2023 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 40 years. Classes for students entering Grades 4–5, Grades 6–8, and Grades 9–12 in the 2023–2024 school year are held on Baylor’s campus.

Students choose up to two courses per day in STEM, humanities, social sciences, business, and the arts, with each session lasting one week. Students who elect to take two classes per day receive a discounted tuition and lunch in Penland Crossings with their classmates and UYP mentors. Students are placed in groups of 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.

The All Day class schedule is as follows:

Students should arrive no later than 8:45 a.m.

Class 1: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Lunch: 12:15 p.m.–12:45 p.m. (Penland Crossings)
Class 2: 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

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

The One Class schedule is as follows:

**Morning Class Only**
Students should arrive no later than 8:45 a.m.

Class: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Students should be picked up no later than 12:15 p.m. (no lunch provided)

**Afternoon Class Only**
Students should arrive no later than 12:45 p.m. (no lunch provided)

Class: 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Students should be picked up no later than 4:15 p.m.
Session 1 Options
June 5–9, 2023
Investigate the Aquatic Environment
Conrad 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!

Exploring Your World Through Photography
Robbie Rogers

Using 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 create some images of our own. Every day will involve another photography challenge, with students showing off their work to the class.

The Pen Is Mightier Than the Sword! Adventuring Into Short Form Fiction
Liesel Lutz

Calling writers of all experience levels and genres. This class focuses on developing your creative writing in daring new ways. Afterall, sitting at a desk with a pen and notebook is only one part of the process. Character development, plot, dialogue, and description will all be explored through real-world observation, literature, film, interactions with local writers, and, of course, good ole’ pen on paper!

Around the World in Five Days
Hannah Tucker

How is America different from other countries? How is it the same? Join our class as we travel from France to Italy and India to China to learn about food, culture, and art in each of these four countries. We will replicate art found in these countries and try food staples from these countries. Buckle up for a travel adventure!
Grades 4–5
Session 1 (June 5–9)
1:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. Course Options

All About Art, Color, and Design
Emily Wicker

Ready to get creative with color? Join this class to explore your artistic side and try your hand at a variety of art and design projects and computer-based art programs, from collages and cards to posters, digital drawings, and more! This class will encourage students of all backgrounds and abilities to express themselves through art.

Zentangle
Kathe Barbur

Zentangle is all the rave and adult coloring books are available everywhere. Do you know where this new rage originated? Have you ever created your own Zentangle, or patterned, drawing or design? Would you like to join others to develop a book of images of which you can have your own copy to take home? Join us for Zentangle, a class in which we will draw from ancient, traditional, and not-so-traditional designs and patterns to create a unique-to-this-class coloring book! Each student will receive a copy of the completed and bound book to take home. Come enjoy this relaxing method of a new popular art form.

Math and Games
Jesus Ruiz Bolanos

Are you interested in learning about strategic thinking and decision-making through fun games? The Math and Games course is perfect for students who want to expand their critical thinking skills while having a blast. In this course, you will learn about the fundamentals of game theory and apply them to games like chess, poker, and more. Join us and unlock your strategic potential!

Horse Tales
Dr. Tracey Sulak and Lynn Reardon

Every horse tells a story with its body language, facial expression, and way of interacting with people. In this course, you will learn to tell the stories of individual horses by observing them via videos, photographs, and special guest interviews. How does a horse show its personality, history, and talents? Discover how to find those answers and create stories with them. Come explore the world of genre, storytelling, character development, and composition with 1,000-lb horses as the heroes of your narrative “tails.”
Unleash Your Inner Inventor: Innovating With STEM
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, inspire your ideas, and empower you to create something new. Come join us in the Baylor MakerSpace to unleash your inner inventor and design your own prototype!

Legos Competition
Nicky Field

You will demonstrate your master building techniques and enter a UYP Lego competition to be judged at the end of the session by peers, staff, and parents. The competition will teach students to develop systems of linear equations of two, three, and four variables. Students will optimize the best amounts of Legos needed to solve these systems of linear equations with different constraints of quantity and price. You will also create systems of two, three, and four variables and learn to solve them by hand and by use of various technologies.

