



2018 - 2019

VALLEY FORGE MILITARY ACADEMY
COURSE CATALOG



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Spring, 2018

Dear Cadets:

The course selection period is one of the most important times in the school year. Because the courses which you select impact your overall school profile, the process of course selection should be taken seriously with careful review and reflection. As you make your course selections, remember that you want to choose courses and levels in which you feel comfortable and that will interest and challenge you. These courses and the grades that you achieve will eventually be sent to the colleges of your choice. Your academic profile should clearly reflect your talents and abilities.

We are excited to offer some new electives this year: Journalism, Civil War, and Vietnam War. During this selection process, take time to seek the advice of your parents. Your teachers and guidance counselor can also help to guide you. Each of these individuals are familiar with the difficulty level of the courses as well as the expectations of most colleges.

May you continue to explore and discover your unique talents, interests, and abilities as you challenge yourselves both inside and outside of the classroom.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra R. Young". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Mrs. Sandra R. Young, M.Ed.
Head of School, VFMA

Valley Forge Military Academy Courses at a Glance

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grade 7

- English 7
- Language Arts
- Pre-Algebra
- Earth Science
- Geography
- Survey of World Languages

Grade 8

- English 8
- Pre-Algebra / HS Math
- Life Science
- Civics
- World Language Selection
- Middle School Library and Arts Rotation
 - Art
 - Music Appreciation
 - Library Sciences

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION TRAINING

- LET 1
- LET 2

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

- EN 9: English Survey
- EN 10: American Literature
- EN 11: British Literature
- EN 12: World Literature
- AP English Language & Composition *
- Creative Writing (s)
- Public Speaking (s)
- Exploring Cinema (s)
- Journalism

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

- Algebra I
- Geometry
- Algebra II
- Integrated Mathematics
- Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus
- AP Calculus A/B*
- Pre-Engineering*

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

- Physical Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- AP Physics 1*
- Marine Biology (s)(r) *
- Astronomy (s)(r)*
- Parasitology (s)(r)*
- Intro to Forensics (s)(r)*

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

- Ancient World History
- Modern World History
- US History
- American Government and Economics
- Entrepreneurship
- Psychology
- World War II (s)
- Civil War (s)
- Vietnam War (s)

WORLD LANGUAGES

- Chinese 1, 2, 3
- French 1, 2, 3
- Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4

WELLNESS EDUCATION

- Health

FINE ARTS

- Architecture
- Fundamentals of Studio Art
- Intermediate Studio
- Advanced Studies in Art
- Guided Independent study in the Arts

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

- ELL Composition 1, 2
- ELL Grammar 1, 2
- ELL Reading 1, 2
- ELL Basic English

ACCELERATED HONORS

Qualified cadets can select from some college offerings at Valley Forge Military College



INTERMEDIATE UNIT SUPPORT

- Mathematics Remediation*

*Pre-Requisites for Admission to course

(s) following course indicates course is a semester long course

(r) following course indicates the course rotates and is offered every other year.

Middle School

Middle School English Department

Language Arts

Taken in conjunction with English 7, this course is designed to give cadets the necessary experience and competency to view themselves as young adult readers and writers. Cadets learn to analyze and interpret literature by reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. They are introduced to various literature genres, as well as key literary elements such as plot, characterization, and theme, and can identify and determine its relevance in the literature. Cadets experiment with different forms of writing, including persuasive, personal narrative, and poetry, as well as focusing on vocabulary development and grammar. Cadets are also introduced to library and online database research methods.

English 7

Taken in conjunction with 7th Grade Language Arts, English 7 involves multiple novel study units using high interest young adult literature in an attempt to introduce an appreciation of literature to students and provide them the tools necessary to discuss and interpret the writing. Some major ongoing ideas explored throughout literature units are as follows: How do our choices affect us? What determines a person's identity? What role does identity play in our lives? How does a person overcome adversity? Cadets learn to play an active role in their own learning through reading reflection, questioning, interpretation, and making connections to real world experiences.

