

PARNASSUS



PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Classical Schooling for the Art of Life

2025– 2026

Course Catalogue

School of Rhetoric





SCHOOL OF RHETORIC
2025–2026
Course Catalogue
CLASSES OF 2026–2029

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Graduation & Diploma Information

Parnassus School of Rhetoric required courses meet and exceed Minnesota's minimum graduation requirements and also meet statutory policies. To receive a diploma from Parnassus Preparatory School, scholars must complete the requirements listed in this catalogue. A course credit is equivalent to a student successfully completing one academic year of study.

Minnesota students are required to complete three kinds of requirements by the time they graduate. Students must:

- Satisfactorily complete the state course credit requirements under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.024.
- Satisfactorily complete all state academic standards or local academic standards where state standards do not apply.
- Meet graduation assessment requirements.

The minimum number of credits required to graduate in Minnesota is 22.5 (including any credits earned for Algebra I or Geometry in the School of Logic) in order for the student to be eligible to receive a diploma. The Parnassus School of Rhetoric minimum number of required credits both meets and exceeds the minimum requirements set by Minnesota state statutes and the Minnesota Department of Education.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Successful completion of all required courses.
2. Minimum academic credits, as listed, all of which must be earned in grades 1R-4R (exception of credits earned for Algebra I or Geometry in the School of Logic). Athletics and extracurriculars such as drama do not count toward this total.
3. Successful completion of the minimum required courses per year at Parnassus
4. Successful completion of the Fourth Level Rhetoric Thesis (paper, presentation, and defense; see below)

FOURTH LEVEL RHETORIC THESIS

All Fourth Level Rhetoric scholars are required to participate in the 4R Thesis program, which includes the writing, presentation, and defense of a thesis in a public setting. Scholars must successfully present and defend their theses in order to graduate.

RESIDENCY & ATTENDANCE

If students plan to participate in a study abroad program that will take them out of the school for a full semester or year, we strongly prefer that this take place during the 3R year. In some cases, 4R students may study abroad during the fall semester, but we require all 4R students to be in attendance, on site, for the second semester of their 4R year in order to qualify for the Parnassus diploma. Some study-abroad programs also allow students to participate the year after they graduate from high school

PARNASSUS DIPLOMA OPTIONS & REQUIRED COURSES

Parnassus offers two diploma options as part of our classical, college preparatory program: the standard Parnassus Diploma and the more challenging and rigorous Parnassus Classical Diploma. Parnassus' standard diploma prepares students for college-level work and includes a broad and well-rounded study of disciplines across the liberal arts. The Classical Diploma has additional requirements for mathematics, languages, and the sciences. For more details, see the requirements listed on page 3.

PARNASSUS DIPLOMA *Credit Requirements*

Latin & Greek	2 Credits (Recommended: 1 of Latin; 1 of Greek)
English	4 Credits (Must be Parnassus courses)
History	4 Credits (Must be Parnassus courses)
Science	3 Credits (Must include Physics, Chemistry, and Biology)
Mathematics	3 Credits (Must include Algebra II or equivalent)
Rhetoric	1 1/2 Credits
4R Thesis	1/2 Credit (Awarded after successful defense of the thesis)
Spanish	2 Credits
Fine Arts	1 Credit
PE/Health	1 Credit (1/2 credit Health and 1/2 credit Physical Education)
Humanities	2 Credits (Must include HUM 1201 & 1202)
Electives	4 Credits

Minimum Total Credits: 28 Credits

Each credit corresponds to a full-year course.

This chart represents the minimum number of credits required to graduate from Parnassus. To build the strongest academic foundation in preparation for applying to selective colleges, it is strongly recommended that scholars go beyond the graduation requirements in core academic disciplines through the Fourth Level Rhetoric year.

The Parnassus Classical Diploma represents the school's most rigorous course of study. Scholars who meet the requirements of the Classical Diploma demonstrate a strong academic record that includes challenging coursework across the school's curriculum, including additional requirements in classical and world languages, sciences, and mathematics. Please note that the students graduating in previous years had slightly different requirements.

Students who plan to apply to selective colleges and universities are strongly encouraged to pursue the Parnassus Classical Diploma, as this more rigorous course of study makes applicants more competitive. Furthermore, on the Parnassus school profile that is submitted to colleges and universities along with a student's transcript, the Classical Diploma is noted as our most challenging option.

Students who elect to pursue the Classical Diploma will need to complete and return an Intent to Pursue Classical Diploma form at the end of the first semester of their 2R year.

Students who have made sufficient academic progress towards the Classical Diploma will receive an additional, non-credit bearing course on their transcripts that will provide additional points towards their cumulative GPA at the end of the second semester of the 3R year.

PARNASSUS CLASSICAL DIPLOMA

Credit Requirements

Latin, Greek, & Spanish	6 Credits (At least 2 of Classical Languages — 1 of Latin, 1 of Greek — and 2 of Spanish)
English	4 Credits (Must be Parnassus courses)
History	4 Credits (Must be Parnassus courses)
Science	4 Credits (Must include Physics, Chemistry, and Biology, and 1 additional Honors-level Science course)
Mathematics	4 Credits (Must include MATH 650, 651, or an equivalent Calculus course)
Rhetoric	1 1/2 Credits
4R Thesis	1/2 Credit (Awarded after successful defense of the thesis)
Fine Arts	1 Credit
PE/Health	1 Credit (1/2 Credit Health and 1/2 Credit Physical Education)
Humanities	2 Credits (Must include HUM 1201 & 1202)
Electives	4 Credits

Minimum Total Credits: 32 Credits

Each credit corresponds to a full-year course.

REGISTERING FOR COURSES

Course Requests and Schedule Changes

Each fall, students register for their courses of study for the next academic year. Students are advised to consult with their teachers, college counselors, the SOR Principal, and their parents or guardians to determine which courses to take each year.

Course Rigor and Student Placement

All courses in the School of Rhetoric are offered at the college preparatory level. Some courses, however, may move at a faster pace, require more outside work, necessitate a higher level of academic engagement, or cover advanced and challenging topics or subject areas. Parnassus' rigorous program offerings include Honors, University of Minnesota, and Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

Placement in Honors, University of Minnesota, and AP level courses usually requires approval from the Principal and the course instructor. Students, teachers, and parents must fill out an Agreement of Understanding Form and sign it as an understanding of the commitment required to succeed in the course as well as an understanding of the honors project and expectations. Parents and students should consider all of the students' activities in and out of school when selecting courses and planning a balanced program.

Study Hall

In order to maintain the kind of rigorous course load that colleges and universities require, School of Rhetoric students may not register for more than one Study Hall per semester.

Minimum Credit Requirement – 4R

Students are required to take the required courses and minimum number of electives in order to graduate. The minimum course load for 4R scholars is five (5) credits. Additionally, as Parnassus is a closed campus, students may not leave campus before seventh hour.

Repeating a Course

If a student must retake a course because of exam or course failure, the course and grades will appear on the transcript for both years, but only the second instance of the course will be awarded credit and be included in the cumulative GPA (assuming that the student has passed the course in the second year).

Students may not elect to repeat classes except by permission of the Principal. In no case will students receive more than the allotted credit for completion of a given course.

Honors Courses

Many of Parnassus' college preparatory level courses have an optional Honors component. If a scholar elects to take the honors designation for the course, they will be required to complete additional work above and beyond the normal requirements of the class. These may include additional research, reading, and writing activities. Other courses automatically receive the Honors designation by virtue of the difficulty and rigor of the academic work required for the course.

University of Minnesota College in the Schools (CIS) Program

The University of Minnesota College in the Schools (CIS) program is accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships. Accreditation guarantees that courses offered through CIS are University of Minnesota courses and students earn University of Minnesota credit. Parnassus students taking these University of Minnesota courses are held to the same academic standards as students on the University campus. SOR faculty members who teach University of Minnesota CIS classes are selected, trained, and continuously supported by University faculty.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Advanced Placement (AP) is a College Board program that offers Minnesota high school students the opportunity to take courses and potentially earn college credit while in high school.

Though Parnassus' courses are not designed to "teach to the test," they offer ample preparation for those scholars who choose to take an AP exam. Students who are successful in our classical curriculum are well-prepared to be successful on the AP exams, if they choose to take them. Parnassus offers several AP-equivalent courses that are not explicitly designated as AP courses and are not listed on the transcript with the AP notation, however, these courses do carry the Honors designation. If students choose to take any AP exam, they may opt to have their scores sent to the college or university of their choice directly from the College Board. Parnassus continues to focus on the classical liberal arts curriculum which, in many courses, goes well beyond the designated AP curriculum.

Parnassus also offers official AP courses. Official AP courses will appear on the scholar's transcript with the AP designation.

Post-Secondary Enrollment Options – PSEO

Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is another program that allows students in their 3R (junior) or 4R (senior) year to earn college credit while in high school.

Most PSEO courses are only open to high school students during their 3R or 4R year, with each participating college and university setting their own requirements for enrollment in PSEO courses and programs.

In 2012, new legislation (Minn. Stat. § 124D.09), was passed that allows eligible 2R students to enroll initially in one Career and Technical Education (CTE) course through PSEO. If the student earns a "C" or higher grade in this first course, they are eligible to take additional CTE courses while in 2R. In order to be eligible, a 2R student must have taken the 4L (8th-grade) MCA reading test in the 4L Level (8th-grade), and have met the composite proficiency level of "meets or exceeds". Please see the Minnesota Department of Education website for additional information.