A World of Wonders: Looking at the World Through Environmental Science
Hope Tucker

How do plants clean our water? Why do bugs matter? Is ozone only in the stratosphere? How does plant fertilizer affect fish? Do trees talk to each other? The Earth is amazing! Plants clean our water, bugs fertilize plants, trees talk to each other, bees dance to talk to each other, and so much more! But there are many things that we as humans do that hurt the environment without most of us even knowing. In this class, we will be learning about some of the amazing things about the planet and how we are threatening their homes—why our fertilizer is hurting fish, why our lawns are driving out wildlife, why our sunscreen is turning coral reefs white, why some of our chocolate is destroying forests, and much more. But most importantly, we will discuss what you can do to save the Earth! With your help, we can save the world.

Play Analysis
Bryce Hughes

As someone interested in theater, you want to know everything about your script. You need to know why a character moves a certain way, the backstory of everyone, and why a playwright wrote the script a certain way. Come learn all of these things in Play Analysis! We will read various scripts and learn about how to identify specific parts needed to understand the show better.
Grades 6–8
Session 1 (June 5–9)
1:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. Course Options

**Improv: A Course in Comedy and Quick Thinking**
Jack Counseller

This course utilizes short-form improv techniques seen in famous theatres and shows like “Whose Line is it Anyways” and the UCB from Chicago. You will learn the basics of acting technique for the stage and film in addition to improv skills for nonscripted theatrical works. Students will be able to put their skills to the test through improv games in class.

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Liesel Lutz

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**Broadway Bound! Musical Theatre Workshop**
Cassie Nordgren

Broadway Bound is a thrilling musical theatre workshop for young performers who are passionate about acting, singing, and dancing. Students will gain experience in character development and storytelling using songs and scenes from their favorite Broadway shows. Whether you are new to theatre or a veteran of the stage, this weeklong workshop promises to be an engaging and enriching experience for anyone looking to unleash their inner “triple threat.” Please bring a notebook and pencil, and come in clothes you are comfortable moving/dancing in. No sandals or open-toe shoes, please.
Human Physiology: An Introduction to Human Health and Disease
Jack Counsellor

Human physiology is a building block for understanding disease and health. By studying physiology, students learn the normal functions of the human body and how these functions are limited or altered by disease. The material will be learned through lecture presentations, real-life experiences, and case studies. This course is designed for students who are interested in or seeking potential careers in healthcare.

Sculpt-it!
Kathe Barbur

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at designing a sculpture, but you don’t know where to begin? In this class, you will create a nylon and wire sculpture incorporating the elements of art and principles of design, not to mention your imagination. We will look at examples of famous sculptures, view some of the Martin Museum of Art pieces, and see the modern and traditional sculptures on the Baylor campus. Bring your creativity and join us in Sculpt-it!

Debating Slavery Throughout American History
Isaac Tuttle

Arguments on Twitter and Facebook may seem intense and unproductive, but they pale in comparison to slavery debates throughout American history. We will start by looking at the first anti-slavery arguments in colonial America and then trace how arguments over slavery changed and escalated to the point of civil war nearly 200 years later. Although a lot of history courses talk about slavery, few consider why people opposed it and why others defended it. Join me in exploring the religious, racist, political, and polarizing reasons people condemned and condoned slavery.
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Leadership: Dynamic Team Building and Excellent Team Playing
Nate Cook

What type of leader are you? What type of leader do you want to be? In this course, we will evaluate different types and styles of leadership, explore various ways to communicate effectively as leaders and try out what we learn about ourselves and others in practical exercises.

What We Take With Us: Storytelling in Children’s Books, Movies, and Games
Sarah Kaderbeck

This course will explore the value of children’s stories, both when we’re young and as we grow up, thinking about questions such as “How do the stories we love as children help us become better adults?” and “How do different experiences of storytelling affect us and the story told?” As such, we’ll read and experience storytelling in various modes, including picture and chapter books, movies, video games, and other interactive genres, focusing on the themes of friendship and enchantment. We’ll discuss Winne-the-Pooh and Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone, as well as read picture books aloud, watch cartoons and the movie Up, act out scenes from the play Peter Pan, and play video and/or interactive games in class. On the final class day, students will lead the course themselves, presenting on favorite stories from their own childhoods and what they’ve taken with them.
Session 2 Options
June 12–16, 2023
Investigate the Aquatic Environment
Conrad 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!

Train that Brain! Riddles, Puzzles, Word Games, and More
Emily Wicker

Enjoy a good game of Wordle or Sudoku? Ever heard of palindromes? Challenge yourself in this exciting class designed for students of all levels to train their brains. This class will push you to use your mind creatively and work together with other students on riddles, word and number puzzles, logic challenges, and many more brain-engaging activities!