English 8

8th grade English class focuses on preparing cadets for high school level English classes through novel study, expository essay writing, and independent and group projects. Cadets read high interest young adult novels and complete projects that facilitate creativity and higher order thinking. Cadets strengthen essay arguments with support from variety of informational texts, and continue to learn and practice proper research techniques, including creating a bibliography and citing sources within academic writing. Grammar and vocabulary development is also emphasized.

Library Sciences

Incorporated into the Middle School Fine Arts Rotation, 8th grade cadets attend a Library Sciences course twice in a six day rotation cycle. This course teaches current research methods and technologies to assist cadets in their studies. Topics covered include: Library Organization and Cataloging, Periodical Research, Internet Research, Keyboarding, and Information Literacy.

Middle School Mathematics Department

Pre-Algebra

In this course, cadets will learn to use fundamental mathematical functions with integers, fractions, and decimals; the order of operations to evaluate variable expressions; to solve variable equations using transformations; to translate word sentences into mathematical equations; and to solve word problems. Course topics will include algebraic symbolism, simplifying equations, solutions to elementary equations and graphic representations associated with variables. This course will introduce algebraic processes applied to word problems.

Algebra (*High School Algebra I for Middle School students with demonstrated advanced skills in Mathematics*)

This course serves the college preparatory student in his first real experience with abstract mathematics. Major topics covered include a comprehensive survey of the language and symbols of algebra; operations on rational numbers, strategies for solving linear equations and inequalities, factoring, graphical representation, ratio and proportion, polynomials, and an introduction to right angle trigonometry. In addition to the presentation of algebraic theory, applications of the theories are developed. Appropriate use of technology is taught.

Middle School Science Department

Earth Science (Grade 7)

This course introduces the cadet to concepts and terminology in the four major branches of earth science: astronomy, geology, oceanography, and meteorology. Instruction places major emphasis on astronomy and geology with the purpose of instilling in each cadet a love of science by nurturing an appreciation of the beauty, purpose, order, and design of the universe.

Life Science (Grade 8)

Life Sciences introduce the cadet to concepts and terminology in life science and health. The course places major emphasis on human biology and health with the purpose of instilling in each student a love of science by nurturing an appreciation of the beauty, purpose, order, and design of the human body. If each cadet can learn how the human body works, he can better understand, protect, and care for the most miraculous creation of all.

Middle School Social Studies Department

Geography (Grade 7)

Cadets will actively engage in the work of a geographer by asking questions then researching, analyzing, and presenting geographic information. The course explores our world systemically by continent with an emphasis on maps, political features, landmarks, resources, and how geography affects historic events. Overall, our cadets will not focus on memorizing city and country names but rather actively understanding how geography continuously affects us culturally, politically, socially, and economically. If geography cannot be used and applied in real life it has no use!

Civics (Grade 8)

Civics tasks cadets with the question: what is government, why do we need it, and how does it function? The origins and structure of the American system can only be properly understood comparing and contrasting it with both historic and existing forms of government. Cadets will explore and understand the three branches, legislative process, elections, and criminal justice. There will be a strong emphasis on the Bill of Rights, its evolution and interpretations, and how it applies today. Throughout the course an emphasis will be placed on relating course material to current events and real-life applications. We are tasked with preparing our youth to be engaged future citizens- the process starts here!

Middle School World Language Department

Survey World Languages (Grade 7)

Survey of Modern and Classical Language is an introductory language and culture course for middle school cadets, which provides them with a view of our global society through exploring various languages. Cadets will study the cultures of Europe, Asia, and ancient Greece while learning basic vocabulary and grammar of Chinese, French, and Spanish to give them a tangible understanding of which language they wish to further pursue in future studies.

French 1, Spanish 1, Chinese 1 (Grade 8)

The primary goals of Level I language classes are to enable cadets to use the target language in daily life and to understand the culture of that language, comparing it to the American counterpart. First year activities include simple dialogues and conversations, dictations, videos and films, reading, writing, and grammar exercises. Much of the reading and audio-visual material consists of authentic content.

