

GSSM Interim Course Catalog for January 2024

*The Interim Course Student Request Form is located here: <https://forms.office.com/r/8Xy2hugTVY>. **All students must submit an Interim Course Request Form. You must talk with your parents before submitting your requests.***

We have an exciting list of offerings for students during January 2024 Interim, which is from **Wednesday, Jan 3 to Wednesday, January 17**. Please read the course descriptions below, noting the cost and minimum and maximum number of students needed or allowed.

After discussing your options with your parents, please complete the Interim Course Student Request Form here: <https://forms.office.com/r/8Xy2hugTVY> indicating your top four requests, after Monday May 15 at 5pm (when the form will begin accepting requests) and before Friday, May 19 at 5pm.

NOTE:

- Please request your top 4 **choices** for interim courses.
- Courses are filled as requests are received. Seniors get first preference for interim courses.
- Please note the cost of each course and know that some courses might not occur if the minimum number of students do not enroll.
- If you are requesting the same class for the second year in a row, you must receive permission from Dr. Martin.
- Courses vary in content and cost. If a student registers for a course that has a fee, the student is responsible for payment in full for the course, even if they later withdraw or are dismissed from GSSM prior to or during interim. In such cases, GSSM will not reimburse payments made, and the student remains responsible for the full payment of the course fee.
- If you have any questions about interim, please contact Dr. Matt Martin (mmartin@governors.school).

Timeline for course request, placement, and payment:

- **Friday, April 21 by 5pm:** Deadline to submit your interim course request form. Students will be notified of their course placement after all requests are submitted.
- **May 19 by 5pm:** Incoming junior deadline for course selection.
- **May 22:** Latest date students will be notified if their course has enough students to take place.
- **May 31:** Students must pay at least \$200 of the course fee for courses with fees over \$1000. Fees may be paid online at <https://ssl.sc.gov/checkout/scgssmonlinepmts/residentialProgram.html>.
- **November 1:** Full payment of course fees is due. Fees may be paid online at <https://ssl.sc.gov/checkout/scgssmonlinepmts/residentialProgram.html>.
- **NOTE: International travel courses will have their own schedule for payments.** Please talk to your teacher about them.
- Note also that students may apply for 3 scholarships for interim travel: The Breckin Muzzy Interim International Scholarship (\$1000, preference for international travel, 2 recipients), the Janet Rutherford Interim Scholarship (\$500, based on financial need). Dr. Martin will send students information on how to apply. Let him know if you have questions (mmartin@governors.school).

January Interim 2024 Courses and Course Fees

Course descriptions including instructors, student numbers, and cost can be found in the pages following this list. Course fee in parentheses.

1. Chess in the Interim (\$0)
2. Learn A Language In Two Weeks! (\$0)
3. Origami: The Art of Paperfolding (\$0)
4. World Building in the Films of Studio Ghibli (\$0)
5. Mathematical Puzzles and Games (\$0)
6. Heroes and Villains Shop: Plants and fungi to the rescue! (\$0)
7. Equine Science and Horsemanship (\$350)
8. Introduction to Autonomous Systems Engineering “Drone Engineering” (\$1650)
9. Mental Health in Pop Culture (\$0)
10. Music Performance and Songwriting (\$0)
11. SCUBA Certification during Interim (\$1850)
12. Digital Biology (\$0)
13. Interimprov! (\$165)
14. The Cooking Lab (\$30)
15. Glider Piloting at the Bermuda High Soaring School (\$3000)
16. Writing Your World (\$0)
17. Buddhist Meditation and Practices (\$0)
18. Sports Facilities (\$200)
19. Honeybees: The Biology, History, and Impacts of a Domesticated Super-Organism (\$50)
20. Sailing Adventures (\$1450)
21. Making Learning Fun Through Engineering (\$0)

Interim Travel Courses

1. A Smithsonian Interim (\$875)
2. The Low Countries: Past, Present, and Future (\$3100)
3. The Southwest Experience: A Journey into National Parks, Native America, and Creative Enlightenment (\$2869)
4. Charting the Galapagos Islands (\$4490)
5. Exploring Egypt: Cairo, Alexandria, Luxor, and a Nile River Voyage (\$4241)
6. STEM Formula New York & Boston: Visiting GSSM Alumni (\$2500)
7. Ecosystems of California & Hawaii (\$3500)
8. A Tale of Two Cities (\$3424)