Each college and/or university that offers PSEO sets its own requirements for enrollment. Students should do their own research and find out if PSEO is right for them and speak with the SOR Principal before enrolling in PSEO to determine if Parnassus credit can be awarded for the course.

Please note that, generally, PSEO or other outside courses will not satisfy Parnassus' graduation requirements. PSEO and other outside courses will not be accepted for English, History, or Rhetoric credits. If you have questions about whether or not an outside course will meet the Parnassus requirements, please consult with the School of Rhetoric Principal.

Course Availability

All courses are offered based on sufficient enrollment. We reserve the right to cancel a class if enrollment falls below a minimum threshold, which is determined by the School of Rhetoric Principal. Should this be necessary, we will notify students and their families as early as possible so that they can make alternate class arrangements.

Independent Study

Independent Study provides an opportunity for students to study a subject that is not offered as part of the regular academic program at Parnassus. These projects could include a variety of experiences including research and analysis of a topic, in depth study of an area of interest, community service and involvement, and others.

To earn Parnassus credit, the Independent Study must be completed under the guidance of a current Parnassus faculty member. A student may not take more than one Independent Study course per semester. Students may not use Independent Study courses to fulfill graduation requirements or replace a required course. All Independent Study courses must receive approval from an SOR faculty member, the SOR Principal, and the Executive Director.

Independent Study Request Process

- *Step 1: Proposal* – The student should speak with the School of Rhetoric (SOR) Principal about their interest and possible faculty advisor.
- *Step 2: Application* – With permission from the SOR Principal to begin applying for Independent Study, students should seek out a Parnassus teacher who is willing to oversee and supervise the course, complete the Independent Study proposal form with all required signatures, and then submit it to the SOR Principal. The proposal should include details of weekly meeting time; a description of the work that will be completed; a description of what the final grade will be based on; and the deadlines of major assignments.
- *Step 3: Approval* – The supervising teacher, the SOR Principal, Director of Academics, and Executive Director must review and approve (or not) the Independent Study request. They will take into consideration the strength of the proposal, the student's academic load, the student's academic progress, and the teacher's workload.

Course & Schedule Changes

The first two weeks of each semester are the add/drop period during which time students may adjust their schedule without penalty. These changes may be made based on course availability or in consultation with the college advising staff or the School of Rhetoric Principal.

Students enrolled in full-year courses must complete the full year in order to receive full course credit.

- If students change from one sequence to another at mid-year (e.g., switch from Honors to regular math or science), the transcript will show the grade and course title for the first semester and the grade and different course title for the second semester.
- If students change sequence mid-semester, the transcript will show only the grade and course title for the new course level pursued for the duration of the semester.

Reporting Schedule Changes to Colleges

During the Fourth Level Rhetoric (4R) year when students have submitted records as part of their college applications, it is each individual student's responsibility to report to colleges any changes to their academic programming, particularly if courses have been dropped. If the changes need to be made as a result of medical or other extenuating circumstances, the college counselors will assist the student in communicating the appropriate information to the necessary postsecondary institutions.

Withdrawing from a Course

To withdraw from a course, or to move to a different section of a course, students must consult the School of Rhetoric Principal for approval and complete a Course Change Request Form.

When the approved withdrawal occurs prior to the add/drop deadline, as determined by the Principal, the course will not appear on the transcript. When the approved withdrawal occurs after the deadline, the course will appear on the transcript with a notation of WD/P (Withdrawn – Passing) or WD/F (Withdrawn – Failing), depending on the student's performance in the course, and no course credit is granted.

If the withdrawal occurs during the second semester of a year-long course, the first semester grade appears on the transcript; Semester II will show either WD/P or WD/F. No course credit will be granted for the fall portion of the year-long course; therefore the Semester I grade does not impact cumulative GPA.

Students may elect to drop an optional Honors designation at any point of the year but must first consult with the Principal.

Students are highly discouraged from withdrawing from University of Minnesota and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. If the student feels that it is necessary to withdraw from the course, they must first meet with the Principal to discuss a plan for improvement.



“I have written my work, not as an essay which is to win the applause of the moment, but as a possession for all time.”
– Thucydides

History & Literature

The Parnassus School of Rhetoric curriculum reflects our unwavering commitment to a classical education that is grounded in the classical Trivium. Our program embraces the liberal arts and the enduring principles of the Western Canon. It celebrates intellectualism and underscores the importance of strong personal character. Careful study of the history and great literature of the Western world is at the core of the School of Rhetoric’s curriculum. Each School of Rhetoric scholar takes four years of rigorous coursework in Western and world history and literature.

The sequence begins in the First Level Rhetoric, following Parnassus’ structure of historical periods as the backbone of the curriculum, with an analysis of the ancient world, including Greek and Roman history and literature. The scholars continue their studies with a historical and literary survey of the medieval period through the modern era, a close examination of United States history and literature, and courses in American civics, economics, and government. In their Fourth Level Rhetoric courses, the students have the foundation, knowledge, and understanding to see the indissoluble connection between the liberal arts and being a member of a free society where one can think, speak, and live as one chooses.

The task of a liberal arts education is demanding. In the history and literature sequence, the teacher plays the important role of intellectual leader, eliciting reactions and leading discussions. The teacher is careful not to overwhelm the students with questions that might be too demanding at the earlier levels. As scholars progress through their course levels and become more skilled in their abilities, the teacher will continue to challenge their analytical thinking processes, examine the validity of their arguments and sources, and lead scholarly discussions in the Socratic Method and the Harkness Table model.

Required Literature Courses

ENG 209 LITERATURE SURVEY: ANCIENT LITERATURE

This course is required for all First Level Rhetoric (1R) scholars.
Year-Long/ 1 Credit
Honors Option Available

At Parnassus, the study of literature and history go together. The classically educated student at Parnassus recognizes that these subjects are intertwined and critical to the understanding of the human condition. As such, the selected works of literature in this course have been carefully chosen to correspond with the period and areas studied in the First Level Rhetoric (1R) history survey course. The study of history and literature of the ancient period provides students with a strong foundation and a deeper understanding of humanity's journey from the ancient era to today. Students will be expected to make connections between the works they study and to critically examine the events, culture, people, politics, and philosophical ideals of the ancient world. Through this analysis, they will draw their own conclusions and express them through speaking and writing. A sample of literary works for this course includes the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, the *Iliad*, the *Odyssey*, and the *Aeneid*.

ENG 210 LITERATURE SURVEY: MEDIEVAL – MODERN LITERATURE

This course is required for all Second Level Rhetoric (2R) scholars.
Year-Long/ 1 Credit
Honors Option Available

Integrated with their historical studies of the development of Western civilization from the Middle Ages through the modern era, scholars will read purposefully and thoroughly, delving into the details and complexities of a variety of literary works, paying careful attention to each text's meaning, literary style, and historical context, which in turn provides a foundation for interpretation and critical analysis. This course covers the important events and major texts that formed the civilization of modern Europe. Examples of literary works include those by Dante, Chaucer, Cervantes, and Shakespeare.

ENG 211 LITERATURE SEMINAR: AMERICAN LITERATURE

This course is required for all Third Level Rhetoric (3R) scholars.
Year-Long/ 1 Credit
Honors Option Available

This course in American literature is integrated with the study of the history of the United States. Scholars will read a variety of authors and genres throughout the year. This course requires students to read carefully and deliberately, making close observations of the text as they learn to form connections between the material that is taught and the politics, economics, and overall culture of distinct eras in United States history.

ENG 212 LITERATURE SEMINAR: GREAT WORKS OF LITERATURE

This course is required for all Fourth Level Rhetoric (4R) scholars.
Year-Long/ 1 Credit
Honors Option Available

This course examines the major authors and texts of the American and European literary tradition by focusing on works from the 16th century through contemporary times. Students will perform detailed textual analysis and learn to identify well-known authors by style, content, and historical context. As students read, they will consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret works by Shakespeare, Brontë, Dostoevsky, and other renowned figures.

Literature Electives

These courses explore other areas of literature and are offered for Elective or Humanities credit. These courses do not replace the core classes in the Parnassus literature sequence, which are required for graduation.

ENG 213 INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE: POETRY, DRAMA & NARRATIVE **

University of Minnesota – ENGL 1001W
Prerequisites: Open to scholars in 3R and 4R; Minimum GPA of 3.25
Semester Course/ ½ Credit
Honors

The essence of this course is critical reading, writing, and discussion of selected modern novels, poems, and short stories. Students will examine the texts from multiple viewpoints, examining the works not only through themes, narratives, and style, but also through application of a variety of critical theories. With intensive, close reading, students will understand diverse experiences, languages, forms, and genres. It is a discussion-centered course mandating that students have a high level of personal commitment.

***After successful completion of this course, students will receive 4 college credits from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

ENG 215 INTRODUCTION TO POETRY

Prerequisites: Open to scholars in 2R and above
Semester Course/ ½ Credit

This course has two primary purposes: to introduce students to some of the achievements of poets and to help students become discriminating and confident readers of poetry. Various elements of poetry imagery, figurative language, tone, sound and rhythm will be studied as well as identifying connections from studying a poem in the context of other poems by the same author or poems on a similar subject. This is a poetry reading course, not a course in the writing of poetry.

ENG 214-1 UNIVERSITY WRITING ** NEW for 2025-2026

University of Minnesota – WRIT 1301
Prerequisites: Open ONLY to students in 4R; Minimum GPA of 3.25 (3.0 in previous English/Literature coursework) or receive permission of the instructor to enroll
Honors

This course introduces students to rhetorical principles that provide a framework for successful written communication in college and beyond. Students study and write in a variety of genres and disciplines and in multimodal forms. The course focuses on writing as a way of knowing and learning to develop ideas through critical thinking, including analysis and synthesis. Based on the assumption that writing is a social activity, the course is a workshop format and requires active engagement in the writing process, including pre-writing, peer review, revision, and editing. Students develop information literacy and hone the ability to locate, evaluate, and effectively and ethically incorporate information into their own texts.

