



ST MARY'S
COLLEGE

Course Guide 2019

Year 9



One Face Beyond...

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The Course Selection Process

- Read the information about the courses being offered to Year 9 students in 2019.
- Attend the Year 9 and 10 (2019) Information Evening on Tuesday, 3 July 2018 (7.00pm to 9.00pm).
- Spend time considering the electives on offer and speak to teachers if you need advice.
- Discuss possibilities with your parents or carers.
- Choose a range of full year (2 semesters) and half year (1 semester) courses to make up a total of 6 semesters of study.
- Nominate a further 4 semesters of courses to be used as reserves if necessary.
- Course selection will be done online via the Web Preferences Student Portal. This portal will be opened on Wednesday 4 July and will close on Wednesday 25 July.
- On Tuesday 3 July, each student will receive an email containing instructions on how to access the portal to record their preferences. If you have not received this email by Wednesday 4 July, please email Ms Forsyth (wforsyth@smc.tas.edu.au)

Compulsory Courses

The following subjects are studied by all students in Year 9 at St Mary's College.

- Religious Education
- English
- Health & Physical Education
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Geography

2019 Elective Courses

2 Semesters

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1 Semester

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Business Studies

(1 Semester Course)

Business Studies gives students the opportunity to further develop their understanding of economics and business concepts by exploring interactions within the global economy. Students are introduced to the concept of an 'economy' and explore what it means for Australia to be part of the Asia region and the global economy. They consider the interdependence of participants in the global economy, including the implications of decisions made by individuals, businesses and governments. The responsibilities of participants operating in a global workplace are also considered.

Class activities include:

- investigating economics at local, national and global levels
- considering how economic decisions are made by individuals, businesses, and governments
- investigating Australia's role in regional and global economies
- learning about the responsibilities of participants operating in a global workplace
- investigating strategies that can be used to manage financial risks and rewards
- discovering how creating a competitive advantage can benefit businesses
- investigating current issues or events relating to economics and business.

Coding and App Development

(1 Semester Course)

This course is designed for students with an interest in coding. Using the Python programming language and an app development environment, students will be introduced to the basics of programming, and will develop a mobile app. There is also the opportunity to undertake a Python programming competition.

Class activities include:

- basic programming using Python
- participating in the NCSS Python Programming Challenge
- learning about programming concepts: algorithms, pseudo code, repetition, data types, error checking, and debugging
- creating your own app.

Chinese

(2 Semester Course)

In the study of Chinese, students enjoy the challenge of developing their knowledge of the language and culture of China.

There may be the opportunity to meet and host students from China through an exchange program with our sister school, as well as the possibility of participating in a school trip to China in the years that this is available.

If students have not previously studied Chinese, it is possible to commence study in Year 9. However, students who commence in Year 9, need to be motivated and organised to cover the content of the course.

Class activities include:

- developing skills in speaking, reading and writing Chinese
- investigating and challenging accepted ideas and beliefs about China
- research tasks.

CSI – SMC (Forensic Science)

(1 Semester Course)

This course offers an introduction into the study of Forensic Science, investigating many of the methods used by scientists to solve crimes.

Units in the course focus on hands-on activities and inquiry tasks, examining the ways in which crime scenes are investigated and conclusions are made.

Class activities include:

- learning about the history of Forensic Science
- studying the methods used in crime scene investigation
- investigating the science of fingerprinting
- learning about DNA and DNA analysis
- studying blood typing and blood splatter patterns
- learning how forensic entomology helps solve crimes
- analysing hand-writing patterns
- lots of hands-on activities
- visits from guest speakers and learning from experts.

Dance

(Available as both a 1 Semester and 2 Semester Course)

This practical course in Dance is an exciting opportunity for students to explore performance art through expressive human movement.

The Dance curriculum encompasses a diverse range of topics, including dance practice and performance, choreography and dance notation. Students' expressive skills and artistic abilities are developed through experiencing various styles of dance.

Beginners will have the opportunity to develop confidence and technique while studying the basic elements of dance. Students with previous dance experience or training will appreciate the opportunity to refine technique and perform for various chosen audiences.

In each semester, students will undertake a stand-alone unit in Dance, so it is possible for students to choose this course as either a single semester course, or as a full year course.