Course Descriptions

Course Title: Chess in the Interim

Course Description: Chess is the best-selling game of all time. Chess trains your mind to solve problems, requires focus and creativity, and teaches you to see things from others’ point of view. It is a game with

endless possibilities. This course is designed for all levels of chess players. Whether you do not know how the pieces move or you are an accomplished player, you will learn, play, and have fun. In the course, instructors, students, and guest speakers will present on rules, tactics, notation, openings, and strategy. Students will play lots of chess, including at least one tournament in class. The class will also participate in the MLK Scholastic Event of the Charlotte Chess Open. No overnight travel is involved in this course.

Instructor: Gordon Brown and Roy Flannagan

Max Students: 20 **Min Students:** 4

Cost for the student: No fee. Students will need to pay \$20 for a USCF membership and pay for meals during the travel day to Charlotte Chess Open.

Course Title: Learn A Language In Two Weeks!

Course Description: What if you could learn to speak a new language in about two weeks? This might seem like an impossible task, surely there is too much to learn and not enough time! But what if the language was very small? Toki Pona is a very tiny constructed language, with only about 120 words and very few grammatical rules. Students in this interim will learn the entire lexicon and grammar of Toki Pona, practice speaking with one another, and create some Toki Pona poetry and literature. We will also discuss the philosophy behind the language and connect with other people across the globe who speak Toki Pona. Course costs (\$40) will cover two books: Toki Pona The Language of Good and the Toki Pona Dictionary.

Instructor: Taylor Belcher

Max Students: 12 **Min Students:** 2

Cost for the student: 0

Course Title: Origami: The Art of Paperfolding

Course Description: Come learn how to create insects, birds, flowers, and anything else your heart desires! Origami is a relaxing interim in which you will learn about the rich applications in mechanical engineering and mathematics, and what this art has told us over the centuries about culture and history. Paper folding might be an ancient art, but it can also transform the modern life. By meditating on folding paper, we boost mindfulness. We learn to concentrate in the moment without distraction. In the age of social media, this quiet attentiveness alleviates stress from the constant ebb and flow of information. Origami requires no resources other than a sheet of paper and free time. It requires no learned skill like other arts and crafts but the ability to make a crease. And, in turn, with patience, anything can be realized from a simple flapping bird to a complex antlered deer to the mathematical precision of polyhedra.

Instructor: David Whitbeck

Max Students: 20 **Min Students:** 2

Cost for the student: \$0

Course Title: World Building in the Films of Studio Ghibli

Course Description: “The creation of a single world comes from a huge number of fragments and chaos.”—Hayao Miyazaki. Films create worlds through two-dimensional images. This interim class will explore how films from the world’s greatest animation studio create worlds that are both magical and deeply moving. We’ll start with two foundational Ghibli films—Miyazaki’s My Neighbor Totoro (cat bus!) and Spirited Away—to analyze the films and look at the role of myth and Japanese history and culture in

them. Each student, as part of a group, will then choose a film we watch and lead a discussion of world building in it. Students will also keep journals during the course and read a few articles on film analysis and history.

Instructor: Matt Martin

Max Students: 18 **Min Students:** 4

Cost for the student: No course fee. Students will need to have a membership to HBO Max for access to the films, about \$15 for a month.

Course Title: Mathematical Puzzles and Games

Course Description: Students will investigate the mathematics behind some well-known and less well-known puzzles and games. Students will see how graph theory, group theory, number theory, and other mathematical disciplines can be applied to the Rubik’s Cube, decrypting secret messages, Sudoku, SET, Spot It!, and a variety of other puzzles and games.

Instructor: Wilson Harvey

Max Students: 20 **Min Students:** 5

Cost for the student: \$0

Course Title: Heroes and Villains Shop: Plants and fungi to the rescue!

Course Description: Despite how much or how little we know about plants and fungi, these two magnificent groups have been an inspiration for characters in literature, movies, comics, board games, art, fashion, and video games. Let nature guide you to pick and choose among thousands of incredible features found in fungi and plants to create the next generation of superheroes and supervillains!

