



Baylor University

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development

2022 UYP Course Catalog

The Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development's University for Young People program for students identified as gifted and talented has been offered every June for almost 40 years. Classes for students entering Grades 4–5, Grades 6–8, and Grades 9–12 in the 2022–2023 school year are held on Baylor's campus.

Students choose three courses per day in STEM, humanities, social sciences/business, and the arts, with each session lasting one week. The all-day schedule includes lunch at Penland from 11–12. Students are placed in groups of 10–12 with others in the same grades and have a mentor to help them bond with their group, identify talent areas, and start thinking about college and/or career pathways.

Students should arrive no later than 8:45 a.m. The class schedule is as follows:

Class 1: 9:00–10:45 a.m.

Lunch: 11:00–12:00 p.m. (Penland)

Class 2: 12:15–2:00 p.m.

Class 3: 2:15–4 p.m.

Students should be picked up no later than 4:15 p.m.

Grades 4–5

Session 1 (June 6–10)

9:00–10:45 a.m. Course Options (Pick One)

Unleash Your Inner Inventor!

Maryann Hebda and Donna Hulsey

From Velcro to iPhones, everything we use today started with an innovative idea. If you have an interest in inventing, this class will spark your creativity and inspire your ideas to create something new! We'll explore ordinary items in extraordinary ways, take a peek inside of complex machines, and prototype like engineers. Come join us to imagine and invent the future!

Exploring Your World

Robbie Rogers

Using your own phone/tablet cameras (or ours—no need to purchase cameras!), we will explore how to capture the world around us, covering the basics of photography and visual storytelling. Comfortable shoes and eager learners are required! Together we will look at interesting images, wander Baylor's beautiful campus, and try to create some images of our own. Every day will involve another photography challenge, with students showing off their work to the class.

Drawing Academy: Anyone Can Draw!

Kathe Barbur

Do you like to doodle, drawing designs all over your homework? Do you find yourself sketching whatever you see, whenever you get the chance? Would you like to sharpen your skills while practicing your art? Then this is the class for you! Come explore the basics of line and shading, light and shadow, positive and negative space, while trying your hand at a variety of drawing media including graphite, Prisma colors, charcoal, conté, and pastels! From gesture drawing to scribbling to hatching and cross hatching, you will improve your artistry over the week and have some wonderful work to show!

Ben Franklin's Inventions

Kristi Freemyer

Benjamin Franklin's long list of achievements includes creating the first circulating library, Post Office, and volunteer fire department and serving his country as postmaster, politician, and diplomat. In addition, he was an accomplished scientist and author. However, Franklin is best remembered for his inventions. His imagination was without limits, and we enjoy many of the groundbreaking devices he created even today. Join me in discovering and recreating many of Franklin's inventions, including, but not limited to, the solar-powered oven, simple circuit, long arm, and thermometer.

Grades 4–5

Session 1 (June 6–10)

9:00–10:45 a.m. Course Options (Pick One), Continued

Investigate the Aquatic Environment

Cooper Harvill

In this course you will be introduced to the properties of water and the organisms that live there. You will use water testing kits, plankton nets, microscopes, dip nets, and compound scopes to understand better how organisms live in their environments. You will better understand how organisms use water properties to survive and be able to identify common local aquatic organisms. Come join us to learn about the aquatic environment!

Grades 4–5

Session 1 (June 6–10)

12:15–2:00 p.m. Course Options (Pick One)

¡Vamos! The Spanish-Speaking World

Emily Wicker

Want to learn more about Spanish and the many places, people, and cultures in the Spanish-speaking world, from right here in Waco to the Americas, Europe, and beyond? Join us to explore everything from food, language, celebrations and games to music, clothing, movies, and more, with a possibility for guest speakers to share with the class! Students will also learn many everyday Spanish words and expressions and learn more about their own cultures along the way.

Introduction to the Brain

Bethany Fernandes

To introduce you to how the brain works, we will cover many psychology and neuroscience topics. Neuroscience topics include the basic structure and function of different brain regions and types of neurons. Psychology topics include how we learn, remember information, and perceive the world around us. If you want to learn more about the science behind human behavior, this class is for you!

Acting 101

Bryce Hughes

In this class, you will learn how to create a character, workshop scenes, and monologues. In addition, you will focus on how to build trust within your castmates. We'll have fun, challenge ourselves, and create some really amazing pieces of work to share at the end of the week!

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How to Design Experiments With Local Organisms

Conrad Harvill

In this course, you will learn about the properties of water and the organisms that live there. Using this information and the organisms collected, you will get to design your own experiment. If you are a budding scientist, come work with and do research on local organisms!