***After successful completion of this course, students will receive 4 college credits from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
This course replaces the former ENG 214 – Writing Studio course.*

Required History Courses

HIST 309 HISTORY SURVEY: ANCIENT HISTORY & THE CLASSICAL WORLD

This course is required for all First Level Rhetoric (1R) scholars.

Year-Long/ 1 Credit
Honors Option Available

This survey course emphasizes the political, cultural, and religious events of the classical world by studying major unabridged texts reflecting the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome. Scholars will study key works of respected ancient historians such as Herodotus, Thucydides, Livy, and Tacitus, along with works of the philosophers Plato and Aristotle. This course established a critical framework for the continued study of Western history and literature.

HIST 310 HISTORY SURVEY: MEDIEVAL – MODERN HISTORY

This course is required for all Second Level Rhetoric (2R) scholars.

Year-Long/ 1 Credit
Honors Option Available

This survey course covers medieval to modern European history (5th century B.C.E. – 20th Century C.E.). Students will study the major events, people, places, and intellectual trends that are foundational to an understanding of Western civilization as it developed during this time period. This is a fast-paced survey course that helps the scholars understand the complexities of critical events while further developing skills of historical analysis.

HIST 311 HISTORY SEMINAR: ADVANCED TOPICS IN U.S. HISTORY

This course is required for all Third Level Rhetoric (3R) scholars.

Year-Long/ 1 Credit
Honors Option Available**

This rigorous course critically examines the history of the United States from colonization to the 20th Century through the lenses of various cultural, social, philosophical, and political perspectives. Scholars will analyze what it means to be an American by studying and better understanding the core values on which our nation was founded. The course begins with the study of the foundations of the American Republic, proceeding to the Civil War and expansion of the United States, and ending with an analysis of the late nineteenth-century to World War II. In this course, scholars will explore a significant list of primary source documents and firsthand historical accounts.

***Students participating in the honors section of this course will be enrolled in HIST 315 – US History Since 1865 in the spring semester*

HIST 312

This course is required for all Fourth Level Rhetoric (4R) scholars.

Year-Long/ 1 Credit
Honors Option Available

This course is an inquiry into the importance of American liberty and order and explores the foundations of American government. It considers the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and explores the fundamental principles of a free economy. Through the examination of the Federalist Papers, this course delves into early American political thought. The course includes the study of 20th century history and an introduction to the major principles of sound economic thinking. The study of civics and economics demands a confrontation with ideology, the topic of the last part of the course.

History Electives

These courses explore other areas of history and are offered for Elective or Humanities credit. These courses do not replace the core classes in the Parnassus history sequence, which are required for graduation. These courses may not run if minimum enrollment numbers are not met.

HIST 313

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY*

Prerequisites: Open to scholars in 2R and above; Minimum GPA of 3.25. Open to 1R scholars with permission from the Principal.
Year-Long/ 1 Credit – Humanities or Elective
Honors

The purpose of the AP Human Geography course is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students learn to employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications.

**After successful completion of this course, students may elect to take the AP Human Geography exam.*

HIST 314

AP WORLD HISTORY: MODERN*

Not offered in 2025-2026. Will next be offered in 2026-2027.

Prerequisites: Open to scholars in 2R and above; Minimum GPA of 3.25
Year-Long/ 1 Credit – Humanities or Elective
Honors

AP World History focuses on developing students' abilities to think conceptually about world history from c. 1200 CE to the present and to apply historical thinking skills as they learn about the past. Five themes of equal importance — the environment, cultures, state-building, economic systems, and social structures — provide areas of historical inquiry for investigation throughout the course. World History encompasses the history of the five major geographical regions of the globe: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania, with special focus on historical developments and processes that cross multiple regions.

**After successful completion of this course, students may elect to take the AP World History: Modern exam. This course is offered in alternating years.*

HIST 315**US HISTORY SINCE 1865**
NEW for 2025-2026**

University of Minnesota – CIS HIST 1308

Prerequisites: Open ONLY to students in 3R who are enrolled in the honors section of HIST 311- Advanced Topics in US History, who will be automatically enrolled in this course for the spring semester.

Semester Course – Additional ½ Credit – Humanities or Elective Honors

HIST 1309 is an intensive University of Minnesota course that requires substantial reading, writing, and critical thinking. Students will use primary sources and historical scholarship as they take an in-depth approach to studying major events and topics in US history since the Civil War.

***After successful completion of this course, students will receive 3 college credits from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

HIST 316**THE ANCIENT WORLD BEYOND THE
MEDITERRANEAN
NEW for 2025-2026**

Prerequisites: Open to scholars in 2R and above
Year-Long/ 1 Credit – Humanities or Elective

This elective history class explores the non-Mediterranean ancient world. From the storied dynasties of China and India to the powerful empires of Africa and the Americas, this class will take a deep dive into the history, culture, and achievements of civilizations beyond the Mediterranean basin. Through a combination of lecture, discussion, and primary source analysis, students will gain an appreciation and understanding of the enduring legacies of these ancient cultures.

HIST 317**AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT & POLITICS*
NEW for 2025-2026**

Prerequisites: Open to scholars in 2R and above; Minimum GPA of 3.25.

Year-Long/ 1 Credit – Humanities or Elective Honors

AP United States Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in which students cultivate their understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like constitutionalism, liberty and order, civic participation, competing policy-making interests, and methods of political analysis.

**After successful completion of this course, students may elect to take the AP U.S. Government & Politics exam.*



“All men by nature desire to know.”- Aristotle

Science

A science curriculum is of significant importance to the Parnassus classical education. A thorough study of the hard sciences, based on conceptual understanding and experimentation, provides the students with necessary logic and reasoning skills. Further, such a science curriculum gives scholars a firm foundation from which meaningful questions arise, giving the student greater confidence in asking critical questions.

The study of the sciences at Parnassus starts with physics in First Level Rhetoric (1R). The order of study is reversed from many traditional schools. Rather than ending with physics, we begin with it. Science at Parnassus follows the rational order just like the other subjects of our classical program. We start with the concrete and move to more complex and abstract concepts. This sequence is based on scientific research by many scientists and organizations including the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and the National Science Teachers Association. A National Research Council report stated that, “Because all essential biological mechanisms ultimately depend on physical interactions between molecules, physics lies at the heart of the most profound insights into biology.” The same can be said for foundational topics in chemistry, including atomic binding, the behaviors of gases, and the periodic table of the elements. Variations of the science sequence will depend on the level of mathematical ability of the student. Scholars will have the opportunity to study biology and chemistry and advanced sciences. Once science requirements are met, scholars will have options for additional honors and advanced science courses to continue their studies.

The physics course starts with the analysis of phenomena in the real world and progresses through standard, important topics in physics, emphasizing those that are most helpful for future applications to chemistry and biology. Chemistry students explore the interactions and relationships between atoms and molecules that account for chemical changes. Building on the foundation of physical science, the biology course begins with ecosystems, ecology, cells and genetics, organisms, plants, and animals form and function. This sequence allows the students to then move on to advanced biology emphasizing the structures and functions of biological molecules in various levels of organisms following the previous foundational years of science. Throughout the course sequence, students will develop laboratory skills including observation and analysis, oral and written communication, use of the scientific method, and creative problem solving. This approach gives students the tools to bring together diverse concepts in a practical lab setting.

Parnassus scholars are strongly encouraged to complete four years of science. The more rigorous Classical Diploma requires four credits of science study, and most selective colleges and universities will expect students to have completed science coursework beyond the foundational level of general physics, chemistry, and biology.

Required Science Courses

In order to satisfy the Parnassus graduation requirements, scholars must complete at least one credit of science across each of the following three disciplines: physics, biology, and chemistry. In order to meet this requirement, scholars may elect to choose either the standard Core Science Sequence or the more accelerated and challenging Honors Science Sequence. Scholars pursuing the Classical Diploma must complete at least four credits of science.

Core Science Sequence

The Core Science Sequence allows students to build a firm foundational knowledge of physics, biology, and chemistry. Honors options are not available for these courses.

SCI 809 INTRODUCTION TO CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS

This is the default introductory course in the SOR Science course sequence.

Year-Long/ 1 Credit

This course builds a strong conceptual understanding of physical principles ranging from classical mechanics to modern physics. Conceptual physics leverages practical questions of mechanics as well as analogies and imagery setting a strong foundation and providing the tools the students need to understand the equations and formulas of physics. This course will develop essential skills, including: applying knowledge to problem solving, demonstrating proficiency in laboratory investigations, developing clarity of thought in writing with simplicity, well-organized laboratory reports, and showing a clear understanding of the scientific method while applying the critical and analytical skills learned in other areas of the curriculum to physics. This course also aims to develop a sense of appreciation of physics from a philosophical and historical perspective.

SCI 811 GENERAL CHEMISTRY

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SCI 809
Year-Long/ 1 Credit

The General Chemistry course is designed to build concepts one on top of the other and to lead students to review and rehearse skills and concepts all year long for mastery and retention. The history of modern chemistry, mathematics, and technical communication is emphasized throughout the course to effect the integration of chemistry with other subjects. Real chemists use math and writing skills, and their field is greatly enhanced by their knowledge of the lineage of the great scientists upon whose shoulders they stand. This course provides students with a working knowledge of the foundational concepts of chemistry and includes frequent laboratory work.