Instructor: Valeria Avanzato

Max Students: 12 **Min Students:** 4

Cost for the student: \$0

Course Title: Equine Science and Horsemanship

Course Description: A fun, hands-on course that combines riding lessons with horse care and in-depth exploration of horse physiology and husbandry from local experts. Each student will ride and be responsible for their “own” horse throughout the course. Students will leave for Tally Ho Equestrian Center in the morning and return each afternoon.

Instructor: Jennifer Raia

Max Students: 12 **Min Students:** 8

Cost for the student: \$350

Course Title: Introduction to Autonomous Systems Engineering “Drone Engineering”

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce high school scholars to the exciting drone design and engineering career pathway. Through this course, students will learn about the principles of drone engineering, including design, engineering, prototyping, and control. Students will learn about the different types of autonomous systems; drones and robotics and how they function and operate as an integrated solution. The course will expose scholars to aspects of design, aerodynamics, materials, and advanced manufacturing processes. Students experience hands-on problem scenarios while engineering a commercial autonomous device—(drones) using advanced technology.

Instructor: Taz Little, Anthony Nedd, Porsha Bell

Max Students: 20 **Min Students:** 10

Costs for GSSM: \$1650

Course Title: Mental Health in Pop Culture

Course Description: This course will use a variety of films as a foundation for exploring and understanding psychological disorders across diagnostic categories and treatment modalities. Students will be familiarized with inter-personal and intra-personal development, as well as how mental illness can impact these. The course will consider how media impacts the views of mental illness and treatment both in a positive and negative manner. The class will identify possible hinderances and disparities in treatment provision as it pertains to DEI. The students will engage in thoughtful discussion about the student's role as an advocate within GSSM and the larger community regarding mental health. Finally, the course will review the differences in public versus private delivery systems. Students will have the opportunity to learn substantive clinical information in a digestible and entertaining format. Participants will be presented with an accurate portrayal of the impact of psychological disorders on daily life and receive exposure to treatment modalities and operations. Some films may be rated R and parental consent is implied by registering the student for this interim course. The course does not contain travel.

Instructor: Faith Tyner

Max Students: 16 **Min Students:** 4

Cost for the student: \$0

Course Title: Music Performance and Songwriting

Course Description: This course splits into 2 different tracks: if you're working to improve skills vocally and/or on your instrument through jazz or classical music literature and pedagogies, expand your knowledge in music theory, or you're working towards auditions for competitions and scholarships, or, you just want to learn how to play a new instrument, then the performance track is for you. If you're interested in notation-based advanced composition, you'll have an opportunity to work with Mrs. Averill, not only an educator, but also a theorist and composer, one-on-one. You can record, publish, and perform your own music as you apply your new skills of theory to doing what you love! Additionally, you may get to publish your work on a public database of notation-based composition programs such as the Noteflight library, MuseScore library, or the Finale Showcase! For instrumentalists and vocalists, you'll have an opportunity to have master classes with instrumental and vocal artists from around the globe. If you want to get a great start into learning how to read music, you can join this track, as well! In the middle of the second week, we will take a class trip to a concert and perform our own concert at a local venue. For the final presentation, you will not be required to perform, but there are other helpful ways you can contribute! Songwriting track: Explore the craft of songwriting with professional touring and recording musicians. Learn how to write a song, outrun your inner critic, and become the rockstar you were always meant to be, all in a collaborative and supportive environment. Led by GSSM alum Cuchulain (<https://www.cuchulainkelly.com/>), students will write, edit, arrange, record, and perform their original music over the course of the two weeks of Interim. Last year the Songwriting Interim performed to a packed Crema coffeehouse, again at the final assembly, and also recorded a bandcamp album (<https://gssminterim.bandcamp.com/album/interim-2023>). You will probably do something similar. Throughout interim, both tracks will collaborate for songs, jams, and masterclasses.

