AP Comparative Government & Politics - This year-long course introduces students to the rich diversity of political life outside the United States. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures, policies, and political, economic, and social challenges among six selected countries: Great Britain, Mexico, Russia, Iran, China, and Nigeria. Additionally, students examine how different governments solve similar problems by comparing the effectiveness of approaches to many global issues.

Students successfully completing this course will:

- Compare and contrast political concepts, themes, and generalizations;
- Describe and explain typical patterns of political processes and behaviors and their consequences;
- Compare and contrast political institutions and processes across countries to derive generalizations; and
- Analyze and interpret basic data relevant to comparative government and politics.

Instructor: Serene Williams, current Sacred Heart Preparatory (Atherton) teacher

AP Human Geography - The AP Human Geography course introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth’s surface. Students learn to employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. By the end of the course, students should have a more geoliterate, more engaged in contemporary global issues, and more multicultural in their viewpoints. They should have developed skills in approaching problems geographically, using maps and geospatial technologies, thinking critically about texts and graphic images, interpreting cultural landscapes, and applying geographic concepts such as scale, region, diffusion, interdependence, and spatial interaction, among others. Students should see geography as a discipline relevant to the world in which they live; as a source of ideas for identifying, clarifying, and solving problems at various scales; and as a key component of building global citizenship and environmental stewardship.

Instructor: Joe Valentine, Sacred Heart Greenwich History Teacher and current SophieConnect Human Geography teacher
**AP Art History** - The AP Art History course explores such topics as the nature of art, its uses, its meanings, art making and responses to art. Through investigation of diverse artistic traditions of culture from prehistory to the present, the course fosters in-depth and holistic understanding of the history of art from a global perspective. Students learn and apply visual, contextual comparative analysis to engage with a variety of art forms, constructing understanding of individual works and interconnections of art-making processes and products throughout history.

This course helps students develop an understanding and knowledge of diverse historical and cultural contexts of architecture, sculpture, painting and other media. Students will examine and critically analyze major forms of artistic expression from the past and the present from a variety of cultures. Art history emphasizes understanding how and why works of art function in context, considering such issues as patronage, gender, and the functions and effects of works of art.

Instructor: Lizzy Oxler, current Academy of the Sacred Heart (The Rosary) teacher

**AP Microeconomics** - The AP Microeconomics course gives students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy.

By the end of the course, students will understand:

- Basic Economic Concepts including opportunity costs, trade-offs, differences between absolute and comparative advantage, the importance of property rights, and the principle of marginal analysis among others
- The Nature and Function of Product Markets including supply and demand models, consumer choice, production and costs, and the theory of the firm.
- Factor Markets including labor, capital, land and the concept of derived demand.
- Market Failure and the Role of Government which covers marginal social benefit and marginal social cost principle, as well as the effectiveness of government policies such as subsidies, taxes, quantity controls, and public provision of goods and services among other aspects.

Instructor: Don Charlton, experienced teacher and SophieConnect instructor since 2015
**AP Macroeconomics** - AP Macroeconomics course gives students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination, and also develops students’ familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics.

By the end of the course, student will understand:

- **Basic Economic Concepts** such as scarcity and opportunity costs, the distinction between absolute and comparative advantage, the functions performed by an economic system, how the tools of supply and demand are used to analyze the workings of a free market economy and an introduction to the concept of the business cycle.
- **Measurement of Economic Performance** which provides an overview of how the economy works, the circular flow of income and products in the four sectors: households, businesses, government and international; how gross domestic product is measured; the nature, causes and costs of unemployment; what inflation is and how it is measured; and more.
- **National Income and Price Determination** which introduces the aggregate supply and aggregate demand model to explain the determination of equilibrium national output and the general price level, as well as to analyze and evaluate the effect of public policy.
- **Financial Sector** to understand how monetary policy works, the definitions of both the money supply and money demand and the factors that affect each of them, and also topics such as bonds and stocks, the time value of money, measures of the money supply, fractional reserve banking and the Federal Reserve System.

Instructor: Don Charlton, experienced teacher and SophieConnect instructor since 2015

**AP Psychology** - The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the psychologists and studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatment of abnormal behavior, and social psychology.

Throughout the course, students employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as they use the scientific method, analyze bias, evaluate claims and evidence, and effectively communicate ideas.

Instructor: Mark Arnold, experienced teacher and SophieConnect teacher of this popular course since 2015.
**AP Music Theory** - The AP Music Theory class is designed to prepare students in the areas of music theory, analysis and ear training. Through the course, students develop the ability to recognize, understand, and describe basic materials and processes of tonal music that are heard or presented in a score. Development of aural skills is a primary objective. Performance is also part of the curriculum through the practice of sight singing. Students understand basic concepts and terminology by listening to and performing a wide variety of music. Notational skills, speed, and fluency with basic materials are also emphasized.

The course is ideal for the serious music student who plans to further their musical studies at the postsecondary level or perhaps pursue a career in music, but it is open to any experienced musician who desires to know more about how music is put together. It is the goal for the AP Music Theory student to recognize, understand and describe the basic processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. It is assumed that the student entering in this course has some previous musical training and can perform at an intermediate or advanced level, and is fluent in reading musical notation.

Instructor: Aran Waldbrook - teacher, choir director and Fine Arts Department Head at The Sacred Heart School of Montreal