Middle School Fine Arts Department

Art

All 8th grade cadets attend twice in a six day rotation. Art projects are largely hands-on activities with an emphasis on problem solving and development of imagination. Each project is introduced from an art history context. Students experience a variety of materials and techniques.

Foundations in Music

This pass or fail course is given to 8th grade students at VFMA during the academic year. It introduces them to basic music history, common instruments of the orchestra and how they are made, a brief history on the classical musical composers Mozart and Beethoven and also introduces them into musical theater.

High School

Honors Classes

Honors Level work includes more detailed and rigorous reading and assignments in addition to the standard level course offerings to offer a deeper understanding and scope of the materials presented.

English Department

Survey of English (9th Grade)

English 9 Survey of English presents the skills necessary to interpret various genre of literature and to write expository and descriptive essays. The major components of the course are the study of poetry, novels, drama, grammar, and various forms of writings: narrative, persuasive, expository, descriptive, creative, and poetic. The readings serve as catalysts for the writing assignments. Instruction emphasizes developing vocabulary, fostering proper note taking, and implementing correct grammar.

American Literature (10th Grade)

English 10 American Literature gives the cadet the tools and skills that enable him to be analytical and independent in his thinking; excited and critical in his reading; accurate, concise, and stylish in his writing; and confident and effective in his speaking. A variety of novels, short stories, poems, and plays form the basis for literary analysis. *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *Death of a Salesman* are examples of the major works studied. Cadets learn to identify basic literary concepts such as plot, setting, characterization, point of view, irony, and foreshadowing. The course gives great attention to the writing process—thinking, planning, writing, and proofreading. Focusing on the paragraph and the short essay, students frequently practice their expository writing skills. The course reviews all aspects of fundamental grammar.

British Literature (11th Grade)

English 11 British Literature focuses on a chronological survey of English literature, but includes literary works from other countries and cultures that might broaden understanding of the British works. *And Then There Were None*, *1984*, *Lord of the Flies*, and *Detectives* are examples of the major works the class studies. Students develop skills that enable them to perform well in the college admissions process and succeed in college courses. Course work includes frequent essays, journal entries, oral reports, recitations, and vocabulary quizzes.

World Literature (12th Grade)

Cadets prepare for college level expository writing in English 12 World Literature. They respond in writing to short stories, poetry, selections by Shakespeare, and examples of major works include *Hamlet* and *Things Fall Apart*. Writing expectations go beyond plot summary to intelligently and fluently analyzing plot, setting, characterization, narration, and language. Cadets study grammar by analyzing their writing. They do a research project using print and online research sources.

AP English Literature and Composition*

This is an intense college-level study of literature and composition. Cadets wishing to enroll must earn a 93 or better in British Literature and receive course approval from the instructor and the Dean of Academics. Cadets will read challenging fiction, poetry, and drama, with a focus on how the various literary elements work together to create the whole. Major assessments will focus on written composition and presentations, though daily classes will emphasize a round-table and symposium discussion format. This course is designed for committed individuals who love to read, who are intrigued by the power of the written word, who understand the value of analyzing literature for its deeper and varied meanings and who have an unwavering dedication to their individual success as a learner. Cadets must come to this course with a solid writing ability and a general interest to improve the style and quality of their writing, and must be willing to accept criticism of their writing and presentation skills from both the teacher and their peers. Ultimately, cadets will work together and with the teacher to create a learning community in which everyone develops a deeper understanding of literature and those skills required to effectively communicate that understanding through both written analysis and verbal presentations.

Journalism

This year long elective exposes cadets to a variety of news sources: written, televised, and online in order to understand how journalism has been carried into the 21st century. The course will explore the history of news and newspapers and study more modern forms of news outlets, platforms, and reporting; including social media all from an unbiased perspective. The cadets enrolled in this course will be responsible for the quarterly publication of *The Cornerstone*, the Shannon Hall newsletter.

