

VIRTUAL **SUMMER**  
ENRICHMENT AT  
**POLY PREP**

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Because summer is special, no matter the circumstances, Poly Prep offers you an opportunity to let your imagination run wild in our specially designed virtual courses. Daily synchronous sessions will explore a variety of topics: some will help you build critical skills, others will stretch your mind and heart in new and exciting ways. All will honor the spirit of adventure and exploration that has always defined summer. Take a look at the wide range of courses taught by our accomplished and endlessly creative faculty, and mix and match morning and afternoon classes to create your own enriching, memorable, and fun summer learning experience.

ENRICHMENT COURSES	GRADES (Entering)	SESSION A June 15–July 2 (Monday–Thursday)	SESSION B July 6–July 23 (Monday–Thursday)
<b>COLLEGE ADMISSIONS</b>			
<b>Highly Selective College Admissions:</b> A Peek Behind the Curtain	9–12	—	8:00–10:00 a.m. July 6–10 only
<b>ACT Prep</b>	11–12	1:00–3:00 p.m.	—
<b>SAT Prep</b>	11–12	—	1:00–3:00 p.m.
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>			
<b>Math Book Club:</b> Number Devils	6–7	9:00–11:00 a.m.	—
<b>Fearless Fractions</b>	6–8	1:00–3:00 p.m.	—
<b>Pre–Algebra Intensive</b>	7	—	9:00–11:00 a.m.
<b>Algebra I</b>	8–9	—	1:00–3:00 p.m.
<b>Headstart to Geometry</b>	8–9	—	1:00–3:00 p.m.
<b>Non–Routine Problem Solving</b> (Exeter Math)	9	1:00–3:00 p.m.	—
<b>Algebra II Intensive*</b>	10	9:00–11:00 a.m.    1:00–3:00 p.m.	—
<b>Algebra II Lab</b>	11	9:00–11:00 a.m.	—
<b>Time for Trig:</b> Selected Topics in PreCalculus II	11–12	9:00–11:00 a.m.	—
<b>HISTORY AND POLITICS</b>			
<b>Power and Memory:</b> American History in the Public Imagination	9–12	9:00–11:00 a.m.	9:00–11:00 a.m.
<b>Contemporary World Issues:</b> A Research and Writing Course	9–12	8:00–10:00 p.m.	8:00–10:00 p.m.
<b>Ethics and Leadership</b>	9–10	9:00–11:00 a.m.	—
<b>Sustainable Systems</b>	9–12	—	9:00–11:00 a.m.
<b>ENGLISH/LITERATURE</b>			
<b>Summer Stars</b>	5–6	9:00–11:00 a.m.	1:00–3:00 p.m.
<b>Creative Writing Playshop</b>	5–8	1:00–3:00 p.m.	9:00–11:00 a.m.
<b>Homework Helpers</b>	5–8	1:00–3:00 p.m.	9:00–11:00 a.m.
<b>The Personal Narrative</b>	9–12	—	1:00–3:00 p.m.
<b>The Art of Noticing:</b> Creative Writing Lab	9–12	9:00–11:00 a.m.	—
<b>Creating the News</b>	9–12	9:00–11:00 a.m.	—
<b>Summer Humanities</b>	9–12	1:00–3:00 p.m.	1:00–3:00 p.m.
<b>New York Literature and Film</b>	9–12	1:00–3:00 p.m.	—
<b>Writer’s Workshop:</b> What’s Your Story?	9–12	—	9:00–11:00 a.m.
<b>J.R.R. Tolkien’s <i>The Lord of the Rings</i></b>	9–12	9:00–11:00 a.m.	9:00–11:00 a.m.
<b>ARTS</b>			
<b>Music Production</b>	8–12	1:00–3:00 p.m.	—
<b>Digital Photography</b>	9–12	1:00–3:00 p.m.	—
<b>Debate:</b> Introduction to Public Speaking & Argumentation	5–8	—	9:00–11:00 a.m.
<b>Debate:</b> Introduction to Acting for Speech Competition	5–8	—	1:00–3:00 p.m.
<b>LANGUAGES</b>			
<b>Conversational French</b>	7–9	—	9:00–11:00 a.m.
<b>Bravo et encore!</b> Artists in the French Speaking World	9–12	9:00–11:00 a.m.	—
<b>Latin American Voices</b>	9–12	9:00–11:00 a.m.	—
<b>Spanish Skillbuilding</b>	9–12	1:00–3:00 p.m.	1:00–3:00 p.m.
<b>Advanced ESL</b>	9–12	—	8:00–10:00 a.m.

\*Poly Students Only

Grades listed represent the grade students will be entering in September 2020

## Highly Selective College Admissions: What Admissions Officers Can't Tell You

This five-day course offers a peek behind the curtain at how colleges make admissions decisions and how to strategically navigate your application process. We will discuss the financial incentives motivating college behavior and how those incentives drive the admissions process; which factors really matter in the process and how they differ depending on institutional type; statistical analyses of Ivy League and Top 25 admissions data, including historical trends; how to frame the process through an “Asset Inventory” approach to build your own personalized strategy; and the role of essays (personal statement and supplemental essays) in admission with advice from a PhD writing expert. For younger students, we will assess the relative importance of factors such as rigor of curriculum, extracurricular activities, and community service. We will also address the impact of COVID-19 on the selective college admissions landscape: what changes can we expect and how they will impact students and colleges.

