

Odyssey Leadership Academy

Course Guide

2022/23



Odyssey Leadership Academy is a school where deep exploration goes hand-in-hand with high expectations; a school where students are encouraged to never stop asking questions; a school where students engage in high-concept, high-touch projects using real-world, real-time applications. We believe that the key to student success lies in offering an engaging curriculum that fosters a symbiotic integration of head, heart, and hands.

At **Odyssey**, students are immersed in the process of learning, exploring, discussing, designing, reflecting and refining. The vision for education at **Odyssey Leadership Academy** is that students will leave having not only mastered the disciplines, but, more importantly, learned to possess the ability to use good judgment, to live reverently, to make decisions with kindness and justice, and to live and lead from the inside out.

We started Odyssey for several reasons, chief among them is that we believe students are capable of doing great things *now*; that they do not have to wait until they are

adults to be difference makers in the world. We wanted to be a place to help students harness Good and unleash it on the world in powerful ways, a place that provides meaning and purpose right up front, a place that invites students to use their creativity and innovation *today*.

We acknowledge that there is a path for those who want to "do well on tests" and "get good grades"; however, we intentionally charted a different path: a path for those who want to change the world! A path for those who want their voices and their lives to make a difference. A path for those who have a passion to see things made new. A path for those who do not want to wait until they "grow up" to find meaning and purpose in their lives. A path for those who dare to dream big dreams, who want their lives to matter right now. We believe there should be a path for those who want to put their creativity, their talent, their intellect, and their drive to work today, helping to find solutions to the most pressing problems and imaginative possibilities of our time.

At **Odyssey Leadership Academy**, we work hard to create a curriculum that is engaging, challenging, enriching, and inviting. We listen to the needs and desires of the students to design “dream” courses that allow them to do far more than check boxes for credits; instead, our course offerings provide students the chance to *become* historians, engineers, scientists, authors, scholars, biologists, chemists, researchers, and contributors to the field of scholarly inquiry. We create places for students to experience and put into practice the crucial 21st century learning skills of critical thinking, design, collaborative learning, connected purpose, agility, innovation, and civil discourse.

We trust you will find the **Exploration** courses and **Expedition** offerings offered this year to be another slate of rich, rewarding conversations that provide not just information, but the in-forming of wisdom, virtue, and compassion in every discipline and every activity.

Read through the Course Guide carefully, then, when you are ready to make your choices for morning classes and afternoon electives, [go online and fill out this form](#). If you have any questions along the way, feel free to reach out.

Dual College Credit with Oklahoma Christian University (Juniors and Seniors)

This year, we are partnering with Oklahoma Christian University to offer a number of college credit and study options for our juniors and seniors. These are our advanced classes, providing deeper engagement with classroom topics, significant reading and study, and college level research and projects. We are working with OC to establish assessments for learning and aptitude that fits Odyssey's project-based learning.

Classes proposed for dual credit are:

Fall 1: Methods of Research: Pastures of Plenty - Composition 1 dual credit (**approved**)

Spring 2: Chemistry - Intro to Chemistry dual credit (proposed, awaiting approval)

Spring 2: Wild West - Literature dual credit (proposed, awaiting approval).

We will announce the progress for Chemistry and Wild West as they develop.

Dual Credit Fee: \$245/class - To be paid to Oklahoma Christian University

**These dual credit opportunities are *optional* for students within these given courses. Students may take the course and opt *not* to receive the dual college credit. For those who *do* opt to take a course for dual credit, the fee would be paid directly to Oklahoma Christian University.

With our partnership, OC is working to make its university labs, library, and resources available to our students, deepening their work and study.

Fall Term I (August 10-September 30)

Action & Reaction: Science, Technology, and Math (STEM) Captain AnhThu

Nelson and Ms. Becca Janka

“For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.” This is Newton’s third law of motion - how can we encounter physics as we go about our lives? But more than that, how can we apply this concept broadly to chemistry and sociology? This course is for students who want to put applied basic physics to work! Through labs and investigations that allow hands-on learning and practical applications, we will explore the foundations of physics and chemistry through a mathematical perspective, as well as an environmental and sociological perspective. We will see how our actions and decisions as individuals and communities (action) impact the physical and chemical structure around it (reaction).

Who's Afraid of the Dark? (Literature in the Horror genre) Mr. Jake Howell

We'll be setting forth into the night, taking our flashlights out of the cupboard and under our sheets, with our ears tuned to what creeps up the hallway and what comes out from under our beds, all while asking: What are we so afraid of? As Joseph Conrad showed us, we have a fascination with the abomination. Watching and reading, writing and filming, we will explore the rich and storied genre that is horror! From Edgar Allan Poe, Shirley Jackson, Stephen King, and Flannery O'Connor, to 'The Call of Cthulhu' and beyond, we will navigate a slew of literary cornerstones and examine what it means to both be scared and not tear our eyes away from the page. As well, students will engage with a few classics of the silver screen, from *Pyscho* to *Night of the Living Dead* and beyond, analyzing how and why these 'scary' movies are so effective all in order to eventually complete a short film of their own. From the science fiction classic, *Dune*, we know that 'fear is the mind-killer' so we will seek to understand rather than hide away from it. Throughout the eight weeks we will meet with and visit a variety of haunted house personages in order to eventually build out our very own haunted house for Celebrations of Learning. So, come, without fear, and follow me into the dark.

