



2019-2020

MARCH TERM COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Guidelines For March Term	<u>2</u>
Ninth Grade Courses	<u>3</u>
Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Courses	<u>4</u>

Guidelines For March Term

March Term will run from **March 2 – 13, 2020**, one week after the start of the third trimester and just prior to the start of spring break. Students will earn a grade for March Term.

- On-campus courses do not carry any additional cost; international or domestic travel opportunities do come with a fee (as noted in each course description).
- Students in grade 9 will select their March Term experience in the spring of their eighth grade year at Stuart. Students who are new to Stuart will make their selection upon enrollment and course registration.
- Students in grade 10 will select from either Stuart Sophomore Signature Experience — Sacred Heart Academic Exchange Program (SHAEP) or the Project/Problem Based Learning (PBL) experience in the spring of their ninth grade year at Stuart. Students who are new to Stuart will make their selection upon enrollment and course registration.
- Students in grades 11-12 will select their March Term experience in the spring of their tenth and eleventh grade years, respectively, at Stuart. Students who are new to Stuart will make their selection upon enrollment and course registration.
- On-campus courses will, for the most part, be completed each day by 3:30 PM, allowing students to participate in sports. There will be sports practice and possible scrimmages during March Term. However, there will not be any league games during March Term. Any student with a potential conflict should meet with her coach to discuss. Some courses include day trips and occasional overnight trips (noted in the course description). There are no costs to families for these trips.
- Seniors will have priority in the scheduling of courses.
- Students in grades 9, 11, and 12 must rank all of their choices in order of preference via a Google Form.
- Registration will close on **May 31, 2019**.
- The Upper School Handbook applies to March Term.

Ninth Grade Courses

Jersey Fresh: We are the Garden State

Jersey Fresh: We are the Garden State! is geared for those students who have a desire to learn more about the beautiful state of NJ while also satisfying an interest in agriculture and modern farming practices. We will take several field trips to explore a variety of farms to provide students with a better understanding of how modern farming continues to thrive and serve the needs of NJ communities and beyond. Students will: gain a greater sense of environmental stewardship and sustainability; understand and appreciate modern farming practices (organic farming practices vs. GMOs), beekeeping and why bees are so important, as well as how today's farmers raise animals, such as dairy cows and alpacas. Field trips will include *Cedar Lane Alpacas in Howell, NJ*; *Profeta Farms: Organic Farm and Store in Readington, NJ*; *Fulper Dairy Farm in Lambertville, NJ*; *Beehive Barn in Cranbury, NJ*; *Whitesbog Village: Cranberry Bog in Browns Mills: NJ*.

Legends of Sea and Sky

Students will investigate the legends, history, and science behind the marine life of the sea and celestial aspects of the sky. The course includes topics such as the anatomy of a fish, coral reefs, marine life, historical astronomy, astronomical instruments used for stargazing, the constellations, the solar system, black holes, supernovae, and stars. Students learn about sea and sky actively as they build telescopes, analyze live fish, and embark on a stargazing adventure. Students will have opportunities to explore beyond what meets the eye and delve deep into sea and explore the vast expanses of the universe.

Sewing the 21st Century: Upcycle your world

Sewing is a wonderful synthesis of design, engineering, mathematics, business planning, and life skills. The Project Runway March Term will challenge each student will develop a product that uses a standard sewing technique, and an upcycled garment(s) and/or fabric to make something new. The types of products students may design and manufacture are open, and not limited to a fashion garment. Other considerations may include home decor, jewelry, housewares, themed artwork, electronics, tech gear, etc.

Stuart Road Irregulars: Thinking Like a Detective

Detectives are fascinating human beings. They are like us in all things human and yet both real and fictional detectives must have well-honed observational, logic, and organizational skills in order to piece together the elements of a mystery and solve a crime. Students participating in this course will have some fun being introduced to some of the most famous fictional detectives while at the same time learning advanced modes of critical thinking through the utilization of detective fiction. The main focus of the course will be centered around the great fictional detective Sherlock Holmes. Through the analysis of Holmes' methods and specific detective stories (both through assigned readings and the viewing of videos) students will gain an appreciation of how truly successful detectives use critical thinking skills to solve mysteries. During the course students will learn the elements of the sound evaluation and interpretation of "data" or evidence, the arrangement of evidence in a comprehensive pattern, the formulation of conclusions, and the presentation of an argument. In the process students will learn some of the basics of the philosophy of logic and the main philosophical fallacies often used in argumentation.