### INSTRUCTOR BIOS

**Kyle Graham** is the Associate Head of School at Poly Prep, where he oversees the admissions, financial aid, and college counseling processes. Prior to arriving at Poly Prep, Kyle served as Upper School Dean at Harvard-Westlake and Co-Director of College Counseling at Marymount High School in Los Angeles. He is a former Associate Director of Admission at New York University and Assistant Dean of Admission at Hamilton College. Kyle is a frequent presenter on enrollment management and highly selective admissions at national and international conferences. He earned his BA in economics from Hamilton College and his master's degree in higher education and student affairs from New York University.

**Shihan Liu** currently leads the Global Initiatives efforts at Poly Prep. Prior to that, she was a Poly Mandarin teacher for 4 years. She has been a GRE/SAT/TOEFL instructor and has delivered more than 10,000 hours of teaching for more than a decade online and onsite. She graduated from Northeast Normal University in China with a BA in Business Management and International E-commerce and received her MA in Translation and Interpreting from Beijing Foreign Studies University and her M.Ed in TESOL from the University of Pennsylvania.

## ACT Prep

This course is designed for rising 11th graders who want to get a leg up on standardized tests. Like any other standardized test, the SAT and ACT are characterized by patterns, techniques, and strategies; similar problem types show up over and over again. And then several more times. Because performance on these tests is a skill that can be improved by a focused approach, this course will provide the framework to help set students up for success.

 A graphing utility is required (TI-84 graphing calculator or equivalent).

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Dr. Nash Sharma** has been tutoring for the SAT/ACT for over a decade in person, in small groups, and online to students all over the United States and Europe. Nash has led SAT score gains of hundreds of points and a 4–8 point cumulative score increase on the ACT for many students. Since 2018, he has taught math at Poly Prep’s Middle and Upper School divisions. Prior to that, he worked as a research scientist at Columbia University for Joachim Frank (Nobel Laureate, Chemistry 2017) and then at McGill University. Nash has an MA in Biomedical Engineering and a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

## SAT Prep

This course is designed for rising 11th graders who want to get a leg up on standardized tests. Like any other standardized test, the SAT and ACT are characterized by patterns, techniques, and strategies; similar problem types show up over and over again. And then several more times. Because performance on these tests is a skill that can be improved by a focused approach, this course will provide the framework to help set students up for success.

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## Math Book Club: Number Devils

This course will entice students to think mathematically and apply reasoning to consider how and why a variety of math tricks and shortcuts work. Students will read and study the book *The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure* by Hans Magnus Enzensberger. Guided reading and math activities will incorporate problem solving, number sense, number theory, puzzles, and pattern analysis.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Linda Russo** joined the Poly Prep faculty in 2007 but has taught mathematics for over 30 years to children of all age levels, from preschool to high school. She holds a BS from the State University of New York, College at Oswego and a Master's of Educational Leadership in Mathematics from Bank Street College. Linda's philosophy is that each child is different but the mission is the same—to provide a balanced approach to the teaching of mathematics grounded in sound theory yet infused with innovation.

## Fearless Fractions

If you would rather use a calculator to round an answer to a near decimal than face a fraction, this course is for you. Students who have an emerging understanding of fractions and would like to solidify their skills will benefit from the direct instruction provided. The course is designed to facilitate improved confidence and fraction sense. Topics include equivalents, estimation, and comparing and practicing the four operations while employing rules for order of operations.

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# Mathematics

## Pre-Algebra Intensive

This intensive pre-algebra course begins with a review of decimals, percents, and fractions. Students then dive into introductory algebra, where they learn how to solve multi-step linear equations and inequalities. Students will also learn how to use the distributive property and to combine like terms in order to simplify algebraic expressions. Though not limited to Poly students, this course is ideal for students who are making the jump from Math 6 to Math 7 Advanced (Algebra I).

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Stephen Bates** has taught Middle and Upper School mathematics at Poly Prep since 2017. He holds a BA in Mathematics and an MA in Mathematics Education, both from St. Joseph's College, Long Island. Stephen is completing his dissertation in mathematics and educational technology at Hofstra University.

## Algebra I

This intensive course is designed for rising 9th graders who either did not study Algebra in 8th grade or whose 8th grade performance or test scores indicate a need for reinforcement of skills. The course begins with a review of integer operations and solving equations, and is followed by an in-depth study of writing and graphing linear equations. Other units will include exponent properties, operations with polynomials, factoring, and radical equations.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Stephen Bates** has taught Middle and Upper School mathematics at Poly Prep since 2017. He holds a BA in Mathematics and an MA in Mathematics Education, both from St. Joseph's College, Long Island. Stephen is completing his dissertation in mathematics and educational technology at Hofstra University.