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Unleash Your Inner Inventor: Innovating With STEM
Maryann Hebda and Morgan Castillo

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, inspire your ideas, and empower you to create something new. Come join us in the Baylor MakerSpace to unleash your inner inventor and design your own prototype!
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1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Course Options

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Start Speaking Spanish!
Gloria Smith

Kickstart your journey into Spanish! This beginner-focused class exposes students to the basics of Spanish language and culture. Throughout the week, you will learn introductory-level Spanish, such as numbers, colors, important phrases, and how to form sentences. You will also get an introduction to some of the cultural elements of Spanish-speaking countries through videos, crafts, games, and more!

Improv: A Course in Comedy and Quick Thinking
Jack Counsellor

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A World of Wonders: Looking at the World Through Environmental Science  
Hope Tucker

How do plants clean our water? Why do bugs matter? Is ozone only in the stratosphere? How does plant fertilizer affect fish? Do trees talk to each other? The Earth is amazing! Plants clean our water, bugs fertilize plants, trees talk to each other, bees dance to talk to each other, and so much more! But there are many things that we as humans do that hurt the environment without most of us even knowing. In this class, we will be learning about some of the amazing things about the planet and how we are threatening their homes—why our fertilizer is hurting fish, why our lawns are driving out wildlife, why our sunscreen is turning coral reefs white, why some of our chocolate is destroying forests, and much more. But most importantly, we will discuss what you can do to save the Earth! With your help, we can save the world.

Watercolor 101  
Kathe Barbur

Watercolor is an extremely old form of spontaneous medium used for centuries by artists around the world from the Cave Paintings at Lascaux, France, and the Ancient Egyptians, to the Renaissance, Chinese Brush Painters, and modern artists. Come join us and learn a little about its history and how the medium has changed over time, view Baylor’s amazing watercolor collection from the “California Movement,” and try your hand at some specific techniques such as dry brush, salt washes, layering and even Chinese Brush painting on rice paper! Whether you are a veteran or new to this medium, you can learn new skills or improve yours to creatively express yourself in Watercolor 101!

Exploring Your World Through Photography  
Robbie Rogers

Using 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 create some images of our own. Every day will involve another photography challenge, with students showing off their work to the class.

Investigations  
Nicky Field

Let’s investigate geometry beyond the classroom. What about those other triangular angle measurements? All angles can’t be 30, 45, or 90 degrees. How do we find them? In school, we only learn to find areas of right polygons and circles. What about finding the area of nonlinear shapes (beyond a circle)? How do we find those? Students will use trigonometry and calculus to investigate geometry beyond the scope of the junior high classroom experience.
Grades 6–8
Session 2 (June 12–16)
1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Course Options

Math and Games
Jesus Ruiz Bolanos

Are you interested in learning about strategic thinking and decision-making through fun games? The Math and Games course is perfect for students who want to expand their critical thinking skills while having a blast. In this course, you will learn about the fundamentals of game theory and apply them to games like chess, poker, and more. Join us and unlock your strategic potential!

Reading Between the Folds: Using Graphic Design and Origami to Express Our Stories
Sarah Tucker

In this course, students will learn graphic design principles on color theory and line theory to create interesting textiles that captivate our attention. These designs will cover our origami pages and transform them into animated figures. This course aims to use design theory and origami to express our styles and depict our stories. Every skill level and every person is welcome to join this class and explore their artistic sides!

Mock Trial
Carter Rogers

Do you want to learn how to argue effectively? Are you good at reading? Join us as we will be doing work that actual lawyers do to prepare for trial. The content will be authentic as you will work on casework both separately and with your legal team in a setting that mimics a real courtroom. You will review documents, find ways to argue your case using these facts effectively, and learn how to object to solidify your case. Witnesses will be coached to answer questions and rehearse just like in the real legal world. Join us for an exciting Mock Trial!

Who’s Right? Analyzing Bias in the Media
Dr. Ashleigh Maldonado

With as much time as we spend on social media and how 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 will dive 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. 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 9–12
Session 2 (June 12–16)
9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Course Options

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What Makes Us Healthy?
Anna Samsonov

Why do different people have different solutions for treating a cold? Why do we get sick in the first place? This course will introduce students to medical anthropology, inviting you to think critically about health and what it means to be healthy in different cultures. You will explore topics and methods from global health, medicine, and archaeology, learning about the forces that shape human health worldwide and across time.