SCI 810 GENERAL BIOLOGY

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SCI 809 & SCI 811
Year-Long/ 1 Credit

The General Biology course covers a range of concepts and establishes a foundational knowledge of the science of biology. Key concepts are reinforced with assignments and lab experiments. This survey course covers all levels of biology beginning with ecosystems and ecology, cells and genetics and culminating with organismal diversity and plant and animal form and function.

Honors Science Sequence

The Honors Science Sequence is designed for the student who wishes to pursue advanced science topics in the upper levels of the School of Rhetoric.

SCI 810-1 HONORS INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGY

Prerequisites: Minimum GPA of 3.25 and permission from the Principal.

Year-Long/ 1 Credit

Honors

Honors Introduction to Biology is the honors 1R science course and moves at an accelerated pace and provides an in-depth introduction to the study of life. Scholars will study the structures, functions, and processes of living organisms and their interactions with the environment. Through lectures, demonstrations, and labs, students will explore the structures, functions, and processes of various cells and organisms, along with their interactions with the environment.

Students are expected to take MATH 603 – Algebra II or a higher level of math concurrently with the course. Students who will not have completed Geometry in the School of Logic must have permission from the Principal and the instructor to enroll.

SCI 813 HONORS CHEMISTRY

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SCI 810-1 Honors Introduction to Biology; Minimum GPA of 3.25.

Year-Long/ 1 Credit

Honors

After completing SCI 810-1, 2R honors science students will proceed to their study of chemistry. This course will help students further develop their skills of scientific inquiry and their practice of the scientific method through frequent laboratory work and the mathematical solution of chemical problems. This course includes an accelerated overview of foundational chemistry and will culminate with an introduction to more advanced areas of chemistry, including organic and biological chemistry.

SCI 815 AP PHYSICS I*

Prerequisites: Successful completion of either SCI 809, SCI 809-1, or SCI 811-1 and MATH 630 – Geometry or equivalent; Minimum GPA of 3.25. Students must receive permission from the instructor to enroll.

Year-Long/ 1 Credit

Honors

AP Physics I is an algebra-based, college-level physics course that explores topics such as Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. Students will develop scientific critical thinking and reasoning skills through laboratory work and inquiry-based investigations.

Special note: The College Board recommends that students taking this course should either take the class concurrently with Algebra II or have taken an equivalent course in the past. AP Physics I includes basic use of trigonometric functions, but students can learn those in a concurrent math course or in the AP Physics I course itself. Students who have successfully completed the Honors introductory coursework in biology and chemistry will be well-equipped to take another Advanced Placement or AP-equivalent course concurrently with AP Physics I as 3Rs.

*After successful completion of this course, students may elect to take the AP Physics 1 exam.

Science Electives

These courses may be taken for Elective or Science credit but are designed to complement, not replace, the foundational courses from the Core Science Sequence and the Honors Science Sequence.

Advanced Placement (AP) Electives

SCI 812

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE*

Prerequisites: Open to scholars in 3R and above OR scholars who have completed SCI-810-1 Honors Biology as 1Rs (Grade of B+ or Higher). Minimum GPA of 3.25.

Year-Long/ 1 Credit

Honors

The goal of the Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world; to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made; to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems; and to examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Because it is designed to be a course in environmental science rather than environmental studies, the Environmental Science course includes a laboratory component.

**After successful completion of this course, students may elect to take the AP Environmental Science exam. This course is offered in alternating years.*

SCI 814

AP BIOLOGY*

Not offered in 2025-2026; will be offered in 2026-2027

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SCI 810 or SCI 810-1 (Grade of B+ or Higher); Minimum GPA of 3.25.

Year-Long/ 1 Credit

Honors

AP Biology moves at an accelerated pace and covers all levels of biology beginning with an introduction of the study of biology, followed by biochemistry and the study of the cell, viruses, and fungi. The course will end by revisiting concepts studied at a high-level in earlier grades such as evolutionary change, organism diversity, and the structure and function of plants and animals.

**After successful completion of this course, students may elect to take the AP Biology exam. This course is offered in alternating years opposite AP Environmental Science.*

SCI 815

AP PHYSICS I*

See page 12 for information on enrolling in AP Physics I.

SCI 816

AP PHYSICS II*

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SCI 815 - AP Physics I (Grade of B+ or higher); and MATH 614 - Algebra II or equivalent (Grade of B+ or higher); Minimum GPA of 3.25. Students must receive permission from the instructor to enroll.

Year-Long/ 1 Credit

Honors

AP Physics II is an algebra-based, college-level physics course that explores topics such as fluid statics and dynamics; thermodynamics with kinetic theory; PV diagrams and probability; electrostatics; electrical circuits with capacitors; magnetic fields; electromagnetism; physical and geometric optics; and quantum, atomic, and nuclear physics.

Special Note: The College Board recommends that students should have previously taken or be concurrently taking precalculus or an equivalent course.

**After successful completion of this course, students may elect to take the AP Physics 2 exam.*

SCI 817

AP CHEMISTRY

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SCI-813 or SCI 811 (Grade of B+ or Higher) and MATH 603 - Algebra II or equivalent (Grade of B+ or Higher); Minimum GPA of 3.25.; Must receive permission of instructor to enroll.

Year-Long/ 1 Credit

Honors

The AP Chemistry course provides students with a college-level foundation to support future advanced coursework in chemistry. Students will develop their understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based investigations, as they explore content such as: atomic structure, intermolecular forces and bonding, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and equilibrium. The AP Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first college year. **Note:** *This course requires additional lab work outside of class time.*

**After successful completion of this course, students may elect to take the AP Chemistry exam.*

General Science Electives

SCI 818

INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY

Prerequisites: Open to scholars in 2R and above
Semester/ ½ Credit

This course will give students the chance to explore one of the oldest branches of science! Historical records of astronomical measurements date back five millennia to the civilizations of ancient Mesopotamia. Astronomy is more than the mapping of stars and planets, it also studies the contents of the entire universe, including stars, planets, galaxies, and time itself. Course topics will include modern methods of observational astronomy, the physics of the solar system, and the role astronomy plays in our attempts to make scientific sense of the known universe.

SCI 819

INTRODUCTION TO BOTANY

Prerequisites: Open to scholars in 3R and above. Open to 2R scholars by permission of instructor only.
Semester/ ½ Credit

Come explore the varied and complex world of plants! Botany is the scientific study of plant life, development, and relationship to the environment. Botany covers a wide range of scientific disciplines that study lower plants, higher plants, algae, and fungi. In this course, students investigate the growth, reproduction, anatomy, morphology, physiology, biochemistry, taxonomy, genetics, and ecology of plants. Students should expect daily homework as well as projects, quizzes, tests, and laboratory write-ups. Laboratory and outdoor experiences complement classroom activities.

General Science Electives continued on next page >>

SCI 820**READING ACROSS THE SCIENCES**

Prerequisites: Open to scholars in 3R and 4R

Semester/ ½ Credit

Learn about science through reading and discussing engaging scientific research periodicals, journalism, and longform nonfiction books. This course will expand on scholars' base knowledge of various science topics and help them gain a better understanding of the scientific process in action. Each iteration of this course will focus on a different topic in science; scholars may take this class more than once.

This course may also be taken for a ½ Humanities credit.

SCI 821**THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE**

Prerequisites: Open to scholars in 3R and 4R

Semester/ ½ Credit

Each iteration of this course will examine the history of a different topic in science. Through the lens of a specific topic, scholars will explore how science has influenced, and been influenced by, philosophy, sociology, economics, and anthropology. This course will focus on how scientists over the ages have gained knowledge and understanding about the world around them, as well as how the public perception and understanding of science has evolved over time.

This course may also be taken for a ½ Humanities credit.



“The book of nature is written in the language of mathematics”
– Galileo

Mathematics

The ancients believed that the study of mathematics reinforced the mind's powers of concentration, memory, and logical analysis. Roughly 4,000 – 5,000 years ago, the Egyptian and Babylonian civilizations offered a very practical approach to mathematics, answering questions that rarely extended beyond what was necessary to operate in daily life. These civilizations developed elementary arithmetic, some early algebra, and basic empirical formulas in geometry. The Greeks expanded on these ideas and moved mathematics to an abstract thought process – a significant step in human thinking. With the strengthening of the connection between mathematics and reasoning by the Greeks, mathematics would next become closely tied to other areas such as philosophy, theology, and the natural sciences. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, figures such as Rene Descartes and Pierre de Fermat were pushed further by the desire to discover order in the universe and paved the way for Newton and Leibniz, who developed these ideas further in Calculus.

In the Parnassus model of the classical Trivium, the study of mathematics follows the pedagogy taught in the three schools (Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric) from foundational knowledge to logical reasoning, and finally, to proofs, discussions, and applied knowledge. According to Professor of Anthropology, David Hicks, “The cumulative and coherent study of mathematics is, in fact, a microcosm of the entire curriculum and reflects in its expanding field the workings of the scholarly mind in a manner analogous to that which we examine in the field of arts and letters.”

The classically-educated scholar at Parnassus will have the opportunity to take courses in Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II & Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus with options for the Advanced Placement exams. Scholars will also have the opportunity to take other math courses such as statistics. Students are required to take three years of mathematics for the standard diploma and four years of mathematics for the more rigorous Classical Diploma. Most selective colleges and universities require math above the Algebra II level.