## Headstart to Geometry

This course will require students to work collaboratively to explore challenging non-routine problems in geometry. Students will explore properties of parallel lines, triangles, and quadrilaterals. The instructor will serve as a facilitator and moderator. Students will have a brief introduction to the dynamic software application Geogebra.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Linda Russo** joined the Poly Prep faculty in 2007 but has taught mathematics for over 30 years to children at all age levels, from preschool to high school. She holds a BS from the State University of New York, College at Oswego and a Master's of Educational Leadership in Mathematics from Bank Street College. Linda's philosophy is that each child is different but the mission is the same—to provide a balanced approach to the teaching of mathematics grounded in sound theory yet infused with innovation.

## Math Toolkit: Factoring

If you are flummoxed by factoring, this course is for you! We will take a look at key prerequisite skills that are the underpinnings for successful and fluent factoring. Topics will include prime factorization, greatest common factor, factoring polynomials, factoring quadratics, and finding roots.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

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## Non-Routine Problem Solving: Exeter Math

What do you wonder about? Have you ever REALLY thought about that question? It is likely that if you have ambitions to take advanced math courses then you are skillful in math. Along with your talent, skill, and facility with quick calculations, however, you will find that you need another key talent: the ability to wonder about mathematics. This course is designed to help students develop their problem solving skills by exploring problems from the Exeter math curriculum (which are typically embedded in Advanced Geometry courses). The successful student knows the art of wondering; join us in developing your ability to delve beyond the formulas.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Victoria Stawowy** joined Poly Prep as an Upper School mathematics teacher in 2018. She holds a BA in secondary mathematics education from St. Joseph's College, Brooklyn and a MA in mathematics education from Brooklyn College. Victoria constantly looks for new ways to bring math to life inside the classroom and strongly believes that in order for meaningful learning to take place, students need to be able to connect what is going on in the classroom to their worlds outside of school.

## Algebra II Intensive\*

This intensive course was designed specifically for Poly Prep students who will be entering Advanced Math 10 but did not take Advanced Math 8. Students will study linear, quadratic, polynomial, radical, exponential, logarithmic, and rational functions. Since investigations with the graphing calculator will constitute the focus of the class, students will need a TI-84 Graphing Calculator.

 A graphing utility is required (TI-84 graphing calculator or equivalent).

\*Offered only to Poly Prep students.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Stephen Bates** has taught Middle and Upper School mathematics at Poly Prep since 2017. He holds a BA in Mathematics and an MA in Mathematics Education, both from St. Joseph's College, Long Island. Stephen is completing his dissertation in mathematics and educational technology at Hofstra University.

## Algebra II Lab

This course is designed for students who need additional support before entering 11th grade math. The curriculum will be tailored to meet students' individual needs, but topics will likely include quadratic, polynomial, radical, exponential, and logarithmic equations and functions and an in-depth study of factoring.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Victoria Stawowy** joined Poly Prep as an Upper School mathematics teacher in 2018. She holds a BA in secondary mathematics education from St. Joseph's College, Brooklyn and a MA in mathematics education from Brooklyn College. Victoria constantly looks for new ways to bring math to life inside the classroom and strongly believes that in order for meaningful learning to take place, students need to be able to connect what is going on in the classroom to their worlds outside of school.

## Time for Trig: Selected Topics in PreCalculus II

This intensive course includes an in-depth study of trigonometry. Students first review the special right triangles and use the relationships among the sides to establish trigonometric functions of special angles. Topics include finding exact values of trigonometric functions, graphing trigonometric functions, proving identities, and solving trigonometric equations. Though not limited to Poly students, this class is ideal for those students who successfully completed Selected Topics in Precalculus Part I during their junior year and would like to study Calculus in their senior year. Before registering for this course, students must receive departmental approval from Dr. Maria DiCarlo.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Maria DiCarlo** is the Chair of Mathematics at Poly Prep Country Day School, where she supervises the Middle School and Upper School mathematics faculty and oversees mathematics curriculum development from grades 6 through 12. Prior to arriving at Poly Prep, she was an associate professor of adolescent mathematics education at St. Joseph's College in Long Island, New York. Maria earned a BS in mathematics from Manhattan College and an MS in secondary mathematics education and EdD in curriculum and instruction from St. John's University.

# Power and Memory: American History in the Public Imagination

Why are some individuals and events cast in bronze and remembered forever, while others are cast into the dustbin of history? And when it comes to choosing the subjects of monuments, museums, and movies, who gets to decide? This course will introduce students to history as a process of choice and selection, and invite us to think about how power determines what we consider worthy of national memory. We'll examine monuments, museums, art, films, and documentaries in an attempt to understand how the history we choose to memorialize shapes not just our understanding of the past, but also that of our present.

## INSTRUCTOR BIOS

**Michal Hershkovitz**, Assistant Head of School for Academics, served as Chair of Poly's History Department from 2011–2019. She holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Michigan, an MA in International Relations from Yale University, and an MPhil in Political Science from Columbia University.

**Maggie Moslander** is the Chair of the History Department at Poly Prep, and teaches a range of courses, including United States History, AP U.S. Government and Politics, and American Constitutional Law. She holds a BA in Political Science from Middlebury College and an MA in Government from the University of Texas at Austin.