Potential Texts:

'The Call of Cthulhu' by H. P. Lovecraft

The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson

Salem's Lot by Stephen King

Pastures of Plenty: Methods of Research (Advanced History+Literature) Dr.

Logan Kruck

Dual Composition 1 Credit with Oklahoma Christian University Fee: \$245

This advanced course is designed for students who want to be pushed and are ready for a rich intellectual challenge. It will focus on *The Grapes of Wrath* as the primary text. Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* is not only a literary classic, but it is a gateway for us to look at our own land and ancestors, the struggle between economic and ecological demands, and the struggle for refugees to reestablish their lives in a new land and culture. **Students will need to read the text before the class begins so that they will be ready to research the various aspects of the text.** *Methods of Research* looks at various investigatory arenas for research, including: textual, literary, historical, and hermeneutical. Through these disciplines, students will challenge themselves to identify their own assumptions and biases toward the material, set these aside, and to listen closely to the author's message within their work. The main challenge students will continually address will be: "Before you can judge something as good or bad, you must know what it *is*." Students will choose a chapter from the text as their core text and use it as a lens for research and examination of the book. We will also study the world of the great depression, labor, and the great American migration. Students coming out of this class will have the skills, knowledge, experience, and expertise to tackle university level research and thesis writing, placing them in great standing for academic work at the next level.

Fall Excursion: Cochiti, New Mexico



For our Fall Excursion, we will return with [World Leadership School](#) to the sacred lands of the Cochiti Pueblo, located outside Santa Fe, New Mexico. Like our Year Two students, we will live amongst the Cochiti Native American tribe, learning their culture, ways, and stories. We will have an opportunity to serve at the local elementary school, help with building projects, and tour such natural monuments as Bandelier National Monument and Tsankawi Cliff Dwellings. We will also get to experience the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Fuller Lodge Art Center, and Museum of Indian Art and Culture.

Fall Term II (October 17-December 16)

Hidden Figures (STEM) Ms. Becca Janka and Captain AnhThu Nelson

This course, a “Female Voice” for mathematics, takes a look at the untold stories--the “hidden figures”--who shaped and influenced the field of science and mathematics over the centuries. We will ask questions such as “Where do we hear the stories of women and minorities in history”, and “Where are they silenced?” “Where have women in STEM been afforded influence, and where have they been pushed to the fringes?” Taking inspiration from [Margot Lee Shetterly’s *Hidden Figures*](#), this course serves as an exploration of the historical power of the silenced voices of women within the STEM field. As we work to uncover and expose our hidden roots and listen to the untold stories, we will also explore their mathematical work, walking through lessons of algebra, trigonometry, basic physics, and other STEM applications. As a class, we will seek out the silenced voices here within our community and tell their stories to those around us.

“Once you took the first step, anything was possible.” - Margot Lee Shetterly

“I changed what I could, and what I couldn’t, I endured.” - Margot Lee Shetterly

City Planning (Social Studies) Mr. Philip Moll

The research of this course was made possible by a grant provided by the Fund for Teachers program.

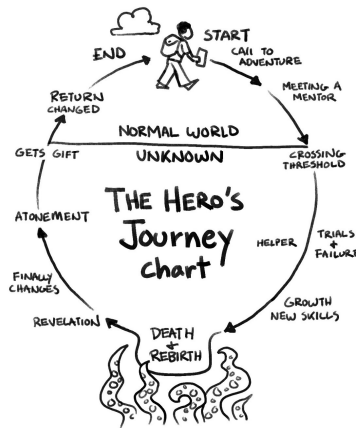
What makes a city great? This age old question will be the subject of this city planning course. As cities for centuries have built walkable communities by necessity, the advent of the car in the 1930’s and 40’s disrupted this trend. Combined with modernist architecture and planning philosophy, cities since the post WWII era have been built for, by, and around the automobile. While many European cities dabbled with the automobile before ultimately rejecting the auto centered design for walkable and bikeable environments, nearly all major and minor American cities have embraced the car, despite its myriad documented harms. Beyond the massive amounts of highway lanes and “stroads” built to accommodate the car, urban renewal in the 1960’s and 1970’s decimated and further segregated almost all American cities. Urban renewal and its lingering practices of sprawling highways and roads have evaporated wealth from cities overnight, let alone decreasing walkability and livability and literally cementing segregation with freeways and parking lots. It is within this context of paving paradise for suburban sprawl and segregation by design that city planners of the 21st century are working with communities to make equitable, healthy, and ecologically sustainable places amidst the carnage and scars that the car, modernist planning, and segregation by law marked on our urban, suburban, and rural landscapes.

This course will look to European and American cities as exemplars and case studies to ask “How may Oklahoma City become a happy and just city to live in?”. Using the works of Charles Montgomery, Jeff Speck, Jane Jacobs, and Jan Gehl, students will partner with the city planning department of OKC, architecture firms, and urban designers to research the history and best

practices of city planning and the history of Oklahoma City. Ultimately designing and consulting on real world projects, students will bring their newfound history, sociology, psychology, and art of the city to the practice of designing and redesigning our city.