Class activities include:

- a focus on skill development and technique, including space, time, dynamics, and relationships
- learning and developing choreography both individually and in groups
- development of various dance styles and techniques including classical and contemporary approaches
- dance rehearsal and performance for chosen audiences
- viewing and appraisal of live dance productions
- personal reflection.

Design in Foods

(1 Semester Course)

This practical course is designed for students who want to develop more advanced skills in food design and preparation.

Students are given the chance to design meals, food art (decoration), garnishes and sauces, plating up, buffet lunches and plan a party!

If students have completed the “Dinner Plate” in first semester, this course will allow them the opportunity to build on the skills developed through that course.

Class activities include:

- preparing and cooking meals investigated and designed individually by the student
- developing knowledge, skills, and techniques to make creative cakes and bakery goods
- investigating how food is prepared and presented in the wider community
- learning about the properties, nutritional value and sustainable production of the food you use.

Dinner Plate

(1 Semester Course)

This practical course will build on skills developed in Year 7 and 8 Food studies classes and give students the opportunity to develop more advanced skills.

Students will reproduce, alter or invent recipes to suit individual needs. Food production, dietary or nutritional adjustments, café and pastry goods, Teen Cuisine, seasonal food, world cuisine, food and festivities are just some of the topics which will be investigated over the semester.

Class activities include:

- preparing and cooking with fresh and seasonal ingredients
- investigating local food suppliers
- learning to make healthy nutritional choices for you, your family and your future
- investigating how other people use foods in other countries and to celebrate special events
- developing an understanding of the properties and sustainable production of the food you use.

Drama – Performance

(2 Semester Course)

Drama Performance gives students the opportunity to explore the human experience through role and artistic investigation. Students work collaboratively and creatively with others to explore social ideas and issues while gaining an increased understanding of spoken language, human movement, drama performance and theatre history.

Students develop self-confidence and self-esteem as well as an appreciation of others as they work together to devise work and reflect upon achievements. Personal reflection and live performance viewing and appraisal is a significant aspect of the course. Students will experience the pleasure of creating and the thrill of performing live for an audience.

Class activities include:

- a focussed study of drama as a performance art
- developing the student's skills, knowledge and understanding of the elements of drama, including voice, movement, improvisation, role play and ensemble
- devising, developing and rehearsing various drama works both individually and collaboratively
- developing the student's performance styles and acting techniques
- developing skills in stagecraft
- exploring other elements of the art form (including lighting, sound, set and costume design) to enhance meaning
- exploring the history of drama and theatre through studying various styles and genres of performance
- performing polished works for chosen audiences
- viewing and appraising live theatre
- personal reflection.

Extension Program

(Available as both a 1 Semester and 2 Semester Course)

Students who are interested in this subject must first discuss it with Mrs Fraser

The Extension Program gives students the opportunity to participate in a cross-disciplinary program (Future Problem Solving) that requires the application of critical, creative and futuristic thinking skills to real-life problems. The program has an emphasis on co-operative, small-group learning and the clear, concise, written communication of ideas. Students research current issues that have significant implications on the development of human society and learn how to collect, organise and analyse information.

With negotiation, students not wishing to participate in the Future Problem Solving Program may develop an Independent Research Project that focuses on the development of individual research skills, including the process of inquiry. Students will be guided by mentors and develop and present a significant investigation into one area of their choice. (This needs to be discussed with Mrs Fraser prior to selection of this subject).

Class activities include:

- developing written and oral communication skills, analytical thinking and research skills
- working co-operatively
- investigating four pre-selected topics that will significantly impact the future development of society.

Italian

(2 Semester Course)

In the study of Italian, students enjoy the challenge of developing their knowledge of the language and culture of Italy. There may be the opportunity to meet and host students from Italy and study in Italy through an exchange program with our sister schools. There is also the possibility of participating in a school trip to Italy in the years that this is available, during which home stays are included.

If students have not previously studied Italian, it is possible to commence study in Year 9. However, students who commence in Year 9, need to be motivated and organised to cover the content of the course.

Class activities include:

- developing your skills in speaking, reading and writing Italian
- investigating and challenging accepted ideas and beliefs about Italy
- research tasks.

Journalism

(1 Semester Course)

Journalism is about recording what is happening in the world around us, and not always from an unbiased perspective. In this course, students will learn about and analyse the language and persuasive techniques used in print and media reporting. This will guide them in creating their own portfolio of journalistic pieces, including newspaper articles, current affairs items, TV news reports, and recorded interviews. Students may share these pieces with the College community by creating their own newspaper or assisting with the school publications such as the Fountain, Alma Mater and Santa Maria.