# Contemporary World Issues: A Research and Writing Course

In today's interconnected world, all politics is global. This course serves as an introduction to contemporary issues in world politics, focusing on the major challenges and questions confronting the international order. In addition to introducing students to foundational concepts in international relations, the course will also invite students to consider contemporary case studies, with an emphasis on developing students' research and writing skills. Students will learn to evaluate political problems, consider competing policy solutions, and persuasively argue, both orally and in writing, for their positions.

### INSTRUCTOR BIOS

**Michal Hershkovitz**, Assistant Head of School for Academics, served as Chair of Poly's History Department from 2011–2019. She holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Michigan, an MA in International Relations from Yale University, and an MPhil in Political Science from Columbia University.

**Maggie Moslander** is the Chair of the History Department at Poly Prep, and teaches a range of courses, including United States History, AP U.S. Government and Politics, and American Constitutional Law. She holds a BA in Political Science from Middlebury College and an MA in Government from the University of Texas at Austin.

Poly Prep's Institute for Ethics and Leadership was founded on the understanding that learners of all ages are equipped with skills and attitudes to bring about positive change in their lives, their school, their communities, and the world. This course engages students in explorations of the personal and societal needs of a diverse and equitable community. Our goal is to help students commit to thoughtful service and civic engagement and enact sustainable and resilient practices appropriate to a life thoughtfully centered on wellness and the growth of mind, body, and character. Together, we will develop approaches to ethical decision making and community leadership, offering students a framework for work that they will do in school and beyond.

### INSTRUCTOR BIOS

**Motoko L. Maegawa** is the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice (DESJ) and one of the Co-Directors of the Institute for Ethics and Leadership (IfEL) at Poly Prep. As Director of DESJ, Motoko supports every Poly N–12 community member in exploring their own social identifiers and experiences tied to those, especially how they pertain to connections with others. As a Co-Director of IfEL, Motoko leads school-wide efforts to promote character education through the Institute's four pillars of equity, sustainability, community engagement, and wellness. Motoko earned a BS and BLS at Iowa State University and an MA in US History from Oakland University, Michigan.

**Brian Filiatraut** is the Director of Sustainability and the Co-Director of the Institute for Ethics & Leadership at Poly Prep. As Director of Sustainability, Brian leads efforts to reduce the school's footprint on its two campuses by improving the buildings and grounds and implementing sustainability programming across N–12th grades and within each academic department. As Co-Director of the Institute for Ethics & Leadership, Brian leads school-wide efforts to develop robust character education through its four pillars—sustainability, diversity, service, and wellness. Brian holds an MPA in Environmental Policy & Science from Columbia University.

This course discusses the interactions and relationships between humans and the Earth. Students gain a basic understanding of the Earth's systems, the main concepts and pillars of sustainability and sustainable development, and the issues facing a rapidly growing global population. Students explore how they might address these issues within their own communities by examining how the climate crisis is being addressed globally and locally.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

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## Summer Stars

In this course, students will learn and practice the skills and strategies required for middle school success. Lessons focus on reading, writing, and study skills, and each class is structured to strengthen students' self-reliance during the school year ahead. Each session will include a combination of thoughtfully delivered hands-on lessons and exciting games and activities.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Victoria Finocchiaro** is a 5th and 7th grade learning specialist at Poly Prep. She has always been passionate about the way in which people learn and enjoys providing students with strategies to assist them in their academic careers. Victoria has taught history, government, and English in middle and high schools in New York City. She has a BA in History and Social Studies Education and an MA in Special Education.

## Creative Writing Playshop

What is the inverse of work? Some might say it's *rest*. Others might call it *easy*. We will call it *play*—so, this workshop for poets and creative writers is, therefore, a Playshop. This Playshop will lay out the foundations of writing, introducing you to many writers, old and new, and challenge you to let your original ideas borrow the shape of... what else? Words. We will learn about essential writing forms: the short *haiku*, the complex *ghazal*, and many more. We will borrow from artists of all stripes: the artists who paint portraits hanging in renowned museums, those who swirl ice cream into cones, and those who are actually trees. We will also talk about creativity, and the basics of confident writing: *No Disclaimers. All writing is writing. Reading is essential. And—Stick with it.* We'll write every day, and will make a paper zine at the end featuring our work.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Elaine Levia** is an educator, librarian, writer and dancer. She joined Poly Prep in 2019 and currently teaches in the History Department. She has tutored writing and facilitated poetry workshops in schools, community centers, and camps since 2007, and has hosted dozens of poetry slams and open mics. While in school, she co-produced the annual Kinetic Poetics Project festival at UC Santa Cruz. Elaine also worked on the administrative staff at Media Poetry Studio, an immersive video production and poetry camp for teenagers in San José's History Park. She uses her combined experience as a teaching artist and research librarian to empower students in all their creative pursuits

## Homework Helpers

This daily workshop is designed to assist students with summer homework assignments and school projects. During our sessions, students will complete their summer homework while utilizing and reinforcing skills and strategies taught throughout the course. We will emphasize study skills in every workshop, including direct instruction on time management and organization.