Instructor: Miranda Averill, Cuchulian Kelly, Stephen Kaczcowski

Max Students: Music Performance track:15 Songwriting:10 **Min Students:** Music Performance: 4
Songwriting: 4
Cost for the student: \$0

Course Title: Physics, Fish, and Underwater Exploration: Scuba Certification during Interim

Course Description: Learn to dive and get certified! This course will prepare you to pass a SCUBA Open-Water certification course. After basic instruction at the Hartsville YMCA pool, the class will drive to Florida and make multiple dives at Devil's Den, drift along the bottom of crystal clear Rainbow River, and explore the remains of a shipwreck in Troy Springs. Total cost includes SCUBA certification classes and examination, hotel accommodation, entrance to dive sites, professional fitting for SCUBA gear, and personal mask, snorkel, wetsuit boots, fins, dive bag, and other accessories. Become a SCUBA Govie today!

Instructor: Spencer Tyce

Max Students: 12 Min Students: 6

Cost for the student: \$1850.

Course Title: Digital Biology

Course Description: Biology covers so many areas including ecology, medicine, genetics, zoology, agriculture, biophysics, bioengineering, biochemistry, and many more. A recent theme in biology is the generation of a lot of biological data that needs to be analyzed by computers. For instance, DNA can now be cheaply sequenced (think 23andMe) providing insights into human ancestry and medical risk factors. Digital Biology is a dynamic scientific discipline that utilizes computational and statistical methods for solving biological problems. A major theme in digital biology is to integrate and understand biological data generated by genome sequencing projects and other high-throughput molecular biology efforts. Digital biology tools are developed to reveal fundamental mechanisms underlying the structure and function of macromolecules, biochemical pathways, disease processes, and genome evolution. In this course, you will learn some of the basic computational skills you need to study biological systems. These skills include Jupyter Notebooks, Linux, the Command Line, and the Python programming language. Then you will apply these skills to real biological datasets including all human genes and the coronavirus genome. University research labs and the biotechnology industry desperately need people with these skills, and they are challenging but FUN to learn.

Instructor: Al DeGennaro, Alex Feltus (Clemson)

Max Students: 10 Min Students: 4

Cost for the student: \$0

Course Title: Interimprov!

Course Description: Interimprov! is an improv skill building course suitable for students of all experience levels. Jessie Wayburn (Class of '02), a NYC comedian and theater maker, will present and teach different improv forms, games, and theories. Each week, the class will include an interdisciplinary overview with offerings about the sociology, physiology, and history of improv. There will be a daytrip to Front Porch Improv Theatre in Savannah to participate in a workshop, have dinner, and see an improv show. The culmination of the course will be part of a showcase of improv at a school assembly in which Jessie will produce a show of all the performance-based interim courses. Textbook: Truth in Comedy: The Manual for Improvisation by Del Close, Charna Halpern, Kim Johnson, et al.

Instructor: Jessie Wayburn, Class of 2002

Max Students: 12 **Min Students:**

Cost for the student: \$165

Course Title: The Cooking Lab

Course Description: Students will learn basic cooking skills, kitchen safety, food science and math behind cooking. They will gain insight into why specific techniques are used when cooking. This is a basic life skill and will be beneficial for feeding yourself in college! There is one local field trip with this course.

Instructor: Jenny Salazar, Dr. Jones-Cooper

Max Students: 12 **Min Students:** 4

Cost for the student: \$30

Course Title: Glider Piloting at the Bermuda High Soaring School

Course Description: Learn how to fly an engineless, glider sailplane through an introductory course at the Bermuda High Soaring School. Each student will fly approximately 30 dual flights (at 3000 ft. and 1500 ft.) with a highly experienced, fully qualified FAA flight instructor. During each flight, students will learn how to control the glider as they work toward flying at least one supervised solo flight. Students will learn the basic physics of aviation, as well as flight plans and safety procedures. Every day the class will drive to the soaring school (~45 minute drive) for ground school and 3-5 flights, weather permitting. Learn more about gliding and the Bermuda High Soaring School at www.glider.org.