Creative Writing (semester elective)

Creative Writing will introduce cadets to the process and techniques of creative writing. Cadets will experiment with various types of writing, including the writing of fiction and poetry. Class readings will expose students to various writing styles and provide examples of the successes and strategies of other writers.

Public Speaking (semester elective)

Public Speaking offers students the opportunity to enhance their development of skills related to formal oral communications. Cadets will learn communication theory; apply that theory to speech preparation, and present speeches to the class. Emphasis will be placed on the students' ability to present their research and ideas effectively to an audience utilizing proper public speaking techniques.

Exploring Cinema (semester elective)

Are you an avid movie goer? Is there a certain director or actor whom you admire? Do you enjoy talking to your friends about your favorite movies? If so, Exploring Cinema may be a class for you. In this .5 credit elective cadets will actively investigate the film industry as well as the groundbreaking accomplishments of modern movie making. Cadets will arm themselves with the knowledge of how framing, lighting and camera movement combine to convey various meanings, moods and themes. Additionally, cadets will learn about pioneers in the film industry such as Akira Kurosawa, Alfred Hitchcock, Steven Spielberg, Peter Jackson and M. Night Shyamalan. Further, cadets will also examine some of the most famous heroes and villains in film history. In addition to learning a brief history of film, its terminology, the process of film making, etc., cadets will write movie reviews and produce/shoot alternate ending of a film shown in class. A variety of film genres will be explored based on the lists created by the accredited American Film Institute.

Mathematics Department

Algebra I

This course serves the college preparatory student in his first real experience with abstract mathematics. Major topics covered include a comprehensive survey of the language and symbols of algebra; operations on rational numbers, strategies for solving linear equations and inequalities, factoring, graphical representation, ratio and proportion, polynomials, and an introduction to right angle trigonometry. In addition to the presentation of algebraic theory, applications of the theories are developed. Appropriate use of technology is taught.

Geometry

This course is an integration of plane and solid geometry with an effective integration of algebra and arithmetic. Emphasis is given to conceptual understanding and multiple representations, along with connections to algebra and arithmetic. The course includes plane figures and circles, similar polygons, area, surface area, volume, and the measurement of the circle. The use of the graphing calculator and computer technology is encouraged.

Algebra II

Algebra II contains the branches of mathematics that educated people around the world use in conversation and that most colleges expect students to have studied. The course begins with familiar concepts such as properties of numbers, graphs, expressions, and inequalities, and then concludes with new concepts such as matrices, logarithms, trigonometric concepts, and conic sections. Instruction places emphasis on helping cadets relate to and apply algebraic concepts to other areas of mathematics. The course also emphasizes integration of the technological tools necessary for problem solving; a graphing calculator (preferably the TI-83) is mandatory for the course. Cadets are challenged to experience the discovery of learning so essential to facilitate the development of an active thinking and engaged learner.

Integrated Mathematics

Integrated Mathematics is an option for cadets who have completed Algebra II. Cadets explore a range of mathematical topics including Algebra, Probability & Statistics, Business Math and Personal Finance. Cadets complete assignments using technology such as graphing calculators and digital applications. Independent research and group projects make up an integral part of this course.

Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus

This course provides the cadet with the foundations necessary to study calculus. The major topics covered include functions, graphing functions, polynomial functions, inequalities and linear programming, exponential and logarithmic functions, and limits. The course also includes an in-depth examination of trigonometric concepts and the applications of those concepts such as mechanical design, graphing and modeling, identities, and angular motion. Upon successful completion, the cadet will have the requisite skills for a first semester calculus course at the high school or college level.

Calculus

The Calculus course is designed to provide the student ability to use calculus in the sciences and in business applications. The major topics covered include prerequisites for calculus, limits and continuity, derivatives, applications of derivatives, integration, transcendental functions, applications of integration, and techniques of integration.

AP Calculus A/B*

AP Calculus A/B focuses on cadets' understanding of calculus concepts and provides experience with methods and applications. Although computational competence is an important outcome, the main emphasis is on a multi-representational approach to calculus, with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. The connections among these representations are important.

