



Academic Information and Course Outlines

About The Traveling School

The Traveling School offers specialized high school courses, overseas travel to extraordinary destinations, and outdoor adventure to girls ages 15-18. Each semester approximately 16 students and four teachers build a unique community while they travel through several countries, participate in place-based academics, live in another culture and complete volunteer projects. The School's innovative curriculum takes full advantage of the environment and the culture of the regions where we travel. Traveling School place-based classes are experiential and relevant. In addition to engaging academics and a global lens, The Traveling School is dedicated to the development of outdoor skills to help students improve self-confidence, gain expertise, and develop leadership skills.

Since 2004, The Traveling School has been fully accredited through the Council for Standards on International Educational Travel (CSIET). CSIET is a private, not-for-profit organization, which establishes standards and monitors international youth education and exchange programs. As well, The Traveling School has begun the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Accreditation Process.

Academic Overview

The Traveling School academic schedule is responsive to our surroundings and opportunities that present themselves as we travel through a region. Students are engaged in relevant coursework presented by their teachers, local community members and their geographic surroundings. Although the academic schedule varies from day to day and week to week, The Traveling School carefully tracks academic hours for each class whether a sit-down lecture, an interactive academic exploration or a cultural exchange. Over the 15-week semester, The Traveling School exceeds average US standards for classroom hours.



Students come to our school from public, private and homeschool settings across the globe. The Traveling School builds an academic setting for all students to gain confidence sharing ideas, asking questions and engaging in thought-provoking dialogues. Traveling School classes provide an integrated

education that stretches beyond the boundaries of a single course/textbook. Teachers and students bring knowledge from one course to another and implement learning through primary sources through the region in their courses to add context and meaning to the curriculum. The reflective academic environment is based on mutual respect, incorporating thoughtful silence and student-to-student discussion which creates space for diverse viewpoints.

Traveling School courses focus on critical thinking and the ability to access, synthesize, evaluate and communicate information through various formats. Students are assessed through class discussion and participation, projects, presentations, homework, quizzes and tests. After the semester, each student and her sending school receive a traditional grade transcript accompanied with specific course details plus student specific comments about growth, proficiency and achievements.

Course Descriptions

Students are required to take six classes on semester. The required courses: Global Studies, Honors World Literature & Composition, and Honors History and Politics integrate creative lessons and multiple modes of thinking allowing for students to express and enrich their learning in a variety of ways. These courses are often taught in-tandem and topics transcend classes to promote engaging and diverse class discussions. Physical Education & Independent Life Skills is required and helps promote healthy living with an inclusive community during the semester. To engage with local communities and culture, spring semester students are required to take one of three levels of Spanish class.

Course Offerings	
Required Courses	Semester Credits
Global Studies	2
Physical Education & Independent Life Skills	2
Honors World Literature & Composition	1
Honors History & Politics (Southern Africa/ South America)	1
Conversational Spanish *SPRING ONLY <i>(Beginning, Honors Intermediate or Honors Advanced)</i>	1
Recommended Courses	
Honors Natural Science	1
Supplementary Courses	
Global Economics	1
Algebra 2	1

Notes:

- Unless pre-approved, a student can take only one supplementary course.
- For a supplementary course to be offered, a minimum of three enrolled students is required. If the minimum is not met, we may be able to establish an independent study.
- Independent Study requests are not guaranteed and are subject to Traveling School approval.
- Course changes during semester require the approval of a Traveling School administrator, student's home high school and her parents.

GLOBAL STUDIES (Required)

This two-credit class is designed to be a thought-provoking, discussion-based forum that teaches and helps students make connections between recurring themes, ideas and concepts from the semester. The class has two primary focuses: first, this class uses multiple methods to provide students with critical thinking tools essential for higher level reasoning and critique; second, Global Studies uses an interdisciplinary and transnational framework to explore regional economic, political, social, and environmental issues in the developing world in order to better understand how globalization operates in our world today. The class is designed to be an academic and reflective space for the entire group to work through the complex questions that arise from traveling in the developing world.

The class will pose important questions about the current state of southern Africa/South America through an in-depth regional study. Drawing important connections between the political economies of the developed and developing world, we undertake a multi-scaled examination of the impacts of globalization on this region of the world as it relates to both the material conditions of everyday lives



and the governmental structure and policy of these nations. Each unit engages diverse material coming out of multiple disciplines, schools of thought, and perspectives.

The Global Studies course will also emphasize active world citizenship through community service and cultural exchange. Students perform approximately 20-25 hours of community service during the semester. During these experiences, students will study and understand local and regional issues and turn this knowledge into action.

Global Studies Final Presentation

Each student is required to give a final public presentation for a group of their peers when they return home. This presentation must be verified by a supervising adult and sent to The Traveling School for a final grade.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & INDEPENDENT LIFE SKILLS (Required)

Physical Education (PE) & Independent Life Skills (iLife) is a 2-credit class that focuses on academic, physical and emotional successes and challenges. The PE component helps students develop strength and cardiovascular endurance. Being an active participant in PE enables each student to be a productive member of the group and will help to keep the group physically healthy throughout the semester. Weekly iLife workshops help students develop skills to become a healthy, productive citizen who takes responsibility for personal well-being, as well as a social responsibility for participating positively in the larger community. These workshops explore key aspects of communication, group dynamics, conflict

resolution, and leadership skills. The combination of PE & iLife will help students develop an awareness of balance and well-being. This is a participation-based class during workouts and class discussions.