Hero's Journey (Literature) Mr. Jake Howell

From Homer's *Odyssey* to Harry Potter, the tales of King Arthur to *Toy Story*, across time, humans have told the same essential story over and over again: the epic quest of the heroic journey. From the first crossing of the threshold, to facing one's shadow self, to dangerous adventures, to meeting friends, mentors, and companions along the journey, the story of the hero is one woven deeply into the very fabric of the human experience. In this Exploration course, students will study the works of Joseph Campbell, Christopher Vogler, J.F. Bierlein, and others on mythology as they seek to explore the path of heroes across time and cultures. They will wrestle with what Campbell calls the "monomyth"—the one great story we tell as humans over and over again—to examine their own lives in light of the hero's cycle. By studying the hero's journey, students will be able to see the pattern of the hero as one recurring throughout both ancient myths and modern popular culture, and come to see their own lives in "heroic" ways as they grapple with what it means to be "heroic" in the modern world.



Potential Texts:

The Odyssey (Homer)

The Once and Future King (T. H. White)

The Hero With a Thousand Faces (Joseph Campbell)

Spring Term I (January 9–March 3)

Quest for Wonder (STEM) Ms. Becca Janka

The research for this course was shaped by a grant made possible by the Fund For Teachers Foundation.

In the 17th century, the great scientist and mathematician Galileo Galilei noted that the book of nature "is written in the language of mathematics, and its characters are triangles, circles, and other geometric figures, without which it is not humanly possible to understand a single word of it." In this STEM-focused Exploration course, students will travel through space and time to study the historical quest for wonder that propelled the great mathematicians. This quest will take us from the ancient hanging gardens of Babylon to interstellar space, and will push the boundaries of mathematics as we study such thinkers as Euclid, Pythagoras, Aristotle, Archimedes, Galileo, Hypatia, Newton, and Descartes to explore the ways in which geometry, algebra, trigonometry, and calculus are, quite literally, the language of the universe. This Exploration is designed for the student who wants to be challenged to pursue the ways in which the study of mathematics has been the historical quest to understand relationships between mankind and the universe. Students in this course will gain an overall understanding of the mathematical ideas, principles, theorems, and discoveries related to the historical developments of mathematics both as the conceptual and applied way by which they see the world. By thinking through mathematics as a foundational language in which people communicate ideas, students will not only learn about these principles in a scholarly pursuit of intellectual inquiry, they will also be pushed to *become* architects of repair using the building blocks of mathematics.

Homo Ludens: The Game Makers (Social Studies) Dr. Logan Kruck

Across time, humans have always been “game makers”--*homo ludens*. In this class, our students will continue that tradition of play as we learn and engage what it means to be creators of wonder and imagination within a community with play. Following the theory of Johan Huizinga’s *Homo Ludens*, we will explore how play forms our minds and perceptions of the world around us, as well as creates the framework for human society, including government, business, and family roles. We will also think forward, along with Jane McGonigal’s *Reality is Broken*, forming games to help us develop possibilities and address various social issues. During class, the students will develop characters for themselves to play within various scenarios, gaining experience and skills throughout the weeks, in order to simulate how play and experience form a person. We will also explore sports and board games to assess their rules, environments, and goals. Finally, we will learn about each other, and about our community members as play-mates within the various play-arenas of society.

Short Forms! (Literature) Mr. Jake Howell

“I celebrate myself, and sing myself, / And what I assume you shall assume, / For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.”

This exploratory course will send students forth to discover all that is short and not long, concise but not wordy. A course intent on exposing students to the wonders of authors long gone whilst simultaneously celebrating the contemporary voices of today, we will work our way backwards and forwards through time, not intent on any one period but, instead, surveying three short forms of literature: the poem, flash fiction, and the short story. As we study each form, students will learn to identify the working parts of a given piece and analyze how these components contribute to the overall significance of the work. We will regularly go forth into Oklahoma City to be inspired by all the city has to offer: into nature, the art museum(s), etc. This course will challenge students to think outside of conventional structures, stretch their preconceived notions, and construct their own contemporary works. Students will participate in weekly writing workshops to better their own work as well as that of their peers by giving and receiving feedback and inspiration as they present their poetry, flash fiction, and short stories amongst their respective groups. At the course’s end, students will have a better grasp of what a short form was, now is, and can be in the years to come.

Potential Texts:

The Gift: How the Creative Spirit Transforms the World by Lewis Hyde

The Best American Short Stories 2022 edited by Andrew Sean Greer

Can't and Won't by Lydia Davis

A Book of Luminous Things: An International Anthology of Poetry edited by Czesław Miłosz

Spring Excursion: St Louis



Our Spring Excursion takes us with our friends from [Wonder Voyage](#) to the historic and bustling city of St. Louis, where we will have the chance to get a bird's eye view from the famous Gateway Arch, take a steamboat down the mighty Mississippi, engage the aquatic life at the St. Louis Aquarium, immerse ourselves in the culture of Forest Park, explore the St. Louis Science Center, and discover the wonder of the stunning Laumeier Sculpture Park.