Pre-Engineering

This class is designed to introduce juniors and seniors to the engineering profession. Cadets learn both the scientific and non-scientific aspects of the engineering profession. The important non-scientific topics we cover include ethics, communication (written and oral), teamwork and planning. All these skills are used for Team Projects, which introduce students to "real world" engineering decision making from planning through design and testing of products. Field experiences and subsequent reports (written and oral), summarizing those experiences, are a required part of the course, since the field experience gives students a broader understanding of university engineering expectations as well as work-site experiences.

Science Department

Physical Science (9th Grade)

The goal of this course is to help the cadet understand the concepts and ideas of scientific discovery. Mathematical computations are used as a means of predicting behavior in the physical world. This course will enable cadets to practice critical thinking and logic and will lay the foundation for future courses in all lab sciences. Topics include mechanics, heat, sound, light, magnetism, atomic and nuclear physics and measurement. Lab activities are integral to this course. Cadets are given extra direction and assistance with math concepts.

Biology (10th Grade)

This required laboratory science course gives the cadet a sound background in cellular biology with an emphasis on biochemistry, heredity, and protein synthesis. The work in the laboratory stresses the investigative process, problem solving, and creative and critical thinking skills through firsthand experience.

Chemistry (11th Grade)

This laboratory science emphasizes chemistry's impact on people, while teaching basic theories and mathematical concepts necessary for basic chemistry coverage. Cadets develop knowledge of basic chemical facts and their manipulation, i.e. gas theories, chemical equations, the atom, organic chemistry, the mole concept, Avogadro's theories, temperature scales, acid/base theories, etc. Instruction gives focus to developing the habit of quick, accurate, intelligent, and orderly thinking. This course aims at preparing cadets for college chemistry.

Physics (12th Grade)

This is a basic course in the general practices, instrument use, technology tools, laboratory techniques, and applied mathematics pertaining to the study of physical concepts. It gives particular emphasis to developing the cadet's conceptual understanding of various physics topics. The cadet learns to conduct laboratory experiments using modern computer based apparatus. Instruction continually keeps the practical application of all laws and principles before the cadet. Additionally the course makes reference to historical developments in natural philosophy (physics) and how these developments impact society. Cadets are expected to gain mastery learning of key concepts. The course is primarily for those cadets who intend to be non-science majors in college.

AP Physics* (12th Grade)

AP Physics is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Cadets cultivate their understanding of Physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore topics such as fluid statics and dynamics; thermodynamics with kinetic theory; PV diagrams and probability; electrostatics; electrical circuits with capacitors. In addition cadets explore magnetic fields; electromagnetism; physical and geometric optics; and quantum, atomic, and nuclear physics.

Astronomy (Semester Elective, Alternating Years, offered 2018-2019)

Space...the last frontier. Humankind has always been fascinated with the realm outside our planet. In intro to Astronomy, Cadets will survey the cosmos. From our home on Earth to the far reaches of the universe, Cadets will feel very small! Concepts include the history of astronomy, the science of astronomy, gravity, light, matter, our planetary system & galaxy, other planetary systems and galaxies, asteroids, comets, stars, and we will finish our study on applying Einstein's famous laws of relativity and the likelihood of space travel. Cadets will regularly partake in labs, including a field trip to Eastern University's Bradstreet Observatory.

Marine Biology (Semester Elective, Alternating Years, offered 2018-2019)

Earth is two-thirds water and most of that water has not seen humankind, however the diversity of life in our oceans is richer than on land. In Marine Biology, Cadets will survey the ocean depths to better understand how life has evolved and adapted. Concepts include the science of marine biology, the physical & chemical features of ocean realms, the organisms of the sea, the structure and function of marine ecosystems, and how humans impact marine life. Cadets will apply their knowledge at the end of the course by building their own aquatic ecosystems. Other labs and field trips will also be included.