Grades 4–5

Session 1 (June 6–10)

2:15–4:00 p.m. Course Options (Pick One)

Digital Art and Graphic Design

Emily Wicker

Come explore your creative side, try your hands at different types of art, and learn how to use computer programs to design digital art and showcase your work! From magazine collages and digital drawing to greeting cards, scrapbooking, and posters, we will do a variety of hands-on and digital projects. Students will have a chance to share their work with the class at the end of the week.

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America’s Founding Documents

Kristi Freemyer

Thomas Jefferson said, “Enlighten the people and tyranny and oppression will vanish like evil spirits at the dawn of day.” Did you know the founding of our nation was influenced by a charter created on June 15, 1215? Why do we celebrate Independence Day, Election Day, and Inauguration Day? Are you aware of your rights as a citizen? We will explore the amazing history and documents that continue to shape our great nation. Join me and become one of the Founding Fathers through reenactments!

Portraits Through Poetry

Sarah Tucker

In this course, you will engage with poetic creative writing in relation to personal identity. By reading historical and contemporary poets, you will discover new modes of self-expression and self-portraiture. We will discuss themes of race, gender, ancestry, and personality to allow for a creative space to investigate your personal identity. Overall, this course will encourage students to value the different facets of their personal identities and discover different styles of poetry that can convey their individual experiences.

Bringing the Funny: Introduction to Short Form Improv
Jack Counsellor

This course is an introduction to the art of short form improv. Learn how to think on your feet and be creative in the moments. The course will start with an overview of the rules of improv, and then we will then practice our skills in various short form improv games.

Grades 4–5

Session 2 (June 13–17)

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Exploring Your World

Robbie Rogers

Using your own phone/tablet cameras (or ours—no need to purchase cameras!), we will explore how to capture the world around us, covering the basics of photography and visual storytelling. Comfortable shoes and eager learners are required! Together we will look at interesting images, wander Baylor’s beautiful campus, and try to create some images of our own. Every day will involve another photography challenge, with students showing off their work to the class.

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Cool Waco History

Kristi Freemyer

Waco, located in the heart of Texas, has a fascinating history. For thousands of years, it was home to indigenous people who lived along the Brazos River. In 1866, Waco constructed the first bridge across the vast Brazos River to move cattle to the Fort Worth Stockyard. Do you know Dr Pepper is older than Coca-Cola? What was the Cotton Palace? Is there evidence that sharks once inhabited the area? Waco has such a rich history, and you will become an expert!

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From Antarctica to Mars: The Science of Ice and Space

Donna Hulseley

We know Antarctica as our seventh continent, the coldest place on earth, and a land of moving glaciers, paternal penguins, and rapid climate change. Sixty-three million miles away, the “Red Planet” Mars is our closest galactic neighbor, but are there any Martians? How are these two places, literally worlds apart, connected? Why do teams of scientists study in Antarctica to prepare for space exploration on Mars? Meet the determined explorers who raced each other to reach the South Pole and learn how they dealt with the hardships of those journeys. Explore the fascinating ecosystems of a dry continent covered in ice, and the creatures who call it home. Consider how what we learn from the people who have spent dark, cold months in Antarctica can guide astronauts in their space travel, and question whether the visible changes in Antarctica’s climate can provide helpful information for scientists all over the world.

Latin American Culture and Dance

Gloria Smith

In this course, you will learn all about the history and culture of five Latin American countries. In addition, you will learn about the different styles of Latin dance in these countries (just the footwork—you do not have to learn to partner dance!). You will be encouraged to compare and contrast the U.S. culture with the cultures of these Latin American countries to broaden your understanding of the world. Come join us and learn about five exciting cultures and dances!

Bonjour de France!

Priscillia Bernard

Bonjour! What do you know about French? Join this class to learn French through fun activities, games, and songs with a French native teacher. We will explore basic communication skills and vocabulary such as greetings, the alphabet, colors, animals, family, numbers, and human body, as well as geography notions and French culture. Can’t wait to meet you! Enchantée!

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Digital Art and Graphic Design

Emily Wicker

Do you love to be creative? Are you interested in learning more about digital art and graphic design? In this class, we will learn the basics of Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator and combine hands-on art with digital design tools. We will try out real-world applications of digital design through a variety of projects, from word art and digital drawings to posters, logo design, and branding. You will have an opportunity to share your work with the class at the end of the week.

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Mathematics for Olympiads

Jesus Ruiz Bolanos

Science Olympiads are an exceptional instrument for detecting and reinforcing intellectual talent. Math Olympiad consists of problems that require math theory of low grades, but a lot of creativity. We will remember the basic theory of geometry, algebra, combinatorics, and number theory, and use it to solve interesting problems. This course will provide you with techniques for solving problems and critical thinking.