Spring Term II (March 20-May 12)

Advanced Chemistry (Advanced Science) Ms. Becca Janka

Proposed for Dual Intro to Chemistry Credit with OC - *Awaiting approval*

OC Dual Credit Fee (if approved) \$245

The OLA Chemistry course will be a hands-on investigation into the principles of Chemistry. We will study topics ranging from the properties of matter, to thermodynamics and chemical reactions. Students will study the reactions and physical changes that occur when compounds are created or transformed. The course will have labs each week, and students will come away with a solid base of experience in lab technique, safety, and experimentation methods. Students should expect to engage with material mathematically as well, using representation, reasoning and proof, communication and connections, and problem solving to work through the lessons at hand. This course will be challenging and intensive material wise, yet will also be

framed within the larger picture of Chemistry in our world, as well as larger questions about the nature of science and humanity in the 21st century.

Economics for the 21st Century (Economics+Social Studies) Mr. Philip Moll and Captain AnhThu Nelson

Humanity needs enough resources like food, land, housing, and energy for all to have basic needs. We rarely think about the upward limits of that resource use. Kate Raworth's *Donut Economics* proposes an answer, that we live in that donut space where we have enough for all, but do not compromise the ecosystem's ability to give to us with over extraction of resources. This Intro to Economics class will use Raworth's framework to examine the 20th century's outmoded presuppositions on sound economics, and will propose fresh visions for the 21st century. If we want clean water and air, ample food, and enough resources to last generations, we will have to rethink key assumptions about the goals and "natural" functions of economies, and we will have to imagine alternative systems where markets may operate more creatively and with the donut's limits in mind. Raworth's work offers seven ways of "thinking like a 21st century economist," and students taking this course will work with local leaders and businesspeople to usher our economy into the 21st century. Beyond practicing economics, students will dabble in personal finance through utilizing the wealth of resources surrounding Oklahoma City, including Native American, African American, Hispanic, Middle Eastern, Asian, Eastern European and many more cultures as we explore these communities through the lens of math and financial literacy. By studying the communities around us, students will employ math skills in algebra, arithmetic, statistics and personal finance. The class will attempt to get out into these communities and hear stories of how math and money intersect in their lives, and learn how math and finance relate to our lives and stories.

The Wild West (Advanced Literature + History) Dr. Scott Martin and Mr. Jake Howell

Proposed for Dual Literature Credit with OC. *Awaiting Approval*

OC Dual Credit Fee (if approved): \$245

Gunslingers and outlaws. Train robbers and pioneers. Cowboys and gold diggers. Native Americans and drovers. The Alamo and Calamity Jane. Tombstone and the Battle of Little Bighorn. Wyatt Earp and the Pony Express. The fur trade and Sacagawea. The American West is an era unlike any other in the history of the world. Full of legendary characters, dramatic action, big dreams and heartbreaking loss, the period of time between the early 19th and early 20th century in the United States has captured the imaginations of people like no other, influencing everything from pop culture to fashion, politics to anthropology. What is it that compels people to study, dream, write books and make movies about the American West?

- Is it the mystique of the landscape, or the many and varied nations that lived here long before the arrival of Europeans?

- Is it the violence in the contest of cultures that captivates us? Or the reverse – the rich mixing of cultures along the frontier?
- Perhaps it's the image of families raising children in a sod hut, thousands of miles from their nearest kin?
- Or it's the dream of starting a new life in an untamed place

In this **Advanced, Upper Level History and Literature** course, we will examine in depth the geography, politics, societal, economic, relational, and psychological impact of the American West. We will explore such topics, events, and ideas as: the cultures and people that inhabited the West long before European and Americans arrived, Lewis & Clark's "opening" of the West, the Republic of Texas and the Mexican-American War, the Oregon Trail, the US-Dakota War, pioneers and settlers, ranching, immigration, and the mythology that grew out of the era. We will unpack the cultural icon that is the cowboy, the monomaniacal dream of the Manifest Destiny, the ignored narratives of Native Americans, and even examine the connections of the American Cowboy and Japanese Samurai as we dismantle the myth and history of the American West.

Potential readings may include:

Legends and Tales of the American West from Pantheon's Fairy Tales and Folklore Library

Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry

Big Rock Candy Mountain / Angle of Repose by Wallace Stegner

All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy

Butcher's Crossing by John Williams

True Grit by Charles Portis

2022/23 Academic Courses

Fall 1	Fall 2	Spring 1	Spring 2
<p>Action/Reaction (STEM)</p> <p>Methods of Research (Advanced History+Literature) <i>Dual Credit</i></p> <p>Afraid of the Dark (Literature)</p>	<p>Hidden Figures (STEM)</p> <p>City Planning (Social Studies)</p> <p>Hero's Journey (Literature)</p>	<p>Quest for Wonder (STEM)</p> <p>Homo Ludens (Social Studies)</p> <p>Short Forms (Literature)</p>	<p>Advanced Chemistry (Science) <i>Proposed Dual Credit</i></p> <p>Economics for 21st Century (Economics+Social Studies)</p> <p>Wild West (Advanced History+Lit) <i>Proposed Dual Credit</i></p>

Expedition Elective Offerings



The definition of *expedition* is, "a journey or voyage undertaken by a group of people with a particular purpose."