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## The Personal Narrative

From Roald Dahl to Zadie Smith to Frank McCourt to Jia Tolentino to Joan Didion—to name a few examples of thousands—writers’ portrayals of their own experiences are an endlessly engaging art form ripe for interpretation, interrogation, and emulation. In this course we will read and write into this form, emerging with a sharper eye to examine its words, a finer taste for its features and devices, and a polished, peer-reviewed, carefully-shaped personal narrative of our own. An additional bonus: those seeking to craft essays for college applications will find the exercises and assignments in this class useful.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

A lifelong Brooklynite, **Emily Gardiner** joined the Poly community in 2011 as an Upper School English teacher. She is now an Upper School dean, advising students in Grades 9–12 on their journey through Poly and the college application process. She takes joy in exploring ideas with her students, whether through storytelling and literature or simple conversation. Prior to her work as an educator, Emily spent many years in film production and development in New York, and just a couple of years in investment banking. She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College in history and literature and received an MA in Education from Teachers College at Columbia University.



# The Art of Noticing: Creative Writing Lab

This course is designed to help cultivate a creative practice based in mindfulness techniques. Poetry is a way of expressing what you notice about the world in a succinct and artful way. Mindfulness is noticing with a purpose. The link between poetry and mindfulness is formed when we become aware of the details in our surroundings and our own experiences. We'll use the work of conceptual artists, filmmakers and other writers who do this particularly well, all with their own twist. Some artists subvert our assumptions about the world, asking us to re-examine the systems that comprise our society. Others overlay a surrealist twist on an otherwise plain world. We'll learn from artists (and each other!) as we practice ways of noticing unfamiliar structures in our lives. We will use museum collections, films, photos, and critical essays as doorways to a creative state, opened through the art of noticing.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Elaine Levia** is an educator, librarian, writer and dancer. She joined Poly Prep in 2019 and currently teaches in the History Department. She has tutored writing and facilitated poetry workshops in schools, community centers, and camps since 2007, and has hosted dozens of poetry slams and open mics. While in school, she co-produced the annual Kinetic Poetics Project festival at UC Santa Cruz. Elaine also worked on the administrative staff at Media Poetry Studio, an immersive video production and poetry camp for teenagers in San José's History Park. She uses her combined experience as a teaching artist and research librarian to empower students in all their creative pursuits.

## Creating the News

Political news is now a part of our lives to an unprecedented degree: from push notifications on our phones, CNN on waiting room televisions, social media feeds full of ads, and algorithm-based news aggregators sending us stories that they know we'll like. And information and analysis of current events comes from a wider variety of sources than ever before: trained journalists, unofficial newsmongers, interested parties, professional commentators, and automated bots. How have news publications and outlets responded to this new reality? What are their responsibilities to their readers and what are our responsibilities to remain informed? In this course, we will consider the obligations, power, and pitfalls of producing and consuming political news in the 21st century. We'll read political news, speak with professionals from news organizations, and interrogate our own roles in this new media landscape.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Dr. Virginia Dillon** is an Upper School history teacher at Poly Prep. She received her BA in History from Clemson University, an MA in Social Sciences from the University of Chicago, and a DPhil from the University of Oxford, where she researched language and reporting networks in 17th century newspapers. She has enjoyed teaching courses in world history and European history, as well as international relations and the history of the news and press.

## Summer Humanities

Students in this course will work on English and history content to develop their thinking, reading, listening, speaking, and writing skills. By keeping a composition book of daily writing entries and participating in inquiry-based discussions that expect a willingness to engage, students will enhance their academic repertoires. The central text in the course will be an anthology of nonfiction essays offering a range of issues including politics, economics, religion, technology, and human rights. We will write personal narratives, commencement addresses, NPR inspired "This I Believe" essays, editorial features, and interview-based profiles.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

For twenty-six years, **Sean Mullin** has been an educator in Brooklyn, Washington D.C., Oakland, Houston, and Cardiff, teaching English, history, philosophy, and religion. An Upper School English teacher at Poly Prep since 2006, Sean holds the school's Williams Chair in the Humanities and has delivered two Kastendieck Lectures, one on poetry and one on fiction. Sean's formal education peaked when he read "great books" from the European tradition while earning an MA in liberal arts at St. John's College in Santa Fe's high desert.

## New York Literature and Film

New York is an extraordinary storytelling muse. Artists from a vast range of eras and contexts have contributed to its enormous, mythical presence in global culture. In this course we will examine how writers and filmmakers have described the impact of this legendary center of commerce, multiculturalism, art, and fashion on the evolution of American culture and on their own thinking. We will pay close attention to how New York represents the American dream to some and a cosmopolitan nightmare to others. We will explore literature of different genres, from the short story to the graphic novel to the nonfiction essay. Students will sharpen their ability to analyze film and literature while also working on incorporating observation and description effectively into their own writing. Student essays will be proofread, peer reviewed, and revised. The skills emphasized in this course will be applicable to both personal essay and argumentative writing.