Parasitology (Semester Elective, Alternating Years, next offered 2019-2020)

Parasites are one of the world's largest groups of organisms. They range from microscopic protozoans to large ticks and will use their hosts, at the host's expense, to benefit themselves. In Parasitology, Cadets will study and learn about the basic biology of the three main classes of parasites – Protozoans, Helminths, and Ectoparasites. Studies include morphology, epidemiology, life cycles, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment. Applicable prevention methods are also discussed. Course includes laboratories.

Introduction to Forensics (Semester Elective, Alternating Years, next offered 2019-2020)

NCIS, CSI, Sherlock Holmes. These popular television and film programs thrill a large fan base in the ever popular science of Forensics. In Intro to Forensic Science, Cadets will learn how real scientific analysts use the scientific method to collect evidence and solve crimes. Cadets will study observational skills, crime scene investigation, evidence examination, fingerprinting, DNA profiling, Pollen examination, study of hair, and more! Course will feature laboratories, field trips, and guest speakers.

Social Studies Department

Ancient World History (9th Grade)

This course involves a study of the past from human origins to the Age of Discovery with emphasis given to appreciating the impact of ancient peoples on our world today. Instruction supports a global and gender inclusive worldview. The course begins with a discussion of the origins of prehistoric man and the beginnings of civilization. The Egyptians, Mesopotamians, and Hebrews are the first civilizations to be studied. The next examined are the early civilizations and empires of Persia, Greece, Rome, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Instruction also explores the rise and spread of such world religions as Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course includes an examination of European history through the early Middle Ages. Writing is fundamental to virtually all daily work: homework assignments, the book report, and quiz and test questions.

Modern World History (10th Grade)

This course provides a foundation of knowledge regarding the major events of modern history, integrating themes of geography, economics, the humanities, and scientific achievements. It covers the time period from approximately AD 1650 to 1950, encompassing such subjects as the Enlightenment, the French Revolution and Napoleon, the Industrial Revolution, and Latin American independence. Attention is also given to Nationalism and Imperialism as well as to the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and the causes and conduct of both the First and Second World Wars. The course closes with a look at the beginnings of the Cold War. Instruction focuses on factual information and the use of those facts in understanding historical events and movements. Students have opportunity to develop and express critical thought through written homework assignments, test essays, and several data based essays.

US History (11th Grade)

The evolution of America from the Jamestown Colony (1607) to the world's sole super power is unparalleled in history. This course covers U.S. History from Columbus through the Cold War. The study examines and evaluates political, religious, economic, military, social, intellectual, and scientific developments and how they shape lives now. Cadets have frequent opportunity to write essays, reviews, and reports.

US Government and Economics (12th Grade)

This course gives cadets a critical insight into United States government and economics. It includes constitutional themes and historic precedents that are the foundations of American democracy. Instruction places special emphasis on the constitutional principles of the three branches of government, checks and balances, separation of powers, and majority rule. In addition, this course develops cadets' comprehension of the strong influence economics has over history and current affairs. Along with providing a basic, but solid understanding of the way economies work, this course will emphasize crucial events from the Industrial Revolution to the present day in an effort to help cadets grasp the dominant role economics has had in the rise and fall of nations.

Entrepreneurship

Introduction to Entrepreneurship offers juniors and seniors a course that cultivates their creativity and problem-solving skills through active learning. Cadets will learn to think critically, make well-informed decisions, innovate, and communicate effectively in today's high-tech, fast changing world. They learn finance, statistics, industry knowledge and writing. They also learn how to bring their strengths to a team and how to prioritize and manage time. During this year-long course, real businesses will give cadet teams real and urgent problems with cadet teams delivering their final solutions to CEOs. After working on two to three real business problems involving new venture creation, cadets build their own startups.

Psychology

This course is to promote cadet interest and knowledge of basic psychology and the social sciences. Cadets will learn about the biological, behavioral, emotional, intellectual and therapeutic aspects of the field relating them to everyday life

World War II (Semester elective)

World War II was the pivotal event of the 20th Century. This is a one semester elective course on the war in Europe from 1939-1945. Cadets will examine the political, economic, and scientific developments that shaped the war. They will analyze military strategies, operations, battles, tactics, and leadership during the campaigns in Europe. Finally they will evaluate the war's impact on the 20th Century and into the 21st Century. Special emphasis is placed on the use of primary documents, interpretive readings, photographs, film, and presentations by cadet teams.