At **Odyssey Leadership Academy**, we believe that students should have the chance to hone their educational journey to augment their passions, interests, needs, and desires. In these afternoon elective courses, students have the chance to engage in a wide host of educational experiences! Expedition offerings allow students the opportunity to create their own graphic designs, bake cupcakes, learn a foreign language, deliver powerful spoken word pieces, compose music, write creative fiction, build soap box derby cars, work in urban gardens, earn karate belts, perform dance programs, debate original ideas, serve in the local community, and more!

Expedition Electives are offered on a **Monday/Thursday** and **Tuesday/Friday** rotation, reserving Wednesday for our Service Leadership and Student Development Day. Expeditions are either offered by semester or full year (both Fall and Spring), and are designated accordingly.

Fall Expeditions

Fall Monday/Thursday

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Christian Karate Academy (Fall and Spring) \$400**

OLA partners with [Christian Karate Academy](#) to offer students the opportunity to gain physical fitness while they also learn character development, self-esteem, and self-defense through the martial art of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. This Expedition will be taught by Master Robert Lewis.

***There is an additional cost associated with this Expedition, but Master Lewis has significantly reduced the fee for OLA students.*

Creative Expression: Pottery and Art \$550**

In this hands-on elective, students will spend Mondays at [Preacher Pottery](#) learning the basics of wheel throwing, hand positioning, centering clay, and glaze application as you become potters working toward the goal of throwing a pitcher and finishing a lidded jar!

Thursdays will be spent engaging multiple artistic pursuits, from painting to drawing, learning from and about the great artists from long ago, the recent past, and today. Students will be encouraged to seek and, hopefully, find a desired medium of their choice on Thursdays as they explore a myriad of mediums all in the hopes of highlighting their newfound pottery skills alongside an old or new medium of their choice come Celebrations of Learning. We will seek out places in and around the city to learn from and be inspired by throughout the course of these sixteen weeks!

***There is an additional cost associated with this Expedition, but Preacher Pottery has reduced the fee for OLA students. This fee includes all materials and firings. No additional charges will apply*

Nutrition

Food, fitness, health - a lot of what we think about these topics is shaped by our environment. How can we explore how these ideas all intersect in our lives and in our communities. This course will explore how food affects the body in everyday life and in physical activity, how to create their own meals, good vs. bad fats, history of food in society, the role of food in disease and cures, and debunking myths about diets. Combining culinary and fitness, students will learn not only how to eat for a healthier body, they will also get to explore the growing trend of urban farming, the politics of

food, food deserts, and the role nutrition plays in shaping healthier lives and healthier communities.

Journalism

In this introduction to Journalism class, students will learn all about the craft of Journalism as they explore both the field of journalism and cover a journalistic beat. The class will hold elections for the editors of the school newspaper, and students will cover certain local, state, national, and OLA news beats as well as engaging in longer form reporting. Learning the craft while writing and reporting their own news stories, students will learn what constitutes news, gain an understanding of media history and purposes, as well as develop media literacy and ethics. Students will conduct interviews, research news developments, cultivate healthy news and journalism reading habits, and participate in weekly readings outside of class to gain an understanding of the journalistic world and its standards.

****This class is intentionally designed to dovetail and flow into the OLA Yearbook elective in the spring**

Wednesday: Service Leadership and Student Development [Fall and Spring]

Service Leadership serves as a foundation to orienting students into the vision and values of OLA. This is our opportunity to move the learning into students' leadership, outside of the school building, and transform Oklahoma City into a living, interactive classroom. On Monday afternoons, we will gather all of Odyssey to dive deeply into what it means to be wise, virtuous, and compassionate architects of repair in the world; to build relationships and serve the city; and to practice self-care and community. We will divide our Wednesday afternoons among three different focuses: community friendship, or serving with community agencies; student virtue clubs, or student directed activities and discussions marrying student interest with intellectual and civic virtues, developing deep and honest thinking and work; and student care, or days of rest, play, self-expression, and student relationships. This Expedition introduces students to what it means to live and lead from the inside out, and is required for all students at Odyssey. It will be taught by the OLA faculty, and will meet every Wednesday afternoon.

Fall Tuesday/Friday Expedition electives

Climbing (Fall and Spring) Threshold Climbing Gym **\$240****

Rock climbing evokes images of El Capitan in Yosemite, or the Eiger in the Alps, grand classics that took tremendous human imagination and effort to climb. It seems the human psyche has been drawn to climb to the top of things since the beginning of time. From the top of a mountain, a cliff, or even a hill outside our hometown, we gain perspective, see long distances and imagine great things. If you love the thrill of climbing and are looking for a way to push yourself, get fit, and have fun, then our Climbing Expedition is for you! Odyssey partners with [Threshold Climbing Gym](#) to provide a safe, challenging, rewarding experience allowing you to gain skills, learn new moves, and embrace the climbing lifestyle!