Who’s Right? Analyzing Bias in the Media

Ashleigh Maldonado

With as much time as we spend on social media and the way algorithms work to tailor what you see to your activity, it can be hard to distinguish what’s true from what’s not. This course dives into some of the hot-button issues circulating social media platforms and work to separate fact from fiction. By the end of our time together, you will have a deeper understanding of how media bias sneaks into our conversations, and you’ll be able to form your own opinions on a firm foundation of fact and research. As the old saying goes: There are three sides to every story—yours, mine, and the truth—and this course aims to help you find all three sides.

Greek Mythology

Bryce Hughes

Love *Percy Jackson and the Heroes of Olympus* series? Join this class where we will talk about all things Greek mythology. Learn about the Greek view of the world and mythical beings—and get the chance to create your own Greek myth!

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Kathe Barbur

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From Antarctica to Mars: The Science of Ice and Space

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Finding Your Voice: Slam Poetry and Spoken Word as Extensions of Personal Identity

Ashleigh Maldonado

This course brings life to poetry through performance and modernity by exploring current poets and the issues that shape their identities. You will have an opportunity to see how poetry can be used to explore identity or build movements. You will also have a chance to find your own poet's voice by constructing a poem that you can perform or present on the final day of class.

Whether you love poetry or hate it, we'll be turning normed understandings of poetry on their heads by engaging the spoken word/slam poetry genres.

Science Fiction and Philosophy of Mind

Ashlyn Freemyer

What does it mean to be a good person? How do you choose your friends? How do you live your best life and what does it mean to be alive? For centuries, people like Plato and Aristotle have asked these questions and come to various conclusions. If these are topics you too have ever wondered about, then join me in exploring these questions in conversation with literary works like *The Little Prince* and C.S. Lewis's *Space Trilogy*.

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Gloria Smith

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Creative Writing: Short Fiction and Fantasy

Ashlyn Freemyer

Have you ever been enthralled by the stories in books? Have you ever wanted to write your own tales of adventure? In this course we will discuss the various components of storytelling, including theme, plot, and character. Through this, you will develop your own stories and have the opportunity to share them with others.

Grades 6–8

Session 2 (June 13–17)

9:00–10:45 a.m. Course Options (Pick One)

Unleash Your Inner Inventor!

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Emily Wicker

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Altered Artwork

Kathe Barbur

A new trend has hit the art world. Using Thrift store art (or any artwork that you are willing to modify), artists everywhere are remaking old “kitsch” work into a new art form, and we are going to join the fun! In this class, you will view examples of altered art, and using a piece you brought with you or one we provide, you will have the opportunity to let your imagination work! You will remake and change the focus of the artwork using mixed media materials and your creativity. We will discuss the Elements of Art and Principles of Design to help you make choices about how to alter your piece. Any work you bring in to alter should be able to be painted on, marked on, or glued with water soluble artist media. So, go “thrifting” and find that treasure to create your Altered Artwork!

Materials: Students should bring one or more pieces of artwork which s/he is willing to change or alter. Art materials will be provided as necessary.

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from fiction. By the end of our time together, you will have a deeper understanding of how media bias sneaks into our conversations, and you'll be able to form your own opinions on a firm foundation of fact and research. As the old saying goes: There are three sides to every story—yours, mine, and the truth—and this course aims to help you find all three sides.

Grades 6–8

Session 2 (June 13–17)

2:15–4:00 p.m. Course Options (Pick One)

Introduction to Digital Photography

Daniel Beck

This class will dive into the history, philosophy, and practice of photography! You will be guided through a basic understanding of the functions of a camera, visual theory, the history of photography, and why photography is important to the modern era. Whether you're looking to perfect your craft or want the perfect post for Instagram, there is something in this class for everyone!

Across Many Modes: Writing a Children's Story

Becky Presnall

Have you ever wanted to write your own story? In this class, we'll learn about the different parts that go into writing a children's book, while working in teams to create innovative stories of our own. At the same time, we'll investigate the many ways that children's stories today become more than just books, transforming into games, apps, cartoons, audio dramas, and other media.

Latin American Culture and Dance

Gloria Smith

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Grades 9–12

Session 1 (June 6–10)

9:00–10:45 a.m. Course Options (Pick One)

Linear Algebra

Cordell Hammon

What do quantum physics, machine learning, and Google search results have in common? They all have linear algebra at their heart. Linear algebra is the study of equations which contain no exponents (like $2x + 3y + z = 12$). In this course you'll learn about systems of linear equations, how to solve them by hand, how to write Python code to solve them, and how important linear equations are to our modern world.

Introduction to Sociology

James Malo

Where did we come from and where we are going? A sociological perspective can help us to see things on a larger scale and give us some possible answers to the question. In this course, we will learn how our society evolved and how we have become modern and what lies ahead from a sociological perspective. We will cover religion, education, social class, race, health, and more through a sociological lens.