Instructor: Reggie Bain

Max Students: 6 **Min Students:** 2

Cost for the student: \$3000

Course Title: Writing Your World

Course Description: This course is a writing workshop designed to help students discover and nurture their creative voices. Our emphasis will be on hybrid, lyric forms of writing, including fixed form narratives, braided essays, and zuihitsu techniques. First days will include readings and discussion from Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way*, the groundbreaking guide to creative practice, as well as sessions with a multidisciplinary artist and creativity expert. Students will also subscribe to *Brevity: A Journal of Concise Literary Nonfiction*, a free online literary magazine that has been publishing contemporary literature's finest and emerging writers for over twenty years, as well as *Poets & Writers' "The Time is Now"* series. Through a careful reading of the chosen texts and by engaging with guest authors and literary magazine editors, participants will gain a clearer sense of what makes for a memorable narrative and use that knowledge to write and workshop their own. Finally, we will explore the history of collaborative zine making, culminating in a hard copy compilation of original writing to share with the larger GSSM community. Possible short, local travel for writing the environment exercises.

Instructor: Dr. Jessica Pitchford and Dr. Deidre Hall

Max Students: 8 **Min Students:** 4

Cost for the student: \$0

Course Title: Buddhist Meditation and Practices

Course Description: This course offers an exploration of Buddhism through the practice of meditation. This is a guided experiential investigation of Buddhist perspectives on the nature of stress, contentment,

goodwill, compassion, the nature of the self, the nature of mind, and the nature of reality. Connections to modern neuroscience and psychology will be discussed. Teachings of the Buddha, as well as later commentaries, interpretations, and applications from across the globe are introduced through the framework of meditative practice and discussion. Formal sitting and walking meditation will be practiced alongside the application of meditation to daily activities such as eating, speaking, drinking tea, kinesthetics (e.g. yoga, qi gong), and mundane activities such as chores. Students should expect to engage with multiple meditations each day and be willing to discuss meditative experiences in line with one's comfort level. While this is an on-campus experience, day trips are planned, weather permitting, to local parks and natural spaces to explore how our environment affects our mental state and meditation experience. While Buddhism is considered by some to be a religion, students of any spiritual or religious background (or lack thereof) are welcome.

Instructor: Christopher Roberts

Max Students: 12 **Min Students:** 4

Cost for the student: \$0

Course Title: Sports Facilities

Course Description: In the Sports Facilities Interim, we will look at a variety of arenas and stadiums and learn about the history, architecture, and planning that goes into the building of these facilities. We will travel locally to different sports venues in North and South Carolina.

Instructor: Jacob Robertson, Hugh O'Connor

Max Students: 12 **Min Students:** 6

Cost for the student: \$200

Course Title: Honeybees: The Biology, History, and Impacts of a Domesticated Super-Organism

Course Description: Students will learn about honeybees, their domestication, biology, and impact (economics, food-security) on humans and their environment through research, classroom discussion, and hands-on hive management with a master beekeeper.

Instructor: Phil Lassen, Jon Shannon

Max Students: 15 **Min Students:** 6

Cost for the student: \$50

Course Title: Sailing Adventures

Course Description: The main goal of this interim course is to learn how to sail. Students will take a 5 day Beginner Keelboat course at Charleston Community Sailing, Jan. 8 – 13, taught by Dr. Parshall and CCS instructors on J-24's, and topped off by sailing in a race in Charleston Harbor on Saturday, Jan. 14, run by the Charleston Ocean Racing Association. We will be on the water for 3 hours in the afternoons during this time. Weather permitting, we might also do some sailing at the Columbia Sailing Club on Lake Murray. While in Charleston, when we're not on the water, we can take advantage of all the things to see and do there, like a trip to Ft. Sumter, or the aquarium, and other places chosen by the students.

Instructor: Elaine Parshall, Jennifer Blair

Max Students: 12 **Min Students:** 8

Cost for the student: \$1450

Course Title: Making Learning Fun Through Engineering

Course Description: One of the best strategies for designing engaging curriculum is to ask yourself, “What do I wish I got to do when I was that age?” In this course, students will need to access their inner child and challenge their engineering skills to create exciting and interactive STEM exhibits that will help improve education across the state. Inspired by the captivating exhibits found in science museums, students will design and construct mobile wind tunnels and wave channels that demonstrate scientific principles in a way that is fun and interactive. There may also be the possibility to collaborate with students from a local school for project design and construction. The course will begin with field experiences to EdVenture in Hartsville, as well as to the Discovery Place: Science museum in Charlotte, NC and the Aerodyn wind tunnel in Mooresville, NC. After learning about what goes into designing these types of STEM exhibits, students will work together to create a set to be used for GSSM programs, as well as a set to be donated to SC schools. Students will drive the research, planning, budgeting, and fabrication of the exhibits in this hands-on project. Creativity will be essential to produce exhibits that will make STEM fun. After the exhibits are constructed, students will be invited to debut their creations and provide a learning experience for children in our community. The exhibits will be incorporated into ongoing GSSM Outreach programs and will be available by request to schools, community centers, and festivals. Students will also have the opportunity to continue their involvement with this project into the Spring 2024 semester through Community Engagement as curriculum developers and co-instructors.