**There is a fee associated with this elective. For each student, it will be an upfront payment of \$240 for all 4 months. Threshold is also waiving the enrollment fee for OLA students*

Urban Gardening **\$15****

Growing your own food in a limited space may be one of the best gifts we can pass down from generation to generation. However, this gardening class will be about more, ultimately a mix of a market gardening masterclass and an intro to ecologically sustainable landscape architecture, this gardening course will examine more than just designing a backyard and growing tomatoes, as it will focus on renewing our lands potential to care for us as we give to it. Pulling from ecosystem sciences, permaculture, market gardeners such as Jean-Martin Fortier, and ecologists like Doug Tallamy, urban gardeners will grow their own food in a 12'x20' garden, design landscapes on consulting projects, and gain an appreciation for soil and plant sciences.

**There is a fee associated with this elective to cover costs associated with the class*

Computer Science

This Expedition elective introduces students to the general organization of computers identifying components and their functions, providing an overview of computer science topics and an introduction to computer programming. This course offers an introduction to the field of computer science using a current programming language. Central themes of the class include an introduction to computer organization; algorithmic problem solving; structured and object oriented program design; and the societal and professional context in which computer science exists. Areas of study will include an introduction to computer science and its history, computer hardware, operating systems, digitization of data, computer networks, Internet and the Web, security, privacy, AI, and databases, as well as debugging and testing techniques, and

searching and sorting methods. Students will need a personal laptop to utilize Python (a free, open-source programming language) and other software.

Spanish Language

Learning another language opens many doors as you prepare for college and for your career. In this course, students will be introduced to the foundations of the Spanish language with a strong focus on communication in the present tense. Our goals are for students to be able to use and produce the language through listening, speaking, and writing, and to learn and understand some of the many cultures of the Spanish speaking world. The units of study for this course include: Getting to Know You (*Saludos y Despedidas*), Who Am I? (*¿Quién Soy Yo?*), Leisure Time (*El Tiempo Libre*), and School and Family Life (*La Escuela y La Familia*), The Role of Food in a Country’s Culture (*El papel/rol de la comida en la cultura de un país*), A Balanced & Healthy Lifestyle (*Una vida balanceada y saludable*), Shopping, Clothing & Money Around the World (*Las compras, la ropa, y el dinero alrededor del mundo*), and Travel and Celebrations (*Viajes y celebraciones*). By the end of the class, students should be able to communicate in Spanish in the present and past (preterite) tenses

Fall Expedition Elective Offerings

Fall	Expedition Electives
Monday/Thursday	Nutrition Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (\$400) Journalism Creative Expression (\$550)
Wednesday (all school)**	Service Leadership Student Development
Tuesday/Friday	Climbing (\$240) Urban Gardening (\$15) Computer Science Spanish Language

***Service Leadership | Student Development required on Wednesdays*

Spring Expeditions

Climbing (Fall and Spring) Threshold Climbing Gym **\$240****

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***There is an additional cost associated with this Expedition, but Preacher Pottery has reduced the fee for OLA students. This fee includes all materials and firings. No additional charges will apply*

Yearbook

This course is designed to develop students' creative skills through crafting and producing a yearbook that recaps all the school year's events. By providing opportunities to engage with different mediums of design, this class will allow students to learn basic principles of yearbook production and develop skills that include writing copy, captions and headlines; digital photography; desktop publishing and using appropriate technology tools for media production.

Our Celebrations of Learning project will be to print copies of a yearbook that students can purchase at the end of the year!

Pickleball

Come play the sport taking the world by storm: pickleball! Mixing competitions, tournaments, and laid back fun, this course will both suit the casual beginner and those who want to compete at a high level. Daily practices consisting of drill and scrimmaging will help us improve our fundamentals and keep us having fun. Possibilities include competing against other schools in league play

Culinary

\$100

This course will engage students on a practical level, seeking to gain a depth of understanding in the four elements of the kitchen: salt, fat, acid, and heat. We will spend more time in the kitchen than previous years while also reading excerpts from Samin Nosrat's seminal text of the same name as the four elements, *Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat*. As well, selected viewings of shows such as *Chef's Table*, *Parts Unknown*, and the Netflix-adapted series on Nosrat's book. Students' skills in the kitchen will grow with nearly all utensils and fields: knives and chopping, the oven and baking, taste differentiating, etc. The atmosphere will be one of fun, but one where students are actively pushed to enhance their skills in the kitchen! Students will be required to bring/wear their own apron to class each day.

****There is a \$100 fee per student to cover cooking ingredients/supplies for this elective**

The Salon: the Art of Philosophy

The Salon: Introduction to Philosophy is a survey course of foundational philosophical thought. Students will be *philosophers*. We will practice developing curiosity about the world around us, exploring the mysteries and possibilities within, and asking questions of the world and ourselves. Three major areas of philosophy will be covered: Epistemology (How do we know?), Ontology (What is Reality?), and Ethics (What do we do?). These will each be thought about over four weeks, including textbook overviews, primary source readings, student led presentations, and end with a 5-page paper exploring one's thoughts in conversation with the philosophers. We may also hold debates over various philosophical concepts, having students deeply understand their arguments so that they can explain and defend them. The goal of this class is to develop intellectual virtues — especially curiosity, tenacity, thoroughness, and humility. We will practice listening to the world around us, to each other, to the history of philosophy, and to ourselves. We will explore what our foundational assumptions are about the world, and how these assumptions form our view of reality, self, and others.

