored in this course can transfer to any academic field, making it foundational to learners' overall educational experience. Each unit builds reading skills, which scaffold into writing.

**Course #10094000**

**Subject Credit: English**

In **AICE English Language**, students will develop skills to make critical and informed responses to a wide range of texts. Students will also demonstrate their ability to produce writing for specific audiences. We read and write descriptive and imaginative pieces, newspaper and magazine articles, blogs and podcast scripts, biographies and autobiographies, reviews, advertisements, and more. We focus on the way that authors create various moods and effects in their writing, and we students will work on creating these effects in their own writing.

**Course #10015500**

**Subject Credit: English**

**AICE Environmental Management** course seeks to educate students about environmental issues, systems, patterns and mechanisms while emphasizing what impact humans have had on the world around us and how we may manage this impact sustainably. Through this class, students learn to analyze and consider environmental issues on both local and global scales, the importance of sustainability in resource management and the necessity of a global perspective when considering these diverse issues.

**Course #20013810**

**Subject Credit: Science**

**AICE Global Perspectives and Research** is the bottleneck through which all AICE candidates must pass through here at Western High School. The course is designed to study large, complex, global issues from a variety of perspectives with the ultimate goal of passing 3 exams. Paper 1 is given in May and has the students deconstructing articles to compare their arguments and weigh their respective strengths and weaknesses. Paper 2 is a 2000 word essay answering a question of the student's choosing on a global topic with multiple themes/perspectives that is submitted during the school year. Paper 3 is a team project with multiple components; an 8 minute videotaped individual presentation in class, a PowerPoint, an 800 word reflection paper with the group's solution(s) and a transcript of the videotaped presentation, all of which is submitted during the school year, like Paper 2. AICE Global Perspectives uses many of the elements from 9th grade AICE courses and not only prepares students for their 11th grade AICE courses, but for college and career success as well.

**Course #17003640**

**Subject Credit: Elective; Required if seeking AICE Diploma**

**AICE International History** is a course that covers the international relations of various European countries, as well as the USA and Japan, as they battle through colonization, World War I, the trials and tribulations of the League of Nations, the rise of fascism, World War II, and the eventual creation of the League of Nations. The course will use a variety of sources to analyze the drama that politicians like Woodrow Wilson, Harry Truman, Winston Churchill and various other leaders faced as they went through one of the darkest and most interesting times in modern history. You will learn about the rise of Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler, Francisco Franco, Joseph Stalin and other extreme dictators, and how the rest of western civilization battled against them. Finally, the course will end with the creation of the United Nations, which will bring the world into a new age of diplomacy and security. Students will learn skills associated with identifying bias in primary and secondary sources, as well as evaluating the reliability of sources in relation to high level questions asked. Students will also hone their writing skills as they prepare to make formulated arguments addressing questions from this period in history.

**Course #21004900**

**Subject Credit: World History**

**AICE Marine Science** provides a coherent and in-depth exploration of the marine environment. We will use a combination of scholastic materials and hands-on laboratory experiments to make real life connections to what students will learn. We will heavily implement the scientific method to think critically about the ocean, analyze data and solve problems. This course aims to help students better understand and appreciate the creatures around us, the marvels of the ocean, and the amazing processes of life that take place within it. With this understanding students will be equipped with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about life and the world around them.

**Course #20025150**

**Subject Credit: Science**

**AICE Mathematics** (Pre-calculus) The mathematical content of this course (Papers 1 & 2) is similar to Pre-calculus. Prior knowledge: The students taking this course should be above Algebra 2 level: Algebra 2 (Honors), Analysis of Functions, Pre-calculus. Example of topics the student should be familiar to: absolute value, lines, slope, quadratic equations, basic trigonometric functions and identities (SOHCAHTOA and Pythagorean Identity), etc. After successfully completing this course, the students should be able to continue their math path with AP Calculus AB and BC

**Course #12023520**

**Subject Credit: Math**

**AICE Media Studies** is the study of how media affects culture. Key areas of investigation are how media texts achieve meaning through camera shots, angles, movement, composition, editing, sound and mise-en-scène as well as how media represents gender, age, ethnicity, social groups, places, time periods and themes. Through creation of a foundation portfolio, learners also delve into genre, ideology, audience and the institutions who produce, market and distribute media texts. Learners also consider the political and social environment during which the narrative is created.

**Course #11004700**

**Subject Credit: Elective**

**AICE Psychology** aims to encourage an interest in and appreciation of psychology through an exploration of the ways in which psychology is conducted. This exploration includes a detailed review and investigation of several important research studies (12 specific studies). The syllabus uses a wide variety of assessment techniques that will allow learners to show what they know, understand and are able to do. The emphasis is on the development of psychological skills as well as the learning of

psychological knowledge. The key concepts and primary objective on which this syllabus is built are as follows: Nature versus nurture, ethics in psychological research, the need for research constraints and the use of some research techniques. No one view in psychology is definitive: Psychological theories are developed by posing hypotheses which are then tested through research. The relevance of psychology in contemporary society is a primary focus and students are expected to be able to critical think about real life issues that may affect human behavior and society.

**Course #21073600**

**Subject Credit: Elective**

**AICE Sociology** offers learners the opportunity to explore the processes that are shaping current trends and also to develop an understanding of the complexity and diversity of human societies and their continuities with the past. The study of sociology stimulates awareness of contemporary social, cultural and political issues, and focuses on the importance of examining these issues in a rigorous, reasoned and analytical way.

**Course #21083100**

**Subject Credit: Elective**

**AICE Thinking Skills** develops a set of transferable skills, including critical thinking, reasoning and problem solving, that students can apply across a wide range of subjects and complex real world issues. The course enables students to develop their ability to analyze unfamiliar problems, devise problem solving strategies, and evaluate the diverse ways a problem may be solved. During a Thinking Skills course, students learn to put their personal views aside in favor of examining and evaluating the evidence. Students learn how to make informed and reasoned decisions and construct evidence-based arguments. These independent thinking skills build confidence and equip students with a toolkit for tackling complex and unfamiliar subjects, essential for successful progression to higher education or into professional employment.

**Course #17003720**

**Subject Credit: Elective**

**AICE US History** is international in outlook but retains a local relevance. The syllabus provides opportunities for contextualized learning and the content has been created to suit a wide variety of schools, avoid cultural bias, and develop lifelong skills, including critical creative thinking and problem-solving. This course is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. history. Students should learn to assess historical materials – their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability and importance – and to weigh the evidence and interpretations present in historical scholarship. A Cambridge US history course should thus develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in writing format.

**Course #21005000**

**Subject Credit: US History**