### INSTRUCTOR BIOS

A lifelong Brooklynite, **Emily Gardiner** joined the Poly community in 2011 as an Upper School English teacher. She is now an Upper School dean, advising students in Grades 9–12 on their journey through Poly and the college application process. She takes joy in exploring ideas with her students, whether through storytelling and literature or simple conversation. Prior to her work as an educator, Emily spent many years in film production and development in New York, and just a couple of years in investment banking. She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College in history and literature and received an MA in Education from Teachers College at Columbia University.

**Carmelo Larose** joined Poly Prep in 2015 as an Upper School English teacher after working as Director of Community Service and Diversity at Middlesex School in Concord, MA. In addition to survey courses, he teaches a Literature and Film elective that focuses on the art of adapting the short story and the novel. For four years, he served as one of the advisers to *The Polygon*, Poly Prep's student newspaper. He also works as an instructor for *The School of The New York Times*. As an adjunct professor, he has taught at numerous colleges in the city including NYU, Pace University, Baruch College, and the College of New Rochelle.

# Writer's Workshop: What's Your Story?

Every student of writing finds, for one reason or another, a particular joy and fascination that is of particular value to them and them alone, often for reasons unknown. From there, once attention is properly paid, a story begins to unfurl itself. We are all naturally born storytellers—yet something mysterious begins to happen when we dedicate a practice to conjuring words on the page to necessitate and give merit to memories, moments in time, and reflection. This course seeks to train our senses so that we learn to be present with what's before us and use that as a way to access meaning from our past, of our present, and to our future. Students will learn to best express their personal stories while simultaneously deepening their understanding of their lives, relationships, and world. We will foster a kind, compassionate, and supportive community that shares this important work with one another, with an investment in helping one another to move our drafts into our best realized work. Students will be given tools and mentor texts to learn various techniques and craft, and will be encouraged to submit final pieces to publications. Ultimately, students will find themselves part of an artistic and supportive writing family that will continue to nourish them in their practice long after they complete this course.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Christy Hutchcraft** has been a New York City educator for over fifteen years and an English instructor at Poly Prep for twelve. She earned her Master of Fine Arts in Playwriting from Columbia University and a Master of Science in Education from Pace University. During her tenure at Poly, she has organized and participated in regular student and faculty public literary readings and has hosted notable visiting authors and poets, including Rick Moody, Nick Flynn, Andre Aciman and Eileen Myles. Christy was most recently a fellow at the CUNY Writers Institute, founded by Andre Aciman, and worked with fiction editors from *The New Yorker Magazine* and the publishing house Farrar, Straus and Giroux. She has published her stories and articles in *The Brooklyn Rail* and *The Nashville Review*.

### J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*


Welcome to Middle-earth! Much to the chagrin of literary critics around the globe, a 1997 poll taken in England voted J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* the book of the century; not to be outdone, a 1999 poll of Amazon customers chose the trilogy as the greatest books of the millennium! Tolkien is one of the most influential and widely read authors of the twentieth century. This course will focus on his most significant work; students will read and share ideas about its many facets and remarkable depth. We will also explore elements of epic myth creation and the "hero's journey," and gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the novel's literary and philological innovation as we enjoy the brilliance of a great adventure story.

#### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Harry Bernieri** is a Poly graduate and has been teaching history and world religions at Poly for thirty-one years in both the Middle and Upper Schools. He has served as a Middle School Dean, Upper School Dean of Students and Interim Head of the Upper School. He earned his BA from Dartmouth College and an MA from Wesleyan University. He first read *The Lord of the Rings* during the summer between 7th & 8th grades. Since then he has immersed himself in Tolkien's writings and looks forward to introducing students to them.

## Music Production

Explore music production and produce your own music with Dr. Wilson, a multi-platinum music producer for Chris Brown, Lil Wayne, Trippy Redd, and Young M.A. In this class, students will learn how to use one of the most important tools of the industry, Ableton Live. They will create and modify sounds while they learn layering, mixing, and sampling. By the end of this course, students will have a better understanding of the fundamentals of music, program original beats and samples, and produce original digital music.

 Requirement: Students will need a PC with Windows 7 SP1, 8 or 10/Intel Mac (Mac OS X 10.7). Midi keyboard recommended.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Dr. Orrin M. Wilson** is a music producer, musician, and educator based in New York City. As a multi-platinum producer, he has produced for Chris Brown, Trippie Red, Lil Wayne, and Young M.A., among others. Dr. Wilson studied jazz and classical music at the Manhattan School of Music in New York and received a doctoral degree in music from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. As a freelance musician, he has performed in many of the major venues in New York, including Symphony Center, Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and abroad at La Scala and Verdi Theater. Currently Dr. Wilson is 1/2 of the creative production team *velocitymadeit* and serves as the creative director for the company.

## Digital Photography

Interpreting our world through visual means has traditionally been left to those with paint brushes or masterful technology, but beginning in the 20th century, countless artists challenged those understandings of art. They insisted that art be democratized and accessible. This summer, discover the ways in which you can explore your camera phone as a means to see the world around you through a new lens. We'll learn about photographic concepts and techniques like editing, and develop skills of composition, color theory and exposure with the technology that's at your fingertips. The virtual setting will also allow students to critique, discuss, and set their work in the context of art history. Our classes will begin with a demonstration and discussion followed by guided and independent shooting, editing and uploading, and group critiques. Every student will create a body of work based on a series of assignments which can be showcased virtually.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Adina Scherer** teaches drawing, painting, and printmaking at Poly and designed and launched Poly's digital photography program and lab for the 2019–20 school year. She has been teaching and exhibiting her work for more than three decades. She received her MFA in Photography from the Rhode Island School of Design and has taught photography in Massachusetts at the Dana Hall School, Northeastern University, MIT, and the New England School of Photography. In addition to her teaching at Poly, Ms. Scherer has worked closely with faculty at New York's International Center of Photography, growing with the ever changing artistry of digital photography.