Class activities include:

- interacting with different text types – written, visual and digital
- exploring persuasive techniques and the language of journalism
- exploring different forms of journalism, both in print and media
- creating different forms of journalism, both in print and media
- proofreading and editing your own and others' writing.

Law and Politics

(1 Semester Course)

Law and Politics builds upon the students' understanding of Australia's political system and how it enables change. Students examine the ways political parties, interest groups, media and individuals influence government and decision making processes. They investigate the features and principles of Australia's court system, including its role in applying and interpreting Australian law. Students also examine global connectedness and how this is shaping contemporary Australian society.

Class activities include:

- learning about Australia's political system
- investigating the role of political parties and media to affect decision making
- gaining an understanding of Australia's court system and its role in applying laws
- developing an awareness of the issues that affect our legal system e.g. indigenous affairs and human rights
- developing the knowledge, skills and understanding required to be an active citizen in our society
- developing an awareness of law reform and current topical legal issues.

Making Short Films

(1 Semester Course)

This practical course is designed to involve students in all aspects of filmmaking. Students will explore pre-production, production, post-production, cinematography, and sound recording. The course develops teamwork, problem-solving skills, project management, filming and editing skills. Students also develop critical literacy skills enabling them to think, question, and express ideas through designing and creating short films. This course stresses hands-on creative endeavour in the context of filmmaking.

Classroom activities include:

- learning how to create various film genres
- learning the art of on screen illusion
- learning how to create and realistically use prosthetic skin, blood, body parts and makeup
- learning about scriptwriting, shooting script/shot list, storyboarding ideas, different shots/angles, composition, timing and transitions
- applying techniques of exposure, subject modelling, set lighting and camera function
- understanding visual storytelling through the actor's approach, character analysis and scene blocking
- learning about editing, digital visual effects, sound effects, and sound mixing
- off-site visits to live production sets
- using a range of cameras, microphones and editing software.

Materials and Design

(Available as both a 1 Semester and 2 Semester Course)

Materials and Design is a creative subject that provides students with opportunities to use a variety of tools, equipment and materials and apply these in a safe workshop environment.

The subject encourages students to confidently follow design briefs to design, make and appraise interesting design tasks. Students will undertake practical problem solving that lead interesting solutions.

The projects undertaken in each semester are different with specific foci. Students can choose this course as either a single semester course, or as a full year course, as different projects are created and will expand on the knowledge already learnt.

Class activities include:

- designing interesting projects
- working from drawings and producing worthwhile items from diverse materials
- gaining an understanding of the properties of materials
- applying skills by using a range of hand tools, power tools and equipment
- unpacking the design ideas in everyday products
- dealing with uncertainty in an informed way.

Music

(2 Semester Course)

This course aims to enhance the enjoyment of music and to develop practical and creative potential. Students can choose to play as a soloist or as part of a group and may choose from a variety of instrument including acoustic and electric guitar, piano, strings and voice. No previous experience on an instrument is necessary. The course encourages students to become creative and adaptable thinkers and will give opportunities for significant improvement in fine motor function, mental ability and memory capacity.

Class activities include:

- playing instruments – fostering new skills for beginners and developing greater instrumental techniques and musicianship for the more advanced musician
- song writing - including lyric formation, chord progressions, song structure and instrumental techniques
- learning how to create sound effects
- the study of how music is used in movies
- composing your own music
- learning different microphone techniques, how to operate a mixing desk, sound recording and mixing, digital effects and sound mastering
- studying the theory of music and how to apply it when writing music and playing an instrument
- attending performances - as part of each student's musical education, opportunity is given to attend a mainland musical. There are also opportunities to attend local performances from the TSO, solo musicians and master classes throughout the year.

New Media Art

(Available as both a 1 Semester and 2 Semester Course)

This course allows students to be creative and express themselves visually using cameras, computers, digital technology and software. They learn to create graphic designs, photography and digital art and media using industry standard software applications including Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. Students document their ideas, applying an understanding of compositional structure to create a unique personal response, while representing either a theme/concept or subject matter.

Students have the option to study New Media Art over the course of a full year and develop their technical and analytical skills more fully or to study New Media Art as a short intensive 1 semester course.