Mathematics and science are integrated at Parnassus. Mathematics supports the learning of sciences where it is appropriate, and science observations and laboratory results can be demonstrated mathematically in certain instances, as well. While science and mathematics are coordinated, they follow their curricula separately to ensure that the concepts and the understanding of those concepts follow the logical sequence for each subject.

Mathematics Courses

MATH 601

ALGEBRA I

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra ½ in the School of Logic or equivalent course
Year-Long/1 Credit

The Algebra I course guides students through topics such as expressions, quadratic equations, functions, real numbers, inequalities, exponents, and polynomials. Students will develop the ability to explore and solve real-world application problems and communicate mathematical ideas clearly. This course lays the foundation for mathematical literacy that will help students be successful in every subsequent course in mathematics.

MATH 602

GEOMETRY

Prerequisite: Successful completion of MATH 601 – Algebra I or equivalent experience in the School of Logic
Year-Long/1 Credit

Competency in higher-math analytical thinking and skills, including plane geometry and geometrical proofs, are part of the basic literacy of our classical program. The course continues with the study of deductive reasoning, complete geometry, plane and solid geometry, and non-Euclidean geometry. Parnassus scholars are especially prepared to discuss proofs by leveraging the deductive reasoning learned in the logic courses during the School of Logic years.

MATH 603

ALGEBRA II

Prerequisite: Successful completion of MATH 602 – Geometry or equivalent experience in the School of Logic
Year-Long/1 Credit
Honors Option Available

The Algebra II course is a college preparatory course which focuses on the study of a variety of functions (including linear, quadratic, exponential, and logarithmic to name a few) using graphical, analytic, and verbal methods. Upon successful completion of Algebra II, scholars will be prepared to progress to the Pre-calculus course the next year.

MATH 605

PRECALCULUS AND TRIGONOMETRY

Prerequisite: Successful completion of MATH 603 – Algebra II with an 85% average on assessments. All other students must receive permission from the instructor to enroll.
Year-Long/1 Credit
Honors Option Available

This course is aimed at students who have shown strong aptitude toward mathematics in their Geometry and Algebra II courses. All students pursuing this course should expect to find the content and pace of the coursework challenging and should be prepared to allot extra time for their studies. Honors is recommended for students who have achieved an "A" in Algebra II. After completing this course, students may proceed to MATH 650 – AP Calculus AB

MATH 606

COLLEGE ALGEBRA

Prerequisite: Successful completion of MATH 603 – Algebra II
Year-Long/1 Credit

This course is designed for the math student who wishes to prepare for college-level math courses, but who does not wish to pursue the study of calculus at this time. This course will provide students with a strong foundation in algebraic relationships, functions, and graphs that will prepare them for more advanced math, science, business, computing, and engineering courses that they wish pursue in college. This course is not recommended for students who have already completed MATH 605 – Precalculus and Trigonometry.

MATH 640

STATISTICS

Prerequisite: Successful completion of MATH 603 – Algebra II
Year-Long/1 Credit

The statistics course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory, non-calculus-based college course in statistics. The course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students use technology, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they build conceptual understanding. Students must have taken second-year algebra before enrolling in Statistics. This course is designed for the student who wishes to prepare for college-level math courses, but who does not wish to pursue the study of calculus at this time. Students who plan to study higher level math or who plan to take college classes in science, technology, math, engineering, or the social sciences are encouraged to enroll in the AP section of this course.

MATH 641

AP STATISTICS*

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math 603 – Algebra II or higher; Minimum GPA of 3.25
Year-Long/1 Credit
Honors

The AP Statistics course is taught parallel to the general Statistics course (MATH 640) and the class sections may be combined depending on the number of students enrolled in each course. Students electing to take the Advanced Placement (AP) version of this course will study additional, more advanced topics such as inferences for regressions, Chi-squared testing, and comparing two populations of data.

**After successful completion of this course, students may elect to take the AP Statistics exam.*

MATH 650

AP CALCULUS AB*

Prerequisites: Successful completion of MATH 605; Minimum GPA of 3.25.
Year-Long/1 Credit
Honors

AP Calculus AB is roughly equivalent to a first semester college calculus course devoted to topics in differential and integral calculus. The AP course covers topics in these areas, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. The course teaches students to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to make connections amongst these representations. Students learn how to use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions.

**After successful completion of the course, students may elect to take the AP Calculus AB exam*

MATH 651

AP CALCULUS BC*

Prerequisites: Successful completion of MATH 650 – AP Calculus AB (Grade of B+ or higher); Minimum GPA of 3.25.
Year-Long/1 Credit
Honors

AP Calculus BC is roughly equivalent to second semester college calculus courses and extends the content learned in AB to different types of equations and introduces the topic of sequences and series. The AP course covers topics in differential and integral calculus, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and series. The course teaches students to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to make connections amongst these representations. Students learn how to use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions.

**After successful completion of the course, students may elect to take the AP Calculus BC exam.*

MATH 690**AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES***

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math 603 – Algebra II or higher; Minimum GPA of 3.25

Year-Long/1 Credit

Honors

AP Computer Science Principles offers a multidisciplinary approach to teaching the underlying principles of computation. The course will introduce students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the Internet, cybersecurity concerns, and computing impacts. AP Computer Science Principles also gives students the opportunity to use current technologies to create computational artifacts for both self-expression and problem solving. Together, these aspects of the course make up a rigorous and rich curriculum that aims to broaden participation in computer science.

**After successful completion of this course, students may elect to take the AP Computer Science Principles exam.*



“Rhetoric, then, may be defined as the faculty of discovering the possible means of persuasion in reference to any subject whatever.”
– Aristotle

Rhetoric

Parnassus School of Rhetoric scholars study rhetorical techniques in composition, written, and oral skills. The study of rhetoric formally begins in First Level Rhetoric and ends in the Fourth Level with the writing, presentation, and defense of their theses. The study of rhetoric is designed to train students in the rules, language, and art of communication.

In the study of rhetoric, grammar, and writing, students are taught to draw upon their substantial body of knowledge in the creation of confident, well-reasoned and orderly arguments, expository essays, narratives, epistolary essays and poetry as well as all manner of written and oral communication. With these tools in hand, the scholar can easily decipher arguments and counter with a clear, concise response. The student who has established strong convictions rooted in a worthy education can effectively communicate that knowledge and those convictions in such a way as to persuade. With these skills, the student becomes a stronger thinker and is able to argue on behalf of those ideals necessary for a free and virtuous society.

One of the most influential teaching methods to arise from the classical rhetorical tradition was the *progymnasmata*. This is a gradual sequence of rhetorical writing assignments that begins with simple exercises and progresses to more complex tasks. First Level Rhetoric introduces the student to the history of classical rhetoric, *progymnasmata*, and teaches them how to begin to apply the principles of this ancient art. The scholars work on their writing skills, oratorical prowess, and begin deepening their understanding of structuring a research paper. In Second Level Rhetoric, the students will continue to strengthen as well as add to the skills they have learned and will continue their understanding of research methods. The study of rhetoric in the Third Level of Rhetoric is challenging. It builds upon and enhances the teachings in the previous levels and includes a major writing project in preparation for the final thesis. The Fourth Level of Rhetoric study of rhetoric is the climax of the rhetoric curriculum. The Parnassus scholar is able to write intelligently and clearly, is able to speak confidently and eloquently, is a thoughtful leader, a compassionate citizen, and displays the virtues and pillars of Parnassus. Fourth Level Rhetoric includes the final written thesis. Rhetoric scholars will present and defend their theses, both of which are steps required for graduation. The Fourth Level Rhetoric thesis will be written across the disciplines based on the individual scholar's choice according the school's curriculum and rules and will be a response to a universal question.

Required Rhetoric Courses

RHET 509

CLASSICAL RHETORIC I

This course is required for all First Level Rhetoric (1R) scholars.
Semester Course/ ½ Credit

This semester-equivalent course meets year-round on alternating days.

The study of rhetoric in the First Level Rhetoric introduces the student to the history of classical rhetoric, *progymnasmata*, and applying the principles of this ancient art. As the scholars transition to the School of Rhetoric, they continue to develop their oral and written communication skills. Throughout the course, students review the proper use of language and the rules of grammar. Writing assignments and oral presentations are based on readings that are interrelated with other areas of the curriculum.

RHET 510

CLASSICAL RHETORIC II

This course is required for all Second Level Rhetoric (2R) scholars.
Semester Course/ ½ Credit

This semester-equivalent course meets year-round on alternating days.

The study of rhetoric in Second Level Rhetoric is a rigorous program continuing the study of classical *progymnasmata* and rhetoric that started in the previous year. It serves to strengthen as well as add to the skills learned in the previous years and will emphasize style, modes of communication, and oratorical skills. Second Level Rhetoric studies include reading and writing assignments and oratorical presentations, all of which are interconnected with the history and literature studied at Parnassus.

RHET 511

CLASSICAL RHETORIC III

This course is required for all Third Level Rhetoric (3R) scholars.
Semester Course/ ½ Credit

This semester-equivalent course meets year-round on alternating days.

This course builds upon the previous years and adds more complex *progymnasmata* exercises. This course serves to strengthen as well as add to the skills learned in Classical Rhetoric II and emphasizes style, modes of communication, and oratorical skills. Third Level Rhetoric studies include reading and writing assignments and oratorical presentations, all of which are interconnected with the history and literature studied at Parnassus. In the latter half of the course, scholars begin the foundational research for and select the topic of their 4R theses.

RHET 512

CLASSICAL RHETORIC IV: THESIS

This course is required for all Fourth Level Rhetoric (4R) scholars.
Semester Course/ ½ Credit*

This semester-equivalent course meets year-round on alternating days.