# Debate: Introduction to Public Speaking & Argumentation

Learn the fundamentals of public speaking, using the core guides of ethos, pathos, and logos. In the first half of this course, students will delve into the essentials of what makes a confident, persuasive speaker and the research skills required to support argumentation in competitive public speaking events. In the second half, students will explore how to apply their newly developed public speaking skills in everyday life and a competitive Speech & Debate environment.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Janna White** is the Director of Speech & Debate at Poly. During her tenure, the Poly program has amassed 5 national titles and over 50 bids to the Tournament of Champions. Prior to coming to Poly, Janna was the Director of Debate at Byram Hills High School and Associate Director of Debate at NYU. She holds a BA in Government and International Politics from George Mason University where she qualified to the National Debate Tournament, reached elimination debates at the Cross Examination Debate Association National Championship and was named to the 2009 CEDA All-American team.

# Debate: Introduction to Acting for Speech Competition

Learn the fundamentals of acting geared toward participation in competitive Speech events. Students will focus on the base skills and tools necessary to cultivate the acting process. Learning character development, vocal composition, and the construction of speeches, students will find their acting voice through group exercises, improvisations, and monologues personalized for each student. Pupils will leave this course with the confidence and skills to compete with Poly's nationally recognized Speech & Debate program in Dramatic Interpretation, Prose/Poetry, Declamation, Original Oratory, and Congressional Debate events, or other opportunities in the Performing Arts Department.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Cait Bliss** is a professional actor with experience in stage, film, television, and voiceover. Her work has premiered at Lincoln Center, South by Southwest, and Reykjavik International Film Festival. She attended Smith College where she received a BA in Theatre Arts. Cait came to Poly as a speech coach in September of 2017 and after revitalizing the program is now the Associate Director of Speech. She primarily coaches students in Dramatic Interpretation, Prose/Poetry, Declamation, Original Oratory, and Congressional Debate for local and national tournaments.



## Conversational French

This class will develop students' oral proficiency in French, helping to develop their ability to express thoughts and opinions by exploring Francophone culture. Students will examine key differences between oral communication in French and English in this dynamic, student-centered course. They will choose topics of investigation, watch films and tv series, listen to podcasts, and read French news and comics. Together, we will explore the beauty of French by embracing its sounds and expressions.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Camille Jones**, who has been teaching at Poly since 2017, earned her master's degree from NYU's French studies program, where she specialized in French sociology and history.

## Bravo et encore!

## Artists in the French-Speaking World

This course engages students with the work of contemporary artists throughout the French-speaking world. Students will explore theater, dance, music, visual arts, and film/television in Francophone countries and examine the influence of artists in their local communities and elsewhere in the world. Engaging, project-based activities will take students beyond the physical foreign language classroom as they learn to communicate in the target language. Of course, we will also focus on Francophone arts in New York City.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Dr. Angela Fatou Gittens** is an educator, dance historian, linguist, and a true lover of language and arts. At Poly Prep, she teaches French, Spanish, and American Sign Language, and serves as the Upper School Coordinator of Diversity, Equity, & Social Justice. Angela holds a Ph.D. from New York University in Performance Studies with a focus on Francophone dance history, language & literary studies, and is fluent in six languages; she is also a graduate of Oberlin College and Yale University, where she studied French language and African sociolinguistics. Gittens has taught essay writing at NYU and was a lecturing professor at Barnard College. Her curation of the Brooklyn Arts Council's *Black Brooklyn Renaissance 2010*, a year-long series of exhibitions, symposia, and performances, was funded by the Met Life Foundation. A Gullah Sea Islands descendant from Baltimore, Maryland, Dr. Gittens loves teaching languages and working with youth on a global level.

# Languages

## Latin American Voices

How do national histories shape public and private identities? This Spanish conversation course will use texts, films, and music to explore Latin American voices. Contemporary material will allow us access to current voices, from personal whispers to public protests. This is a dynamic course that aims at advancing students' level of conversation, their confidence in speaking the language, and their understanding of Latin American culture.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Maité Iracheta, P'16**, has taught Spanish language and literature for 16 years at Poly Prep and in New York City public schools, from entry level to Advance Placement. A native of Mexico City, Maité earned a BA in Political Science from Universidad Iberoamericana, an MA in Hispanic-American Literature from Columbia University, and an MA in Spanish Literature and Education from Hunter College. Maité has published cultural criticism, scholarship, and fiction in Mexican magazines and literary journals. Maité has delivered the Miles M. Kastendieck Lecture in the Humanities, earned a grant to research Zapatista pedagogy in Chiapas, and traveled with students to Argentina, Cuba, and Spain.