Civil War (Semester elective)

This course explores history surrounding the Civil War and Reconstruction from 1820 – 1877. Cadets will focus on issues and events that faced the nation and led to the conflict. Cadets will also conduct an in-depth study of the war including military strategies, battles, and leaders. The course will address the causes and consequences of the war, the conditions that arose during Reconstruction, and the effects upon the people of the nation.

Vietnam War (Semester elective)

This class examines the military, political, and diplomatic history of Vietnam War as well as the context in which it was fought, the Cold War, and the revolutionary changes of the 1960s. Major themes in the class will focus on early history and culture of Vietnam, the French involvement, Cold War tension, and the nuclear standoff between the USSR and the USA as well as early steps in American military involvement. Cadets will also learn about the United States at War in Vietnam, the protest movement and the music of the period to gain an understanding of the lessons learned as a result of American involvement, the memorials raised, and how the conflict haunts and affected American leaders and local people.

Leadership Education Training

Leadership Education Department of Valley Forge Military Academy in accordance with the schools Mission and Philosophy strives to produce educated leaders for a global community, developing the whole person, continuing to rely on Five Traditional Cornerstones. Valley Forge pursues this goal by using the holistic academic and military environment as the integrative mechanism to prepare its graduates to become educated citizen leaders of character. Employing the dynamics of a military organization in its structured cadet environment, the LET curriculum is designed to foster the development of individual responsibility and sound leadership skills by providing opportunities for the practical application of leadership theories in positions of increasing responsibility.

The series is presented in alternating years, and both sections are required for graduation. The program typically starts in grade 9, but cadets who transfer to VFMA in later years will be enrolled. The Leadership Education program consists of instruction adopted from JROTC.

Leadership Education Training I

The cadets will learn and review the following themes: achieving a healthy lifestyle, being a leader, get involved, and know oneself. This course will develop a cadets understanding of the theory of leadership, citizenship, the global world, and a cadet's job as an American citizen. The cadets will gain a knowledge and understanding of the *Guidon* and *The Honor Code for The Corps of Cadets*.

Leadership Education Training II

Cadets will review the following themes: knowing how to lead, communication skills, conflict resolution, teaching skills, and more. This course will develop a cadets understanding of the theory of leadership, citizenship, the global world, and a cadet's job as an American citizen. The cadets will gain a knowledge and understanding of the *Guidon* and *The Honor Code for The Corps of Cadets*.

World Language Department

Modern World Languages

Chinese, French, Spanish 1

The primary goals of Level I language classes are to enable cadets to use the target language in daily life and to understand the culture of that language, comparing it to the American counterpart. First year activities include simple dialogues and conversations, dictations, videos and films, reading, writing, and grammar exercises. Much of the reading and audio-visual material consists of authentic content.

Chinese, French, Spanish 2

These courses reinforce the skills and knowledge acquired in the first year. All activities and grammatical studies are more complex and more accurately applied in usage. Content areas expand to include such additional tasks as introducing one's self, asking directions, making purchases, and maintaining a personal journal in the target language. In the second semester, all cadets may only speak the target language in class. Additionally teachers encourage cadets to initiate or participate in conversations on topics of personal interest.

Chinese, French and Spanish 3

These courses reinforce and expand the skills and knowledge base acquired in the first two years of study. From the beginning of the school year, cadets may speak only the target language in classes and engage in more open conversation. They become more fluent as they read, write, and discuss assigned topics from the literature and culture of the languages. Instruction focuses more intensively on compositional skills and on reading authentic material in the target language. Content areas expand to include talk about self and family members, personal history, and leisure time activities.