The last course in rhetoric ensures that scholars have mastery of the content and concepts of rhetoric taught throughout the School of Rhetoric years. The scholars will be prepared to write, present, argue, and defend any topic of their choosing and will write a thesis on a topic within the school's curriculum and programmatic scope, answering a universal question. As a requirement to graduate, scholars will write, present, and defend their Fourth Level Rhetoric thesis. This course includes the study of different research methods (e.g. qualitative and quantitative). It also includes an overview of Aristotle's rhetoric, including the canons of rhetoric: invention, identifying the 'argument' and formulating a thesis; *dispositio*, arranging the material in proper order for a persuasive argument; *elocutio*, learning about style, choices of words, clarity; and *promuntatio*, delivery and oratorical skills. The students will also learn about the three kinds of persuasive discourse: deliberative, forensic, and epideictic.

*Upon successful defense of the 4R Thesis, scholars will receive an additional ½ 4R Thesis Credit for this course.



“Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own.”

– Goethe

“Poets that lasting marble seek/ Must carve in Latin or in Greek”

– Edmund Waller

Classical & Modern Languages

The study of the classical and modern languages gives students access to ancient civilizations as well as to civilizations and cultures other than their own. The study of Latin and Greek opens up an entire world of knowledge in the sciences, philosophy, law, and literature. For nearly two thousand years, the study of Latin has taught students grammar, vocabulary, and the skills of careful reading and precise writing. Classical languages enhance the students' knowledge of English. Sixty percent of English vocabulary comes from Latin and Greek and ninety percent of two-syllable English words come from these classical languages. Latin is the foundation for the Romance languages including Spanish (which is taught at Parnassus beginning in Prima), French, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian.

The writings of professor and author, Dorothy Sayers, are among the core guiding texts for the Parnassus classical model. She states, "The best grounding for education is the Latin grammar. I say this, not because Latin is traditional and mediaeval, but simply because even a rudimentary knowledge of Latin cuts down the labor and pains of learning almost any other subject by at least fifty percent. It is the key to the vocabulary and structure of all the Teutonic languages, as well as to the technical vocabulary of all the sciences and to the literature of the entire Mediterranean civilization, together with all its historical documents."

Rhetoric level scholars are required to complete at least one year each of Latin and Greek to graduate with the standard Parnassus Diploma. Students seeking to complete the more rigorous Classical Diploma must complete four years of study in the classical languages, including at least one year each of Latin and Greek.

In the School of Rhetoric, scholars also continue their study of Spanish. Parnassus believes that it is beneficial to study a modern Romance language concurrently with their classical language studies. As one of the most widely spoken languages of the world, Spanish presents our scholars with an opportunity to become proficient in the language and to gain a level of comprehension that allows them to explore new areas of global literature and travel. In addition to the required two years of Spanish, students are strongly encouraged to pursue additional coursework in Spanish, especially considering the fact that some colleges require three to four years of sequential language study at the School of Rhetoric level.

Latin Courses

LAT 401	BEGINNING LATIN I	LAT 404	INTERMEDIATE LATIN: PROSE**
This course is designed for the beginning Latin student and covers Chapters 1–22 of <i>Wheelock's Latin</i> .		<i>University of Minnesota – LAT 3003</i>	
Year-Long/ 1 Credit		Prerequisites: Permission of instructor required to enroll.	
Scholars will acquire knowledge and proficiency in vocabulary and grammar of Latin in the Golden Age of Latin literature. Scholars will develop an understanding of the inflectional nature of Latin by memorizing the five declensions of nouns; the two declensions of adjectives; the verbal system including active and passive voice, the six tenses of the indicative, the imperative, and the present infinitive; and pronouns, including personal, reflexive, relative, demonstrative, interrogative, and intensive. Scholars will also develop comprehension of the uses of the various cases in Latin, and will learn to analyze the grammar and syntax of Latin sentences. Scholars will be exposed to a variety of reading passages that span the breadth of Latin literature; however, the course will mainly concentrate on the Late Republican period, ca. 100 B.C. – 27 B.C., and various aspects of Roman literature, culture, and civilization.		This intermediate college course is offered through the College in the Schools program at the University of Minnesota. Scholars will be introduced to the life and career of Julius Caesar. The class will consist of reading, translating, and discussing selections from Caesar's Gallic War, which scholars will have done preparation for before class. Review of grammar/vocabulary will be part of the program as needed. Analysis of the text will include features of grammar and syntax. Some discussion of major themes/issues in Roman culture as illustrated by the text, will be analyzed and discussed. In some years, an additional author of Latin prose such as Cicero may be introduced so as to compare and contrast to the works of contemporary authors.	
LAT 402		LAT 405	
BEGINNING LATIN II		INTERMEDIATE LATIN: POETRY**	
This course is designed for the continuing beginning Latin student and covers Chapters 23–40 of <i>Wheelock's Latin</i> .		<i>University of Minnesota – LAT 3004</i>	
Prerequisites: Successful completion of LAT 401 – Beginning Latin I or equivalent experience in the School of Logic		Prerequisites: Successful completion of LAT 402 or permission of instructor	
Year-Long/ 1 Credit		Semester Course/ ½ Credit	
This course will continue scholars' development of Latin grammar, vocabulary, and syntax. Scholars will memorize the forms of participles, the subjunctive, infinitives, comparison of adjectives and adverbs, deponent verbs, irregular verbs, and gerunds. In addition, focus will be placed on the grammatical constructions involving the Romans' use of participles, subjunctives, infinites, and the various cases. Scholars will begin reading more un-adapted passages from Latin literature. Upon successful completion of this course, the scholar will be able to read original works by Roman authors. Please note that successful completion of Beginning Latin I and II is required to enroll in the University of Minnesota CIS Latin courses (LAT 404/3003 and LAT 405/3004)		This intermediate college course is offered through the College in the Schools program at the University of Minnesota. Scholars will be required to prepare translations of portions Vergil's <i>Aeneid</i> , as well as discuss the themes of epic poetry and topics introduced by Vergil concerning Rome and Roman values during the Late Republican period. Focus will be placed on meter and rhetorical devices used throughout Vergil's poetry. Scholars will be asked to make connections between the <i>Aeneid</i> and Caesar's <i>De Bello Gallico</i> .	
LAT 403		LAT 406	
INTERMEDIATE LATIN /LATIN III		ADVANCED LATIN: PROSE	
Prerequisites: Successful completion of LAT 402 or equivalent experience in the School of Logic. Other scholars may enroll only with the permission of the instructor.		Prerequisites: Permission of instructor required to enroll.	
Year-Long/ 1 Credit		Semester Course/ ½ Credit	
This class focuses on honing and expanding the vocabulary and grammatical information gained from beginning Latin. Scholars will read un-adapted selections from authors including Cicero, Livy, Pliny, and Ovid. The class structure will be focused on translating and discussing the texts by analyzing not only their grammatical content, but also the syntax, style and rhetorical features of the texts. This course also has a historical component to the class, setting each author and work within its historical and cultural context. The goal will be for the scholar to gain increased fluency with the language with the result that, at the completion of the course, they will be able to handle approximately twenty-five lines of prose or poetry with relative ease, referring to grammar resources and glossaries only occasionally.		This advanced course is the equivalent of a college junior or senior elective in Latin prose and offers students the chance to delve deeply into continuous passages of unadapted Latin text, including histories, speeches, and letters. This course may meet with LAT 404 but will require additional self study and meetings with the instructor, as well as an increased number of lines read and translated weekly.	
LAT 407		ADVANCED LATIN: POETRY	
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor required to enroll.		Semester Course/ ½ Credit	
Honors		This advanced course is the equivalent of a college junior or senior elective in Latin poetry and provides students with the opportunity to further advance their knowledge of Roman epic poetry. This course may meet with LAT 405 but will require additional self study and meetings with the instructor, as well as an increased number of lines read and translated weekly.	

Honors Greek Sequence

Students who choose to pursue the Honors Greek sequence have the opportunity to earn college credits through the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities' College in the Schools Program. Scholars must complete at least one credit of Greek to graduate from Parnassus.

GRK 710 BEGINNING CLASSICAL GREEK I**

University of Minnesota – GRK 1001

Prerequisites: Successful completion of LAT 403 or permission of instructor.

Year-Long/1 Credit
Honors

This course covers the first semester of the University of Minnesota's beginning Classical Greek course, which comprises an entire year of study at Parnassus. Scholars will not only learn the vocabulary of Attic Greek, but also the inflectional patterns of nouns, adjectives, pronouns, and verbs. Emphasis will be placed on reading and translating Greek passages of increasing length throughout the course. Various aspects of Athenian culture, society, and Greek civilization will also be discussed as they pertain to the content of the readings.

*** After successful completion of the course (grade of C or better), students will receive 5 college credits from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

GRK 711 BEGINNING CLASSICAL GREEK II**

University of Minnesota – GRK 1001

Prerequisites: Successful completion of GRK 710 – Beginning Classical Greek I

Year-Long/1 Credit
Honors

This course covers the material from the second semester of the University of Minnesota's beginning Classical Greek course, which comprises an entire year of study at Parnassus. Scholars will continue to learn the vocabulary of Attic Greek and expand their knowledge of forms of nouns, adjectives, pronouns, and verbs. In this second year, scholars will develop an understanding of more complex syntax and grammatical constructions such as the uses of infinitives, participles, and the optative and subjunctive moods. Emphasis will be placed on reading and translating Greek passages of increasing length throughout the course. Various aspects of Athenian culture, society, and Greek civilization will also be discussed. Upon the successful completion of this course with a grade of C or better, scholars may be eligible to enroll in Intermediate Greek.