Engineering Design

Ben Phillips

Engineering is much simpler than you think. Break down everything that has been designed, and you will find the same easy steps. Come join us as we discover the engineering design process and collaboratively build contraptions to transfer different types of energy!

Grades 9–12

Session 1 (June 6–10)

12:15–2:00 p.m. Course Options (Pick One)

Complex Numbers

Cordell Hammon

The square root of negative 1, usually denoted i , was first defined in 1545. Since then, complex numbers—numbers that involve i —have come to revolutionize mathematics. They are instrumental in fluid dynamics, quantum mechanics, and electrical engineering. In this course you'll learn all about i and its applications.

Across Many Modes: Writing a Children's Story

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Have you ever wanted to write your own story? In this class, we'll learn about the different parts that go into writing a children's book, while working in teams to create innovative stories of our own. At the same time, we'll investigate the many ways that children's stories today become more than just books, transforming into games, apps, cartoons, audio dramas, and other media.

Writing for the Screen

Sam Henderson

Are you interested in how the stories you watch on film and television really work? Your favorite film or television show started with a great idea that was eventually turned into a screenplay or teleplay. Learn how to shape, format, and express your next great idea in Writing for the Screen!

Grades 9–12

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Painting Start to Finish!

Kathe Barbur

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Film Studies: Storytelling and American Film

Ashlyn Freemyer

Movies have captured the attention of audiences for generations. Today, we go to the cinema to see movies about great heroes and terrible villains, full of action and colorful imagery. But where did it all begin? Before there were full-length films, there were collections of still images viewed quickly one after another. If you are curious about the history of movies—from black and white films to modern animation—then join me in exploring the progression of cinema.

Introduction to Sociology

Ignacio Cid Pozo

This course is a journey that invites you to discover the world of social science. The main focus of this journey is to get to know the fascinating, insightful, and revelatory discipline of sociology in a dynamic way. The course will include topics such as social inequality, culture, religion, race, languages, anthropology, and globalization.

Grades 9–12

Session 2 (June 13–17)

12:15–2:00 p.m. Course Options (Pick One)

Complex Numbers

Cordell Hammon

The square root of negative 1, usually denoted i , was first defined in 1545. Since then, complex numbers—numbers that involve i —have come to revolutionize mathematics. They are instrumental in fluid dynamics, quantum mechanics, and electrical engineering. In this course you'll learn all about i and its applications.

Introduction to Sociology

Ignacio Cid Pozo

This course is a journey that invites you to discover the world of social science. The main focus of this journey is to get to know the fascinating, insightful, and revelatory discipline of sociology in a dynamic way. The course will include topics such as social inequality, culture, religion, race, languages, anthropology, and globalization.

Writing for the Screen

Sam Henderson

Are you interested in how the stories you watch on film and television really work? Your favorite film or television show started with a great idea that was eventually turned into a screenplay or teleplay. Learn how to shape, format, and express your next great idea in Writing for the Screen!

Grades 9–12

Session 2 (June 13–17)

2:15–4:00 p.m. Course Options (Pick One)

Mathematics for Olympiads

Jesus Ruiz Bolanos

Science Olympiads are an exceptional instrument for detecting and reinforcing intellectual talent. Math Olympiad consists of problems that require math theory of low grades, but a lot of creativity. We will remember the basic theory of geometry, algebra, combinatorics, and number theory, and use it to solve interesting problems. This course will provide you with techniques for solving problems and critical thinking.

Who’s Right? Analyzing Bias in the Media

Ashleigh Maldonado

With as much time as we spend on social media and the way algorithms work to tailor what you see to your activity, it can be hard to distinguish what’s true from what’s not. This course dives into some of the hot-button issues circulating social media platforms and work to separate fact from fiction. By the end of our time together, you will have a deeper understanding of how media bias sneaks into our conversations, and you’ll be able to form your own opinions on a firm foundation of fact and research. As the old saying goes: There are three sides to every story—yours, mine, and the truth—and this course aims to help you find all three sides.

Altered Artwork

Kathe Barbur

A new trend has hit the art world. Using Thrift store art (or any artwork that you are willing to modify), artists everywhere are remaking old “kitsch” work into a new art form, and we are going to join the fun! In this class, you will view examples of altered art, and using a piece you brought with you or one we provide, you will have the opportunity to let your imagination work! You will remake and change the focus of the artwork using mixed media materials and your creativity. We will discuss the Elements of Art and Principles of Design to help you make choices about how to alter your piece. Any work you bring in to alter should be able to be painted on, marked on, or glued with water soluble artist media. So, go “thrifting” and find that treasure to create your Altered Artwork!

Materials: Students should bring one or more pieces of artwork which s/he is willing to change or alter. Art materials will be provided as necessary.