Instructor: Ashley Bober

Max Students: 13 **Min Students:** 4

Cost for the student: \$0

Interim Travel Courses

Course Title: A Smithsonian Interim

Course Description: Students will spend 7 days (including travel) in the Washington, DC metropolitan area with the intention of visiting as many museums as possible that are a part of the Smithsonian Institution. The time spent at each museum will be partly based on student interest. Although the focus is on the Smithsonian Institution museums, other attractions in the DC area will be visited based on student interest. Before the trip, students will learn about the history of the Smithsonian Institution and its founder (James Smithson). After the trip, students will do research to learn more about some aspect of the Smithsonian Institution that they became more interested in as a result of the trip. Although there is little to no cost for the attractions we will visit, the cost of the trip will cover transit, hotel, and meals.

Instructor: Lance Riddle, Kristin Walker

Max Students: 12 **Min Students:** 4

Cost for the student: \$875

Course Title: The Low Countries: Past, Present, and Future

Course Description: In this course, students will spend 13 days and 12 nights visiting Belgium and the Netherlands, practice Dutch and French with one another and local native speakers, and learn about the history of the Low Countries, Europe, and the Belgian and Dutch colonial empires. Students will receive basic language training in French and Dutch prior to departure, and they will practice and add to their knowledge of the local languages every day during interim. We will tour cities by bus, on foot, on bikes, and via public transit. We will also eat some outstanding food from all over the world, including Indonesian, Congolese, and North African cuisine as well as Belgian and Dutch dishes. Staying four

nights in Brussels, four in Ghent, two in The Hague, and two in Amsterdam, we will visit those cities in addition to Namur, Dinant, Liège, Bruges, Antwerp, Mechelen, and Delft. Our itinerary will depend on the availability of our counterparts in Europe, but likely highlights that past students enjoyed include a tour of NATO, class interviews of local city planners, cycling advocates, family doctors, foreign service officers, military researchers, and special-effects composers, tours of Sonoco's and Milliken's operations in Mechelen and Ghent, a visit to the U.S. World War II military cemetery in Nandrin, biking tours with transportation infrastructure experts and cycling advocates, and a tour of the University of Liège's state-of-the-art veterinary facilities. Although we can't make any guarantees right now about whether we'll be able to include them in the trip, students and their families are invited to suggest possible additions to our itinerary if they have useful contacts where we're going. Definite highlights include Ghent's iconic medieval Gravensteen ("Counts' Castle"); Brussels' dazzling Grand-Place; the Waterloo Battlefield Museum; Namur's central citadel (created in ancient times and finished around the turn of the 18th century); Dinant's scenic cliffs, gothic church, and saxophone museum; Liège's "Montagne" de Bueren (a 374-step staircase leading to a panoramic view of the city) and Sunday market (Belgium's largest and oldest) running weekly since 1561; Antwerp's cathedral featuring some of Rubens' best-known masterpieces; canal tours of Bruges; Delft's Johannes Vermeer museum and New and Old Churches (the "New" one was completed in 1496); The Hague's Binnenhof (the world's oldest continually used parliament building) and Peace Palace (housing the International Court of Justice); Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum and Vondelpark; and a ferry ride to the NDSM arts district, where Amsterdammers have transformed a closed shipyard from a dangerous eyesore into the stunning, beating heart of the city's creative community. The total of \$3100 includes all expenses: air fare, lodgings, charter bus, meals (both group ones and meals purchased independently), museum and attraction entrance fees, tour guide fees, and tips.

