

Odyssey Leadership Academy

# Spring A La Carte Course Guide

## 2022/23

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**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 academic **Exploration** courses and **Expedition** election 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.

*Students interested in joining OLA for the “A La Carte” options must apply and be accepted for enrollment into Odyssey Leadership Academy.*

[APPLICATION AND COURSE SELECTIONS MAY BE MADE AT THIS LINK](#)

*\*\*If you have any questions along the way, feel free to reach out.*



# Academic Exploration A La Carte Offerings

## \$1,500 per course chosen

### Spring Term 1(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

### March 5-10, 2023 (\$1,300)



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.

**OLA A La Carte students have the chance to join us for this incredible learning experience!!**

## Spring Term II (March 20-May 12)

### **Advanced Chemistry (Advanced Science) Ms. Becca Janka**

***\*\*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 (Finance+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**

**\*\*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 Spring A La Carte Courses

### (\$1,500 per course chosen)

Spring 1	Spring 2
Quest for Wonder (STEM)	Advanced Chemistry (Science) <i>**Dual Credit</i>
Homo Ludens (Social Studies)	Economics for 21st Century (Economics+Social Studies)
Short Forms (Literature)	Wild West (Advanced History+Lit) <i>**Dual Credit</i>

## Expedition Elective A La Carte Offerings

### \$1,500 per elective

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

This Spring, we have two options available for our A La Carte students:

**Philosopher's Salon (Humanities academic credit)--\$1,500**

**Pickleball (Elective credit)--\$1,500**

Read on for more details!

## **The Salon: the Art of Philosophy**

**(Tuesday & Friday 1:15-3:00pm)**

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



*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.

## **Pickleball**

**(Monday & Thursdays 1:15-3:00pm)**

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



***A La Carte Students:***

**[Enroll and make your selections online at this LINK](#)**

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to reach out to Dr. Kruck at [lkruck.ola@gmail.com](mailto:lkruck.ola@gmail.com)



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

We partner 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.

**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.