

Directed Studies Syllabus

Instructor:

- Ms. Watkins

Contact Information:

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Course Description

Directed Studies is a course that encourages students to become lifelong learners and global thinkers. Students will participate in independent and group activities that will foster problem solving skills, creative expression, critical thinking, consideration of alternative points of view and research investigators. Topics covered during this course will include art, economics, language and literature, mathematics, music, science and social studies. Students will engage in learning experiences that foster personal and social responsibility, multicultural competence, and interpersonal and technical communication skills for citizenship in the global environment of the 21st century.

Major Units:

Unit	Unit Description	Start Date	End Date
Math	The mathematics curriculum will cover algebra and trigonometry.	8/7	8/23
Science	The science topic will be an introduction to genetics and will include a discussion of some of the significant advancements made in the field of genetics in the early twentieth century.	8/26	9/6
Music	The music curriculum will cover basic elements of music theory and will focus on early twentieth century music—both popular and classical works—and will include a section on musical responses to the First World War.	9/9	9/20
Language and Literature	The language and literature curriculum will include critical reading, one novel, two poems, and two short stories. The featured novel will be <i>The Sun Also Rises</i> by Ernest Hemingway.	9/23	10/4
Essay Writing		10/7	10/18
Economics	The economics curriculum will cover fundamental economic concepts, microeconomics, and macroeconomics. The economics curriculum will also include a thematic section providing an economic history of World War I.	10/21	11/1
Art	The art curriculum will cover art fundamentals and will focus on European and American art of the early twentieth century and will include a section	11/4	11/15

	on art and World War I.		
Social Studies	The social science curriculum will cover World War I.	11/18	12/6
Interview Skills		12/9	12/20
Public Speaking		12/6	12/20

Units and dates are subject to change at teacher's discretion.

Major Content:

All of the units will pertain to discoveries, historians and issues that occurred during the World War I era. What started out as a local European war soon became a global war that lasted from 1914-1918. World War I was the first war that involved nations (28 to be exact) from around the world, and is commonly called The Great War or The War to End All Wars. Throughout this course we will look at various impactful events that occurred during this time in history. All topics will be aligned with the National Gifted Standards listed below.

- Advanced Communication Skills Standard (**ACS**): Gifted students will develop advanced communication skills that incorporate new techniques, materials, and formats in the development of products that will be shared with real audiences.
- Advanced Research Skills Standard (**ARS**): Gifted students will develop advanced research methods and independent study skills, which allow for the in-depth learning of self-selected topics within the area of study.
- Creative Thinking & Creative Problem Solving Skills Standard (**CPS**): Gifted students will develop and practice creative thinking and creative problem-solving skills with a variety of complex topics within an area of study in order to generate original ideas and products.
- Higher Order Critical Thinking Skills Standard (**HOTS**): Gifted students will develop and practice higher order and critical thinking skills in an area of study.

Major Skill Objectives:

- Students with gifts and talents demonstrate growth commensurate with aptitude during the school year.
- Students with gifts and talents will become more competent in multiple talent areas and across dimensions of learning.
- Students with gifts and talents demonstrate advanced oral and written skills, and creative expression. They display fluency with technologies that support effective problem solving.
- Students with gifts and talents will ask probing, insightful, and relevant questions. They will model thinking skills, examples of applied thinking and adaptive response.
- Students with gifts and talents generate questions and answers which demonstrate careful listening and consideration of alternative points-of-view. They will also tolerate ambiguity when solving problems.
- Students with gifts and talents become independent investigators.

Grading Policy:

Grading Weights:

- Class Assignments/Class Participation 50%
- Projects and Outside Reading 50%

Grading System:

- 90-100 A
- 89-80 B
- 79-70 C
- 69-0 F

Expectations:

- **Abide by all rules of Therrell Educational Complex**
- Be in your assigned seat quietly working on your warm-up when the bell rings.
- Respect your classmates, your teacher and yourself
- Raise your hand and wait for permission before speaking or getting out of your seat.
- Refrain from bringing food to class.
- Be prepared. Bring materials to class daily.
- Refrain from talking when the teacher is talking or an announcement is made over the intercom system.
- **Respect the property of others by asking permission before utilizing anything that does not belong to you.**

REWARDS

- **Left to the discretion of the teacher and the students.**

CONSEQUENCES

- 1st Offense - Warning
- 2nd Offense – Parental Contact
- 3rd Offense – Time-Out (An alternate assignment will be given to be completed in time out location)
- 4th Offense- Detention
- 5th Offense - Office Referral
- Severe Offense – immediate office referral & call home