## Spanish Skillbuilding

This skill-boosting class is geared toward incoming 9th graders who would like to better prepare for Level II Spanish, including students who may have struggled in any beginner's Spanish course, were placed in Level I Spanish class but would like to transition into Level II Advanced Spanish, and/or would like to strengthen their communicational skills and skip Level I Spanish altogether. At the end of this course, all students will meet the American Council on Teaching of Foreign Languages' proficiency benchmarks for novice-high in speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Ronald Sarcos** has taught Spanish and Psychology at Poly Prep for 16 years. He earned his BA with honors in Broadcast Journalism from *La Universidad del Zulia* in Maracaibo, Venezuela, where he grew up, and started his career in education as an English as a Second Language and Spanish as a Second Language instructor. He earned an MA in Psychology from New York University and has served for four years as a College Board Reader for the AP Exam in Psychology.

# Bon appétit: Language & Foods in the French Kitchen

Join us as we explore French and Francophone foods in the summer kitchen! Students will learn to enjoy the simple pleasures of preparing and/or eating little delights that have helped French cuisine gain its global popularity. We will study similar versions of recipes for desserts and simple snacks found on the French, American, and Francophone table as well as in a student's knapsack while on the go. Students will learn to express their likes and dislikes of various foods while learning more specialized French vocabulary. This food appreciation course will require little cooking but where students can enjoy their inspiration to discuss food, recipes, and special foods with the possibilities of preparing or presenting simple dishes in their own family's kitchen.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Dr. Angela Fatou Gittens** is an educator, dance historian, linguist, and a true lover of language and arts. At Poly Prep, she teaches French, Spanish, and American Sign Language, and serves as the Upper School Coordinator of Diversity, Equity, & Social Justice. Angela holds a Ph.D. from New York University in Performance Studies with a focus on Francophone dance history, language & literary studies, and is fluent in six languages; she is also a graduate of Oberlin College and Yale University, where she studied French language and African sociolinguistics. Gittens has taught essay writing at NYU and was a lecturing professor at Barnard College. Her curation of the Brooklyn Arts Council's Black Brooklyn Renaissance 2010, a year-long series of exhibitions, symposia, and performances, was funded by the MetLife Foundation. A Gullah Sea Islands descendant from Baltimore, Maryland, Dr. Gittens loves teaching languages and working with youth on a global level.

# Languages

## Advanced ESL

The Advanced English as a Second Language (ESL) course is designed to develop integrated critical reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in English in order to prepare non-native English speakers to thrive in an American high school and college environment and beyond.

### INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Shihan Liu** currently leads the Global Initiatives efforts at Poly Prep. Prior to that, she was a Poly Mandarin teacher for 4 years. She has been a GRE/SAT/TOEFL instructor and has delivered more than 10,000 hours of teaching for more than a decade online and onsite. She graduated from Northeast Normal University in China with a BA in Business Management and International E-commerce and received her MA in Translation and Interpreting from Beijing Foreign Studies University and her M.Ed in TESOL from the University of Pennsylvania.

**John Rearick** earned his bachelor's degree in English and his master's degree in journalism at Columbia University in New York City. He also holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing from the University of Virginia. John has worked as a journalist, editor, and teacher. In 1996 he joined the faculty at Poly Prep, where he coordinates the Writing Studio and teaches 10th grade and Advanced Placement English. In addition, John is the author of two books on mythology, published by Scholastic Inc., and has a deep interest in Asian literature.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Will Poly Prep’s Virtual Summer Enrichment courses be taped in advance or will students engage real-time with their instructor?**

All of our courses, unless otherwise noted, are synchronous. Each course has been designed to engage students and teachers in real-time discussions and activities.

## **How many students will be enrolled in each course?**

Our virtual class sizes will be limited to 12 students to ensure the best, most personalized summer experience.

## **Will students receive credit for completing the course?**

No. These enrichment courses aim to build deep knowledge, skills, and connections. Writing workshops will provide detailed feedback on student work, and mathematics courses will offer many skill-building opportunities. Traditional “assessments” will not be given.

## **How long is each course?**

Each course meets for two hours from Monday to Thursday. Each offers 24 hours of instruction over the course of three weeks.

## **What are the technical requirements?**

In order to participate effectively in our online courses this summer, all students will need access to an internet-connected device (i.e. computer, tablet, phone) on which they can type, record video and audio, download content, and access information. They will also need a relatively recent internet browser (the last 2 versions). Reliable internet service is also a technical requirement for participation. *Please note that a small number of courses also require other materials.*

## **Does Poly Summer offer Financial Aid for Virtual Summer Enrichment?**

Poly Prep will offer financial aid to Poly Prep students on a case by case basis. Specific questions may be directed to Ellen Kinnane, Associate Director of Enrollment Operations, at [ekinnane@polyprep.org](mailto:ekinnane@polyprep.org).

## **Who should I contact if I have questions about enrollment in Poly Prep’s Virtual Summer Enrichment courses?**

Please contact the Poly Summer office at [summer@polyprep.org](mailto:summer@polyprep.org).