NOTE: *Physical Education and Independent Life Skills is a pass/fail course. A pass requires a 70%. The Traveling School can award a traditional percentage grade if required. This request must be noted on the Credit Transfer Form.*

HONORS WORLD LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION (Required)



Honors World Literature and Composition is designed to provide students with critical reading and writing skills. Designed to expose students to an assortment of highly acclaimed authors from southern African/South America or novels set in the region, students read a minimum of two fiction novels. Students also read a variety of classic and regional short stories, plays, non-fiction, essays, and poetry. This course combines reading with rigorous writing workshop practice to develop writing skills. Students will maintain a series of portfolios and daily journal entries. Students are expected to produce three major compositions including an analytical essay as well as other genre-focused composition relating to novels taught during the semester. All students write and take responsibility for their writing through the use of journals, revision, peer editing, and portfolio techniques.

HONORS HISTORY AND POLITICS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA/ SOUTH AMERICA (Required)

This course is designed to provide students with a thematic exploration of the history and politics of the semester region (southern Africa/South America). Students are asked to think critically about how contemporary regional issues reflect pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial historical events. Throughout the course, students will consider how the region's colonial past continues to shape its present realities. Using a historical lens, students will situate the region within the larger context of global economics, politics, and social dynamics in order to study the ways in which colonial power relations such as race, class, and gender produce hierarchical social, political and economic realities for diverse groups of people on both local and global scales. In addition to thematic units, students will engage with the geographic, historical and political particularities of each country visited on the semester. Finally, students will build a variety of disciplinary skills including assessing and distinguishing between different kinds of sources, researching and presenting on various regional topics, creating and studying maps, interviewing and oral communication, and writing an historical essay. During this course,

students will access, synthesize, and evaluate information to communicate and apply social studies knowledge to real world situations.

HONORS NATURAL SCIENCE (Recommended)

As we become an increasingly global society responsible for the planet and its environmental challenges, we need to develop the skills to critically assess problems and logically develop solutions. This course is designed to enhance student's understanding of the natural systems that surround us, both in our immediate surroundings in southern Africa/South America and worldwide. Through a hands-on interdisciplinary approach, students will use observation and inquiry skills to explore these surroundings and make connections.

Students will read selections from journal articles, textbooks and other scientific literature. They will attend guest lectures, participate in in-class discussions, lectures and in-depth field studies. With the diverse environments of the region as our classroom, students will discover the value of observation and inference in science.



- *Fall Semester in southern Africa:* Unit studies focus on concepts of biology – from ecology to infectious disease, and geology. Students will explore the applications of these sciences into environmental science, conservation biology, and resource extraction in terms of environmental impact and sustainable development.
- *Spring Semester in South America:* Unit studies start with a focus on the tropical rainforest looking at interconnections on a community scale. As units progress, the course zooms out exploring connections across ecosystems, biomes, and finally the biosphere. Topics include rainforest ecology, community ecology, ecosystem services and climate change.

Each semester embraces the theme of interconnectedness; units will tie into investigations in the History and Global Studies courses by diving into the economic, social, and political impacts of natural resource extraction as well as the globally felt impacts of these activities. This course is

designed around and meets the Next Generation Science Standards.

GLOBAL ECONOMICS (Supplementary)

This course introduces the contemporary debate on the changing patterns and challenges of the global economy. Focusing on the region of travel (southern Africa/South America), students will gain an overview of the global economy within the field of economic geography and its connection to issues of natural resources, development, international trade and foreign aid. Throughout the semester, students will examine debates about types of foreign aid and the key organizations that drive U.S. foreign assistance programs. Using case studies, students will explore the complexity of issues and dilemmas surrounding four major U.S. foreign aid programs. Additionally, students will examine at the impact of international trade and foreign aid on the regions through which they travel.

MATHEMATICS COURSE OPTIONS (Supplementary)

Note: The Traveling School cannot guarantee complete overlap between a sending school math curriculum and The Traveling School curriculum. Math curricula focus on the primary topics in each subject area. Our syllabi absolutely vary from the curriculum of each student's home high school. Students must work with their schools to recognize these differences and, if necessary, be prepared to do any additional work necessary to stay on track with her home high school requirements.

ALGEBRA 2 (Supplementary)

Fall Semester Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Spring Semester Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and first semester Algebra 2

Algebra 2 is a sequential curriculum that enables students to build the foundations for a strong understanding of higher level math. The first semester curriculum addresses numeric and algebraic expressions and functions, linear and quadratic equations and inequalities in one and two variables. Students learn to conceptualize, analyze and identify relationships among functions graphically and analytically. Students are encouraged to master the concepts of various problem types and solution tactics, and a graphing calculator will often be used as a helpful tool to solve problems and analyze data. During this course, students will connect with the mathematical procedures of problem solving and analysis, estimation, communication, associations and applications, and use appropriate technology.

First semester topics:

Linear Functions
Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities
Matrices
Quadratic functions
Introduction to Polynomial Functions

Second semester topics:

Logarithms
Rational Functions
Radical Functions
Conic Sections
Probability & Statistics