Instructor: António de Ridder, Roberto Robles

Max Students: 24 Min Students: 12

Cost for the student: \$3100

Course Title: The Southwest Experience: A Journey into National Parks, Native America, and Creative Enlightenment

Course Description: Join us on a spectacular, unique journey into some of the most awesome scenery on Earth. Grand Classroom, our host for two previous successful trips to the American Southwest, is preparing to lead us for a third year on a personalized adventure to National Parks and native America. This interim will combine natural beauty with your own artistic expressions. GSSM art and history instructors will join the guide who led our previous trips to give you an unforgettable experience. The journey begins with a trek in the mountains of Sedona, AZ before departing the next day for a hike on the South Kaibab Trail below the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. A highlight this year is a return to the Navajo Reservation and its surreal Antelope Canyon, a photographer's paradise, as well as an exploration of the otherworldly red rocks of Cathedral Wash and grandeur of Grand Staircase National Monument. We will return this year to lodging on the Navajo Reservation in Cameron, where you can eat and shop in its famous Trading Post. Our journey into Utah includes a visit to Coral Pink Sand Dunes and hikes on the Navajo Loop and Queens Garden trails in Bryce Canyon National Park. The trip culminates with hikes in majestic Zion National Park, where we will visit the Emerald Pools and the Narrows. This is truly a classroom experience every step of the way. GSSM art and history instructors will team with Grand Classroom (our guide is also a professional artist and photographer) to help students develop a personal sketchbook of written and artistic impressions of the desert and canyon country's beautiful palate of colors, plants, wildlife and people. We will also have classroom and on-site

instruction on the region's indigenous and environmental history. Trip cost is all-inclusive, including three meals a day and snacks, hotel lodging, airfare, and park and tour admissions.

Instructor: Karl Rohr, Alyssa Prince

Max Students: 20 **Min Students:** 15

Cost for the student: \$2869

Course Title: Charting the Galapagos Islands

Course Description: Located 600 miles west of Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands are one of the world's most famous biodiversity hotspots. These islands were created by volcanic activity and lie between three oceanic currents. These forces, combined with the islands' isolation, have led to the formation of many unusual species, both in land and water, including sea turtles, marine iguanas, tropical penguins, sea lions, blue-footed boobies, giant tortoises, and the infamous finches. However, the Galapagos Islands are also greatly threatened by climate change, as rising sea levels contribute to habitat loss and threaten many of these unique species. In this class, we will travel to the islands that inspired Darwin in 1835 as we combine history, science, and culture for a once-in-a-lifetime experience visiting a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will have the opportunity for snorkeling and hiking while learning about what makes each island rare – from assorted colors of sand to volcanic rocks to the endemic species. Program tuition is \$3,490 and flights are estimated at \$1,000. Rate includes 3 meals/day, airfare and ground transportation, lodging, guides and tips, and group activity and entry fees. Optional travel insurance is available through Walking Tree Travel. Fundraising opportunities are available through Walking Tree Travel.

Instructor: Jennifer Brown, Chris Champi, Bhuvana Parameswaran

Max Students: 35 **Min Students:** 16

Cost for the student: \$4490

Course Title: Exploring Egypt: Cairo, Alexandria, Luxor, and a Nile River Voyage

Course Description: This 13-day travel course takes you on a journey through the wonders of Egypt, exploring its rich history, culture, and natural beauty. In Cairo we'll visit the Sphinx and Pyramids of Giza, Memphis, and the Step Pyramid of Djoser. Then, we'll fly to Aswan and board a ship for a three-day Nile boat cruise, with stops that include Philae Temple, a traditional Nubian village, and extended explorations of the Valley of the Kings and the Karnak Temple complexes at Luxor. We will see a more modern side of Egypt in the major cities of Cairo and Alexandria, appreciating the diverse Greek, Roman, and Islamic influences on its contemporary landscape and culture. Our travels will offer a unique opportunity to immerse ourselves in the history and culture of Egypt, while also experiencing the natural beauty of the Nile River and the stunning architecture of ancient temples and tombs. Trip details, including itinerary, resources, and payment plan options, can be found at www.explorica.com/wensink-4057. Please note: we will be departing for Egypt immediately after winter break. Please plan for the likelihood of meeting directly at Charlotte airport on January 2nd (rather than coming to GSSM). The course may include several meetings in the fall semester to introduce Egyptian history and culture, and to prepare for the travel experience.