Spring Expedition Elective Offerings

Fall	Expedition Electives
Monday/Thursday	Creative Expression (\$550) Cellphone Cinema Volleyball/Pickleball Culinary (\$50)
Wednesday (all school)**	Service Leadership Student Development
Tuesday/Friday	Climbing (\$240) Philosophy Yearbook

***Service Leadership | Student Development required on Wednesdays*

Mastery Designation

The **Mastery Designation** is designed for those students who want to push themselves above and beyond the rigorous coursework already offered at OLA. The Mastery designation identifies those students who push themselves above and beyond even the demanding traditional Odyssey curriculum. Students who achieve the designation of Mastery distinguish themselves by taking our most advanced courses, pursue rigorous scholarly inquiry through our Guided Pursuit independent studies, and/or engage real world learning opportunities through our Voyage Apprenticeship Program. Our Mastery students are situated for high level work at their university of choice and for entering life as wise, virtuous, and compassionate architects of repair in the world.

At OLA, Mastery goes beyond classroom scholarly proficiency. It is also proving that a student can apply and deepen their scholarly, social, and personal skills in their own, personal work. Mastery moves a student beyond the normal view of “student” - one who adequately applies themselves to classwork; instead, mastery is when a student matures from a student to a scholar and professional in their pursuits.

Mastery can look like a unique scholarly research thesis, an internship within a profession of interest, a community project that improves our community, or even

co-teaching a class alongside a mentor. Mastery will begin during a student's junior year, choosing classes that will focus their ideas and skills, laying a foundation for their senior mastery project. Then, they will fulfill their project in their senior year.

Looking back over our past graduates, one thing that stands out is that those who demonstrate mastery through research, internships, and/or teaching receive greater attention and recognition from universities, opening up pathways for acceptance and significant scholarships. But, more than that, students who demonstrate mastery also have a better sense of their interests, skills, and possible majors or careers for themselves.

Students who achieve the Mastery distinction will be honored accordingly at the final Celebrations of Learning and graduation.

Pathways to Mastery

(Guided Pursuit and Voyage Internships are discussed in detail in the immediately following sections)

Guided Pursuit - A directed study project developed by the student. Students can develop a question or topic that they would like to research. Then, they will establish foundational concepts in their research, lay out a plan and method of research, and work toward a mastery thesis about their research. The mastery thesis may either be a well argued thesis paper; or a smaller foundational research paper and a project showing their mastery of skills. Examples include:

- i. writing an extensive research paper (20+ pages),
- ii. research methods of creative writing and write a short methodology paper and a significant piece of creative writing,
- iii. research methods and practices of music or art and write a short methodology paper and create a significant musical or artistic work,
- iv. or research a community issue and write a shorter research/methodology paper and create a community event surrounding the issue.

Voyage Internships - In a voyage internship, a student will pursue a deeper understanding of their vocation and contributions toward their community. They will work with an OLA faculty member to establish an internship within the community, lay out their learning objectives and expectations within the internship, and pursue learning from professionals within their area of interest. At the end of their voyage, students must be able to narrate or create a project that shows their deeper understanding and developed skills.

Hybrid Guided Pursuit/Voyage - This marries both individual research with vocational practice. A student will develop a project that requires both research and professional skills. These would develop a shorter research thesis, and a professional project.

Some examples of these are:

- i. Clothing and Design - researching an area of fashion and design, while also interning with a tailor, costume department, or other textile industry. The result should be a short research paper looking at elements of design, doing a design board and layout, and creating a piece of clothing that represents their research.
- ii. Community Issues - researching and interviewing about a community issue while interning with a service organization. They will write a shorter thesis paper discussing the issue, causes, and effects, and developing a project that addresses the issue. The result should be a well developed thesis paper, a well developed project plan, and the final project itself.
- iii. Art/Industrial Art - interning with a master artist or craftsperson to develop the practical and artistic skills necessary. They will also research and write about the style of art, an artist, an inventor, or an innovation within the artistic field of their choice.

Significant leadership within the school - A student can also prove mastery through significant leadership within the school. They may:

- i. Develop and lead an elective supported by a mentor.
- ii. Take responsibility for service leadership organization and projects
- iii. Plan and create social events for the school
- iv. Create and edit a newspaper, blog, or podcast within the school
- v. Or some other significant contribution to the school community.

Junior and Seniors should consider these options over the summer, think about where they'd like to commit themselves, and apply.

OLA Guided Pursuit Independent Studies Program

Over the course of Odyssey's history, the one golden thread that connects all of Odyssey's students receiving full ride academic scholarships to the best schools in the world is their Guided Pursuit work.

Our Guided Pursuit students have earned:

- \$500,000 in full ride scholarships researching Black voice and identity
- \$300,000 in full ride scholarships exploring cognitive science
- \$113,000 in full ride scholarships studying Lincoln and the Civil War
- \$120,000 in full ride scholarships researching the criminal justice system
- \$160,000 in full ride scholarships doing research work in Care Ethics
- President's and Academic excellence scholarships for work in Biblical feminism
- \$176,000 in full ride scholarships to the top three art schools in the world

All told, that is **\$1.5 million dollars** in President's, Academic Excellence, Chancellor's, Dean's, Trustee, and Regent's scholarship to places like George Washington, Hendrix, SCAD, UC Santa Cruz, Lewis and Clark, Colorado State, Regis, Allegheny, Fisk, and more based in large part on their work in our Guided Pursuit program.