French and Spanish 4

These courses are presented at an honors level providing elective credit. Cadets apply and refine their language skills as well as expand their cultural knowledge from the previous years. The catalyst for discussions is the oral and written student presentation of short position papers based on topics covered through the reading of authentic materials such as newspapers, magazine articles, short stories, and novels in the target language. Other media forms such as videos may also serve as points of departure. Content areas expand to include and accommodate more academic needs such as specialized vocabulary and literary genres, as well as more sophisticated social tasks such as making travel arrangements and currency exchanges. Students use the target language in all activities.

English Language Learners Department

ELL Composition 1

The ELL Composition course introduces the ELL cadet to the writing process by providing a variety of activities designed to improve writing skills. The course's emphasis is the development of all four language skills (Listening - Speaking - Reading - Writing). This course seeks to provide the international student with the writing skills needed to improve communicative competency.

ELL Grammar 1

The ELL Grammar course introduces grammar to the ELL cadet in a communicative context, integrating all four language skills (Listening - Speaking - Reading - Writing) in a theme based whole language approach. This course focuses on teaching the grammatical rules of English to the international student, with the goal of improving communicative competency.

ELL Reading 1

ELL Reading is an introductory reading course for the cadet who is not a native speaker of English. The course prepares him for mainstream academic classes by improving his reading skills. Instruction also works on improving the cadet's speaking and writing skills to help him attain a higher comprehension level of English proficiency.

ELL Composition 2

This ELL Composition further expands and enhances the writing skills on an ELL cadet by providing a variety of activities designed to improve writing skills. The course's emphasis is the development of all four language skills (Listening - Speaking - Reading - Writing). This course seeks to provide the international student with the writing skills needed to improve communicative competency and be prepared for mainstreaming into a regular English classroom.

ELL Grammar 2

This ELL Grammar course expands upon grammar to the ELL cadet in a communicative context, integrating all four language skills (Listening - Speaking - Reading - Writing) in a theme based whole language approach. This course focuses on teaching the grammatical rules of English to the international student, with the goal of improving communicative competency. This course seeks to provide the international cadet with the necessary skills and competencies for mainstreaming into a regular English classroom.

ELL Reading 2

ELL Reading is an intermediate reading course for the cadet who is not a native speaker of English, but is not quite able to read and interpret English text on his own. The course prepares him for mainstream academic classes by improving his reading skills. Instruction also works on improving the cadet's speaking and writing skills to help him attain a higher comprehension level of English proficiency.

Wellness Education

Health

Health is a required class for cadets who have not previously taken the subject in high school. The course emphasizes physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being using assignments and activities with emphasis on consumer health; life cycles; drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse.

Fine Art Department

Architecture

The Architecture course provides fundamental knowledge of principles and techniques of architectural drawing procedures. The course familiarizes the cadet with design process and provides a better understanding of the relation between architectural design and structural systems.

Fundamentals in Studio Art

This introductory course exposes cadets to a broad variety of artistic media and stylistic expressions. Cadets do a two - and three- dimensional projects working with pen and ink, charcoal, conte, pencil, paint, plaster, ceramics, and photography. Instruction integrates the history of art into the sequence of projects. It also examines the modern application of each medium. Several class trips supplement the instruction.

Intermediate Studio Art

Intermediate Studio Art builds upon the foundations set in Fundamentals of Studio Art 1. In addition to a more involved application of each of the media used in Studio Art 1, students explore additional materials. Field trips and art history studies also supplement these projects.

Advanced Studies in Art

Advanced Studies in Art is reserved for cadets who have taken all of the previous Studio Art classes and are possibly pursuing higher education or a career in Art. Cadets work on intricate projects using varied materials and mediums that were experienced in Studio Art as well as new experiences.

**Beginning in the 2015-16 school year, all students enrolled in an Advanced Placement (AP) course are required to take the AP exam for the course at the end of the school year. If a student chooses not to take the AP exam, the AP designation will be removed from the transcript/report card, and the course will be designated as Honors. (Example: AP Physics will be listed as Honors Physics) If a student decides in May not to take the chosen AP Exams, then the AP designation will be removed from the final transcript.*