Instructor: Joe Wensink, Kathryn Vignone

Max Students: 35 **Min Students:** 12

Cost for the student: \$4,241

Course Title: STEM Formula New York & Boston: Visiting GSSM Alumni

Course Description: We will visit our successful alumni living in Boston and New York and record video of interviews to be included in Season 3 of GSSM's podcast "The STEM Formula." In some cases, we will visit their places of work, including start-up firms and famous global companies, as available. The focus of the interviews will be on how the alumni's advanced STEM high school education prepared them for their future. We will also ask for any advice for current HS students. There will be one reconnect dinner with GSSM alumni living and working in the area. Students will have ample opportunity to interact with and learn from the alumni. Students will have duties to perform in recording the podcasts. We will tour both cities and visit famous sites in each. We will also see one Broadway show. This tour is created and managed by GSSM staff, not a tour company. Students will pay \$2500 + Most Food + Some Individual On-site Ground Transport. The fee will pay for Air Transport, Train Transport, Hotels, Tickets for Admissions, Guides, Some Food, Group On-site Ground Transport, and Misc. Expenses.

Instructor: Michael Newsome

Max Students: 12 **Min Students:** 8

Cost for the student: \$2500

Course Title: Ecosystems of California & Hawaii

Course Description: In this interim course, we'll spend two weeks exploring the diverse ecosystems of southern California and the Big Island of Hawaii. Our ecological tour will take us to coastal shorelines, mountains, deserts, bodies of water, and volcanic islands. We'll explore the local ecology with visits to state and national parks, botanical gardens, and museums. This journey will have us on the move by plane, van, boat, and foot in throughout the interim. Students should be prepared for lots of hiking and time spent outdoors, including some work on an active restoration project at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Cost includes a round-trip flight from Atlanta to Los Angeles, a round-trip flight from Los Angeles to Kona, ground transport, hotels (breakfast included at all hotels), entrance fees for parks, museums, and botanical gardens, and some excursion fees (additional, optional excursions may be made available at additional cost). Does not include cost of lunch and dinner or incidentals.

Instructor: Cara Roberts

Max Students: 22 **Min Students:** 10

Cost for the student: \$3,500

Course Title: A Tale of Two Cities

Course Description: Yes - A tale of two cities – but not like Dickens (although using the same two cities.) We will start our adventure in one of the world's great cities – London. There we will see the changing of the guard, Big Ben, Buckingham palace, the British Museum (with its Elgin Marbles from Greece and where Karl Marx wrote Das Capital), the millennium eye (Ferris wheel) the Tate Gallery (old or new with different eras of art in each) and experience the houses of Parliament and Westminster Abby – where all the greats are buried (including our own Lord Anthony Ashley Cooper – one of the lords Proprietor of the South Carolina colony). Then we will visit Canterbury with its great cathedral and pilgrimage site of the murder of Thomas a Becket before boarding the ferry for the short journey to the beaches of Normandy. A better welcome than our soldiers received in 1944 we will visit the battle site and cemetery and journey on to two great French cathedrals – Mont St Michele and Chartre. At last we come to the city of light – Paris. Walk the West back, see Notre Dame, climb to Sacré Coeur, see the Moulin Rouge, take a cruise on the River Seine, see Napoleon's tomb, and visit the Louvre. Enjoy sitting in a café on the Champs-Élysées watching the crowds go by (or climb the Arch de Triumph, or add an excursion to Versailles) before we fly home again with enough memories to last a lifetime (or motivate us to return again). Trip cost covers round-trip airfare, breakfast and dinner daily, overnight stays in

hotels with private bathrooms, entrances as per itinerary, full-time professional tour director, local guides, bus driver, and more. This does not include, if applicable, a \$100 repeat-customer discount nor tips for professionals.

Instructor: Mark Godwin, Carmen Tyce

Max Students: 45 **Min Students:** 12

Cost for the student: \$3424

Interim Course Request Form

Please complete the form here <https://forms.office.com/r/8Xy2hugTVY> between Monday May 15 at 5pm (when the form will start accepting requests) and Friday, May 19 at 5pm. See the first page of this catalog for specific instructions.