*** After successful completion of the course (grade of C or better), students will receive 5 college credits from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

GRK 712 INTERMEDIATE CLASSICAL GREEK

Prerequisites: Successful completion of GRK 710 and 711/Beginning Greek I and II.

Year-Long/1 Credit
Honors

After establishing a working knowledge of Attic Greek in their introductory courses, scholars with a passion for the classics will have the opportunity to further refine their language abilities and read some of the most influential texts from all of human history in their original, untranslated language. Scholars will read selections from Xenophon and Lysias, in the fall semester and transition to Homer and Plato. Routine review of grammatical and syntactical elements of each author will be covered. Scholars will expand on basic vocabulary by learning new and idiomatic meanings for terms and vocabulary specific to each author.

Introductory Greek Sequence

Students who do not wish to pursue Greek at the rigor of the Honors/University level have the option of taking an extended course sequence that covers the foundations of Classical Greek in a slower-paced class over the course of three years.

GRK 701 INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL GREEK I

Prerequisites: Open to students in 2R and above who have successfully completed at least one (1) Latin course.

Year-Long/1 Credit

In this course, scholars will learn the fundamentals of Classical Greek including the declension of nouns, adjectives, and pronouns, and the conjugation of verbs. Scholars will concentrate on acquiring a foundation of vocabulary and practice by reading passages of level-appropriate length in Attic Greek. Various aspects of Athenian culture, society, and Greek civilization will also be discussed as they relate to the background of the stories which make up the core of the course.

GRK 702 INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL GREEK II

Prerequisite: Successful Completion of GRK 701 – Introduction to Classical Greek I

Year-Long/1 Credit

Scholars will continue to build upon the vocabulary and grammar presented in Greek I. By the end of this course, scholars will have a greater understanding of the inflectional forms of Greek and discuss cultural topics relevant to the chapter stories.

GRK 703 INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL GREEK III

Prerequisite: Successful Completion of GRK 702 – Introduction to Classical Greek II or GRK 710 & GRK 711

Year-Long/1 Credit

In the last year of beginning Greek, scholars will encounter more complex grammatical constructions involving subjunctives and optatives as well as indirect statements. Reading passages will increase in length and difficulty.

Spanish Courses

SPAN 908

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH A

This course is designed for the beginning Spanish student at Parnassus.
Year-Long/ 1 Credit

Scholars begin their study of the Spanish language through introductory vocabulary and grammar studies and begin work on their skills in the language competencies: listening and reading comprehension, writing, speaking, and presentation.

SPAN 909

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH B

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SPAN 908 – Introduction to Spanish A or equivalent experience in the School of Logic
Year-Long/ 1 Credit

This course is designed for the continuing beginning Spanish student. Scholars further their vocabulary and grammar studies and continue work on their skills in the language competencies: listening and reading comprehension, writing, speaking, and presentation.

SPAN 910

INTERMEDIATE SPANISH A

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SPAN 909 – Introduction to Spanish B or equivalent experience in the School of Logic
Year-Long/ 1 Credit

This course is designed for those students who are continuing their Spanish language coursework from the School of Logic or who have completed a full Beginning Spanish course sequence. Scholars will continue their study of Spanish vocabulary and grammar, read passages at their skill level, and enhance their skills in the language competencies: listening and reading comprehension, writing, speaking, and presentation.

SPAN 911

INTERMEDIATE SPANISH B

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SPAN 910 – Introduction to Spanish A or equivalent experience in the School of Logic
Year-Long/ 1 Credit
Honors Option Available

Scholars further develop their vocabulary and grammar competency and advance to reading and comprehending passages of increasing difficulty. Scholars will continue to become increasingly proficient in their listening, reading, writing, speaking, and presentation skills.

SPAN 912

ADVANCED SPANISH A

Prerequisite: Successful completion of SPAN 911 – Intermediate Spanish B
Year-Long/ 1 Credit
Honors Option Available

Scholars may elect to continue their Spanish studies during their later years in the School of Rhetoric. This course has a focus on the integration of language and contemporary culture, a review and expansion of vocabulary and grammar, and extensive practice in the modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational.

SPAN 913

ADVANCED SPANISH B

Prerequisite: Successful completion of SPAN 912 – Advanced Spanish A
Year-Long/ 1 Credit
Honors Option Available

This course builds upon the skills covered in Advanced Spanish A and further develops students' ability to integrate language and contemporary culture, expands their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar, and includes extensive practice in all modes of communication.

SPAN 914

SPANISH LITERATURE

Prerequisite: Open to students in 3R or above or with consent from the instructor.
Semester Course/ ½ Credit
Year-Long/ 1 Credit

This college-level course consists of novels, short stories, and poetry that will be read, studied, and discussed in Spanish. Most reading will take place within the class to provide students with support as they gain experience in reading untranslated works of Spanish. This course is excellent preparation for scholars with an interest in the Spanish language and who may be interested in taking AP Spanish Literature in the future. This course can be taken during additional semesters, as selections change each term.

**Special note: This course is intended to be taken as an elective and should not be taken in place of an Intermediate or Advanced Spanish course. Students are strongly recommended to take this course concurrently with an upper-level Humanities course.*

This course may also be taken for Humanities credit.

SPAN 915-1

AP SPANISH LITERATURE PART I*

Not offered in 2025-2026

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SPAN 912 Advanced Spanish A or completion of *Realidades III*; Open to scholars in 3R and above; Minimum GPA of 3.25. All other students must receive consent from the instructor to enroll.
Year-Long/1 Credit
Honors

The Spanish Literature course introduces students to representative texts: short stories, novels, poetry, and essays from Peninsular Spanish, Latin American, and United States Hispanic literature from the Middle Ages to the 21st century. Students continue to develop proficiencies across the full range of communication: interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive, while developing their critical reading and analytical writing skills. Literature is examined within the context of its time and place, as students reflect on the many voices and cultures present in the required readings. This course requires a high degree of commitment to academic work.

SPAN 915-2

AP SPANISH LITERATURE PART II*

Not offered in 2025-2026

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SPAN 912 Advanced Spanish A or completion of *Realidades III*; Open to scholars in 3R and above; Minimum GPA of 3.25. All other students must receive consent from the instructor to enroll.
1 Credit
Year-Long/1 Credit
Honors

AP Spanish Literature Part II continues the study of short stories, novels, poetry, and essays from Peninsular Spanish, Latin American, and United States Hispanic literature from the Middle Ages to the 21st century. Students continue to develop proficiencies across the full range of communication: interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive, while developing their critical reading and analytical writing skills. Literature is examined within the context of its time and place, as students reflect on the many voices and cultures present in the required readings. This course requires a high degree of commitment to academic work.

**AP Spanish Literature Parts I & II will be offered in alternating years. Due to the structure of the course, students do not need to take the levels in sequence (i.e. students can take SPAN 916 before SPAN 915)*

After the successful completion of both courses, students will be prepared to take the AP Spanish Literature exam.



“Great nations write their autobiographies in three manuscripts: the book of their deeds, the book of their words, and the book of their art.”
– John Ruskin

Humanities

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The term “humanities” encompasses the many different disciplines, including literature, history, music, art, philosophy, and language, that humans have used throughout history to help us understand and document our world and experiences. Studying the humanities gives us a sense of connection to the people and civilizations who have come before us and allows us to understand our contemporary society more deeply.

As a college-preparatory, classical school whose curriculum is grounded in the liberal arts, Parnassus believes that engaging with the humanities not only makes one a better-educated scholar, but it also makes one a better person. Plato famously said “the object of education is to teach us love of beauty,” and Parnassus believes that no student’s education is complete without developing an appreciation for, and knowledge of, invaluable cultural artifacts, including great works of art and music.

The Parnassus humanities course offerings embody the interdisciplinary nature of our liberal arts based program. Beginning with the class of 2023, every Parnassus graduate will have completed survey courses in art history as well as the history and theory of music. These humanities courses are designed to complement the rigorous course load of our School of Rhetoric program and to give students the opportunity to explore a new interest in a joyful setting. Our humanities program also encompasses a variety of electives, from the arts to the social sciences, that are designed to help students better understand what it means to be a well-rounded individual in today’s complex world.

Humanities Courses

HUM 1201 FOUNDATIONS OF ART HISTORY

Prerequisites: Open to scholars in 2R and above
Semester Course/ ½ Credit

This course serves as an introductory survey of the art and architecture of the Western world from the Prehistoric to the modern era and an introduction to methods of viewing art in its historical and cultural context, with particular emphasis on viewing works of art. The course stresses critical thinking and explores how and why art is interpreted and reinterpreted, and how it is used as a tool for historical analysis.

This is a required course for graduation. Scholars are strongly encouraged to taken this course in their 2R year.

HUM 1202 FOUNDATIONS OF MUSIC HISTORY

Prerequisites: Open to scholars in 2R and above
Semester Course/ ½ Credit

This course introduces students to the discipline of music through listening, discussion, lecture, and analysis. The course traces the historical development of music with an emphasis on the Western Canon. Students will become familiar with specific composers and representative works of various stylistic periods and will discuss them within a cultural context. Additionally, students will gain an understanding of basic music theory and develop listening skills to help them identify, by ear, a wide variety of musical styles and composers.

This is a required course for graduation. Scholars are strongly encouraged to taken this course in their 2R year.