The work our students do is on par with what graduates do in their Masters and even Doctoral thesis work. In fact, every student who has participated in our Guided Pursuit program has experienced as much, and, in just about every case, significantly *more* scholarship, honors, recognition, and college acceptance than students who typically score in the high 30s on their ACTS. Now, with colleges universally going test optional through 2025, our Guided Pursuit is *the* difference maker, netting over **\$730,000 in scholarships for students *who did not even take the ACT.***

The Guided Study program is a difference maker, and one we highly recommend to driven, motivated, hard working upperclassmen (and select underclassmen) wanting to add their voice to a field of scholarly inquiry who are eager to stand out in the college application process.

Based on the Oxford model of learning, students in the Guided Pursuit Independent Studies Program draft a plan of study upon an area they want to research and explore under the tutelage of the Odyssey faculty that is either outside of what is being offered in a given academic year, or is complementary to it. This opportunity allows students to do a deep dive in an area of their choosing, based upon their own academic interests, pushing them into further realms of individual scholarship that has reaped tremendous intellectual and even financial benefits for our graduates.

The Guided Study program is designed for highly motivated Odyssey students who have a passionate interest in a specific subject, have a strong desire to grow into disciplined self-learners, and have demonstrated proficient research and writing skills in previous Odyssey courses.

To apply for this course, students will select a subject they want to pursue at an in-depth level and design a program of study including a detailed syllabus, reading list,

comprehension assessments, academic advisors, and online resources. Students applying and enrolling in Guided Pursuit will design a challenging course of study and engage in advanced independent study under the oversight of academic advisors and the direct supervision of Mr. Philip Moll. **Students will receive an academic course credit for this course in whatever academic discipline they are studying.** This course requires a commitment of both semesters, and [the application can be found here.](#)

****The application for this course is due with your course selection.**

OLA Voyage Program

In an effort to stay true to our mission of being a school-without-walls, we are excited to continue with the **OLA Voyage Program**. Throughout history, the Voyager is one who charts new paths, engages new learning, tackles new challenges, seeks adventures, and, ultimately, learns and grows as a person. At Odyssey, we want to turn students into Voyagers!

The **OLA Voyage Program** is designed for students with a demonstrated history of maturity, self-motivation, high work ethic, and integrity. This afternoon Expedition allows students to pursue internships and apprenticeships with local organizations in our community, and/or take concurrent enrollment classes at local colleges. This course will take place exclusively off-site for students as they visit their internship, apprenticeship, or concurrent class on Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday, and parents understand and acknowledge that students will be released from Odyssey's supervision during this time.

Students must be able to make arrangements or provide for their own transportation (walking is an option if the partnering industry location is nearby). Requests to join this Expedition will be considered only if an application is completed and accepted by the Head of Academics.

[The application is found here](#) and should be turned in with your course selections.

OLA Study Abroad Summer 2023 Vienna, Austria!



We are excited to announce, through our partnership with Oklahoma Christian University, our plans to offer a summer study abroad immersive learning experience in Vienna, Austria! OLA students will travel with OLA faculty to Vienna to live and stay in the OC facilities to study European art, architecture, literature, and history. Students in this summer learning program will have the chance to earn college credits while they engage one of the most beautiful cities in the world!

More details to come.

OLA Exploration and Expedition Course Selection Instructions

You will make your actual selections online [at this link](#)

INSTRUCTIONS:

>Read through **ALL** of the Academic Exploration course descriptions in the Course Guide before moving on.

>In each term (Fall Term 1, Fall Term 2, Spring Term 1, Spring Term 2), number your course selection requests (#1 being your top choice, #2 second choice, etc.).

- a. Keep in mind, *you are choosing per term*, and that each subject area (Math, Science, English, and History) should be represented (1 per term). Think carefully of your top priority class, and then shape your term rankings accordingly. If Science is your #1 option in Fall 1, then you will need to select a math, English, or history as #1 in Fall 2, and so on.
- b. Think through which Math, Science, English, History are your top picks and choose accordingly *per term*. If Physics is your top choice for Math, that will be your #1 option in Fall 2, which would then shape what your top choices are for Fall 1, Spring 1, and Spring 2, e.g.

>After you have made your choices online, move to Part 2 for afternoon Expedition elective choices.

***Spring Expedition selections to take place in November, 2022*

MAKE YOUR ACTUAL SELECTIONS ONLINE AT THIS LINK :

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeiYKaoSdW11Y05maGVEsJfk9di5KloWsMQY0uZSEc_mu4O_Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to reach out to Dr. Kruck at lkruck.ola@gmail.com

NOTE: There is no guarantee you will receive all of your top choices, but we will work our hardest to place you in courses of greatest interest and of a proper fit for you. When placing students, we take into consideration student needs, previous courses taken, interests, parent and mentor feedback, class size and dynamics.