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Courses

A Nation Within a Nation (Puerto Rico and or New Mexico)

Students will begin the course by studying the history of three distinct but intertwined nations: the US, Navajo Nation, and Puerto Rico. Through founding documents, primary sources, and anecdotal stories, students will begin to develop an understanding of the relationships between these nations and their peoples, the support and service provided to them by the US government, and rights and representation that they are lacking. After building this foundational knowledge through readings and reflections, the group will split for a five day service immersion travel program in Tohatchi, New Mexico, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. While in their respective location, students will be presented lectures by important area locals on culture, religion and spirituality, history, and US relations. Additionally, students will participate in cultural immersion through site visits, food tastings, and eco-tourism. A local service project, determined by the host organization, will be completed over the course of the visit. Upon return from their respective trips, students will share observations and collaborate to present an instructional work that provides insight to the question of nationality and what it means to be an American when living in a nation with a nation. Journal prompts and required readings will aide students in the completion of their final reflection.

Estimated cost: \$1,600

10 % Deposit due: October 1, 2019

Balance payment due: December 3, 2019

From Bohème to Rent: How/Why Opera Evolved into Musical Theatre

In this course, we will watch, listen, and discuss the evolution of singing stage productions. We will examine all aspects of the productions and how they have changed over the past 400 years, including singing styles, common plotlines, costuming, props and backstage functionality, and audience etiquette. Most importantly, we will discover the social relevance and commentary of selected stage productions during the time periods in which they were performed and written. Students will take trips to see approximately two operas and two musical theatre productions. Students will be asked to reflect and identify the main aspects that have evolved the most from opera into modern musical theatre, those aspects that have stayed relatively the same, and the historical and social impact of each production.

Life Skills – A Blue Print

In this course, we will endeavor to learn skills to be used in all aspects of life. We will focus on the skills that will get you through the day to day situations in life as well as skills that will help you be prepared for some of life's curveballs. Students will learn about basic car care, home care, cooking, dining, personal finance, and self-defense. Hands-on work in these specific topic areas will be coupled with conversations and discussions about personal growth and problem solving. Common sense stems from common knowledge. Students will take a day-trip to an auto shop dedicated solely to empowering women.

Old Meets New: A Survey of Chinese Culture & History

This course will provide our domestic students the opportunity to experience firsthand the rich culture and history of one of the world's most diverse and fascinating countries. Students will first learn about and then directly engage with all that this country has to offer. The beginning of the course will consist of

readings, lectures, and classroom activities that will provide students with foundational information in topics such as history, language, US/China relations and philosophy. The course will then culminate in a weeklong trip to China where students will have the opportunity to visit two different cities to experience China's multifaceted and complex makeup:

- Beijing: China's capital and its center for politics, culture, education, and business
- Shanghai: China's commercial and financial center where East meets West

In groups, student will select a research topic of their choice and will be asked to collect information as we travel. At the March Term fair, students will then present their findings to their classmates based on prior research and their observations during travel.

Estimated cost: \$2,632

10 % Deposit due: October 1, 2019

Balance payment due: December 3, 2019

Required documents: Passport with at least one blank page, expiring no fewer than 6 months after departure date from China.

Puritans and Witches: Conflict and Compromise at Salem

This course weaves together western art, literature, theology, and history into a two week seminar designed to analyze The Salem witchcraft trials of 1692 and 1693. During the first week students will be exposed to a variety of perspectives on the 17th century witchcraft craze through the use of film, documents, paintings, and the reading of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. Students will also examine the image of the witch in popular culture. In the second week, students will travel to Salem, Massachusetts for a two day exploration of famous sites, including The Witch Museum. The course will culminate in a reflection paper which asks the students to discuss the various interpretations of the Salem Witch Trials. In addition, in preparation for a fair, students will work on a group presentation of their experiences and insights over the two week course.

Young Women's Leadership in Italy

Build a foundation for success through activities that develop leadership traits and workshops with Italian women who have emerged as innovators and leaders in traditionally male-dominated fields. Leaders share common traits. Empathy, adaptability, courage and strong communication skills—these are the foundation to a leader's success. The American Council for International Studies' (ACIS) leadership projects were created to help young women develop these skills and become the next generation of leaders. To ensure our leadership projects create a lasting impact, we provide pre- and post-work for both students and chaperones. Students will be expected to research themes that will be covered on tour, prepare for their meetings, and bring along questions they wish to explore. After the tour, participants will be asked to reflect on their experience and use what they have learned going forward.

Estimated cost: \$4,202

10 % Deposit due: October 1, 2019

Balance payment due: December 3, 2019

Required documents: Passport with at least one blank page, expiring no fewer than 6 months after departure date from Italy.