Class activities include:

- learning how to take a variety of styles of photos on a Digital SLR camera such as fashion photography and landscape photography and learning how to digitally manipulate photos
- learning Graphic Design techniques to create posters, book covers, advertisements, t-shirt designs etc. which include images and text
- creating digital collages, stop motion animation, moving image and video art
- learning about different art styles
- completing practical projects and research
- visiting artist workshops
- photography field trips
- gallery and exhibition excursions
- developing a journal which leads to the production of a body of work
- participating in the annual 'Student Art Exhibition'.

Outdoor Education

(1 Semester Course)

In this course students will undertake a variety of practical and theoretical activities. These may include: hiking, rock climbing, surfing, overnight camp, rafting. Students will build on their confidence, resilience and leadership skills.

To fully participate students are required to have exceptional organisational and time management skills, a good level of physical fitness and confidence in the water.

Class activities include:

- learning about goal setting and self-management
- developing skills required to successfully work in a team
- developing an awareness of our natural environment and an understanding of your responsibility for its care and conservation
- developing knowledge, skills and understanding in a range of outdoor situations such as navigation and orienteering
- developing skills in a variety of outdoor pursuits including an overnight camp and day trips, e.g. hiking, kayaking, mountain biking, abseiling, rock-climbing and surfing
- covering theoretical topics including, navigation, weather interpretation, planning.

Sport Science

(2 Semester Course)

This course encompasses both theoretical and practical based learning. Students will acquire an understanding of human functioning and physical activity. They will develop their skills in communication and investigation and the ability to apply theory to practical situations.

This course provides students with an introduction to the components of fitness and the body systems. It also gives students an understanding of the value of physical activity and provides an overview of the responsibilities people can adopt at different stages in their lives.

Class activities include:

- studying body systems (skeletal, muscular and articular), physical fitness, body composition and nutrition, skill acquisition, sport psychology, social issues in sport, drugs in sport
- completing practical experiments and associated reports.

Textile Art and Fashion Design

(1 Semester Course)

In this practical course students will undertake practical projects such as reusing or upcycling denim jeans. They will investigate and develop individual fashion ideas, design cool alterations, and create or transform textiles.

Students will research on trend ideas to reflect their own ideas, working through the three phases of technology - designing/investigating, producing and evaluating/analysing.

Class activities include:

- developing technical skills and expressing creativity through design and productivity
- displaying ideas using a variety of media
- learning how textiles and fashion can be deconstructed, repurposed or altered to become a sustainable resource
- investigating how fashion works and is presented as an expression of personal choice
- researching and using visual diaries or folios to record planning, sketches, development, and appraisal of ideas
- producing work for displays.

Visual Art and Design

(2 Semester Course)

This course progressively builds skills and competence in a variety of Visual Art areas. Students use visual language and artistic conventions of increasing complexity during their design and production process. They document their ideas applying understanding of compositional structure to create a unique personal response, while representing either a theme/concept or subject matter.

Students experience, adapt and manipulate materials, techniques, art styles/processes when producing 2D and/or 3D artworks, which communicate artistic intention. Students critically analyse traditional and contemporary artworks using various analysis frameworks, incorporating appropriate visual language, art terminology and conventions.

Class activities include:

- creating 2D Art (e.g. painting, printmaking, drawing, spray can art)
- creating 3D Art (e.g. ceramics, pottery wheel throwing, sculpture, fibre art)
- learning about different art styles
- undertaking practical projects and research
- participating in creative workshops
- visiting artist workshops
- participating in field trips and excursions to galleries and exhibitions
- developing a journal which leads to the production of a body of work
- participating in the annual 'Student Art Exhibition'.

Web Design and Game Making

(1 Semester Course)

This course is designed to provide students with the fundamental web design concepts and allows them to develop basic skills in HTML and CSS. Students will participate in the Grok Learning Web Design Competition.

The game making part of the course enables individuals to design computer games, animated graphics and use sound effects using Scratch. Students will develop skills and understanding of game design including what a game is and how they work. Games could include a simple platform, maze or puzzle.

Class activities include:

- learning how computer systems work
- learning HTML and CSS to create web pages
- participating in Grok Web Competition
- developing an understanding of game design
- producing a game manual including screen shots showing how to play the game
- evaluating an existing game
- researching and reporting a social issue related to computer gaming.