HUM 1203 MUSIC APPRECIATION: GREAT WORKS OF OPERA

This course is open to all SOR students.
Semester Course/ ¼ Credit

This course is an introduction to the art of opera and is designed to give students the tools and experiences to appreciate and understand this incredible art form. No previous knowledge of music or opera is necessary. Students will study some of the greatest musical works and voices of all time as they explore how opera reflects cultural contexts and captivates the human spirit. The course may include a field trip to a performance at the Minnesota Opera.

This course may also be taken for Elective or Fine Arts credit.

HUM 1204 DECLAMATION & HISTORICAL ORATION

This course is open to all SOR students.
Semester Course/ ½ Credit

This course further develops the public speaking skills that students acquired in the Schools of Grammar and Logic. The course will introduce students to the art of declamation, bringing history to life through the study of great works of oratory from the past and present. Students will learn to present another speaker's message with clarity, emotion, and persuasiveness. Students will also analyze the rhetorical devices used in historically significant works and learn how to apply them to their own speech and writing.

This course may also be taken for Elective credit.

HUM 1206 AP PSYCHOLOGY*

Prerequisites: Open to scholars in 3R and 4R; Minimum GPA of 3.25.
Year-Long/ 1 Credit
Honors

The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

This course may also be taken for Elective credit.

**After successful completion of this course, students may elect to take the AP Psychology exam.*

HUM 1207 AP ART HISTORY*

Prerequisites: Open to scholars in 2R and above who have previously taken an Art History course at Parnassus; Minimum GPA of 3.25. All other students must receive permission from the instructor to enroll.
Year-Long/1 Credit
Honors

This course is an introductory survey of the art and architecture from the Prehistoric period through the 21st century and an introduction to methods of viewing art in its historical and cultural context. The course fosters an in-depth, holistic understanding of the history of art from a global perspective. Students become active participants in the global art world. They experience, research, discuss, read, and write about art, artists, art making, responses to, and interpretations of art.

This course may also be taken for Elective or Fine Arts credit.

**After successful completion of this course, students may elect to take the AP Art History exam.*

HUM 1209 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

This course is open to all SOR students.
Semester Course/ ½ Credit

Philosophy is for everyone! This course presupposes no background in philosophy and no special abilities. It is based on the premise that philosophy is a genuinely exciting subject, accessible not only to specialists, but to everyone. The course begins with an overview of the history of philosophers and the development of different ideas, then examining topics such as truth, goodness, and consciousness. Students will discuss these topics based on readings from classical and modern philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Immanuel Kant, Jean-Paul Sartre, and others. This course (and textbook) does not attempt to sway students toward any particular philosophical positions. It presents basic philosophical problems and powerful philosophical arguments to encourage students to form their own thoughts and opinions.

This course may also be taken for Elective credit.

HUM 1210**MOCK TRIAL**

This course is open to all SOR students.
Year-Long/ ½ Credit

The Mock Trial course prepares students to participate in a Mock Trial program and covers the basics of civil and criminal procedure, including trial procedures and components of attorney practice. The course will develop students' interest in and appreciation for our country's judicial system and refine their communication skills and analytical abilities. Students who wish to serve in an attorney role on the school's competitive Mock Trial team are highly encouraged to take this course.

This course may also be taken for Elective credit.

HUM 1211**LANGUAGE, PROOF, & LOGIC**

This course is open to all SOR students.
Semester Course/ ½ Credit

This course builds on the logical reasoning and analytical thinking skills developed in the School of Logic. In any discipline or discourse, it is important to be able to distinguish correct reasoning from incorrect reasoning. Students will enhance their reasoning skills, from verbal argument analysis to formal logic, by considering natural English statements and focusing on the relationships between those statements. The goal of the course is to show how natural English statements and arguments can be formalized and analyzed, and, in turn, improve the students' own abilities to write and reason effectively. This course may be of special interest to students wishing to pursue studies in law, computer science, or mathematics.

This course may also be taken for Elective credit.

HUM 1212
**TOPICS IN ART HISTORY: CLASSICAL
MYTHOLOGY IN WESTERN ART**
Not offered in 2025-2026

This course is open to all SOR students.
Semester Course/ ½ Credit

This course will trace the use of classical mythology as a theme from ancient Greece through the revivals of the Renaissance and Neo-Classicism and up to the 20th Century. Emphasis will be placed on the purposes of using classical mythology as a theme and how that has changed over time.

This course may also be taken for Elective or Fine Arts credit.

HUM 1213 TOPICS IN ART HISTORY: THE IMPRESSIONISTS

This course is open to all SOR students.
Semester Course/ ½ Credit

This course examines the lives and art of the radical group of nineteenth-century French painters known as the Impressionists. We will learn about major artists like Monet, Manet, and Degas and how their work reflected modern life. We will also look closely at the women who were members of the group, including Cassatt and Morisot, and examine the Impressionists' influence on later artists, including Van Gogh and Gauguin. In addition, the painting techniques of the Impressionists will be explored through hands-on, art making activities.

This course may also be taken for Elective or Fine Arts credit.

**HUM 1215 INTRODUCTION TO THEATER ARTS: MONOLOGUE
AND PERFORMANCE SKILLS**

This course is open to all SOR students. Class size limit of 20 students; enrollment preference given to 3R and 4R scholars.

Semester Course/ ½ Credit

In this foundational course, scholars will gain skills to build better performances through the study of voice, movement, characterization, and evaluation of their own work. There will be performances and exercises, wherein scholars will practice memorization, effective use of space, and the art of timing.

This course may also be taken for Elective credit.

HUM 1216
BEGINNING FRENCH I
NEW for 2025-2026

Prerequisites: Open to students in 3R and above; minimum GPA of 3.25; students must have completed Intermediate Spanish B or receive permission from the instructor to enroll.
Year-Long/1 Credit

Parnassus polyglots now have the exciting opportunity to add another language to their repertoire: conversational French. This course is designed for the beginning French student who has experience studying another Romance language. Scholars begin their vocabulary and grammar studies and also begin work on their skills in the language competencies: listening and reading comprehension, writing, speaking, and presentation.

This course may also be taken for Elective credit.



“The object of education is to teach us love of beauty.”
- Plato

Fine Arts

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A classical education is grounded in the acquisition of languages of many types. Scholars at Parnassus are asked to master the language of literature and its many genres, the language of mathematics and sciences, English and classical languages of Latin and introductory knowledge of Greek, and they are also taught the language of music and art.

Throughout history, the visual and performing arts have been explored and used by cultures to communicate their ideals, triumphs, and challenges. As with other languages, the language of the arts also relies on certain rules, conventions, and vocabularies for its expression and communication to be effective. Artists and composers use and leverage different methods to express opinions, feelings, and statements.

The fine arts program at Parnassus includes offerings in music and visual arts following our classical program and historical periods as much as possible, celebrating multiple perspectives, and emphasizing the connectedness between the arts and other academic disciplines.

Music Courses

MUS 1020

BEGINNING CHORUS

This course is for First and Second Level Rhetoric Students.
Semester Course/ ½ Credit

This semester-equivalent course meets year-round on alternating days.

Parnassus Beginning Chorus is a non-auditioned course offered to all scholars in First to Second level Rhetoric. The core components of this course are a deeper exploration of healthy vocal technique, vocal changes, music theory and music history through the study of a wide variety of choral literature focusing on vocal development and ensemble singing. Scholars in Beginning Chorus will collaborate with scholars in Intermediate Chorus for concerts. Attendance is required at semester performances. Performances are a portion of the scholar's grade and take place after normal school hours.

MUS 1030

INTERMEDIATE CHORUS

Prerequisite: Open to scholars in 3R and above
Semester Course/ ½ Credit

This semester-equivalent course meets year-round on alternating days.

Parnassus Intermediate Chorus is a non-auditioned course, offered to all scholars in Third to Fourth Level Rhetoric. The core curriculum is an advanced exploration of healthy vocal technique, ensemble singing, music theory, and music history through the study of quality choral literature. Scholars in Intermediate Chorus will collaborate with scholars in Beginning Chorus for concerts. Attendance is required at semester performances. Performances are a portion of the scholar's grade and take place after normal school hours.

MUS 1040

ORCHESTRA

Open to all SOR students with experience in SOL Strings/Orchestra
Semester Course/ ½ Credit

This semester-equivalent course meets year-round on alternating days.

The study of music unlocks potential one often does not know one has. Through proper instruction and dedicated practice, all scholars are capable of learning an instrument to an advanced level. In addition to learning a variety of challenging repertoire, orchestra scholars will learn the fundamentals of proper technique, note reading, rhythm, and ensemble playing. Scholars who continue with this elective throughout the School of Rhetoric will also focus on the finer points of articulation and be introduced to advanced skills such as shifting and vibrato. The primary goals are for scholars to develop competence on their instrument and a love for learning music.

MUS 1018

BEGINNING RHETORIC BAND

This course is open to all SOR students who wish to participate in Band but who have not previously played an instrument.
Semester Course/ ½ Credit

This semester-equivalent course meets year-round on alternating days.

The Beginning Rhetoric Band course is a fundamentals performance-based course that offers scholars the opportunity to begin to learn a band instrument. The goal of the Beginning Rhetoric Band is to prepare scholars to join the Rhetoric Band, by teaching them the fundamentals of maintaining an instrument, reading and performing music, basic theory and practice.

MUS 1010

BAND

Open to all SOR students with experience in SOL Band
Semester Course/ ½ Credit

This semester-equivalent course meets year-round on alternating days.

The Rhetoric Band course is a performance-based course that offers scholars the opportunity to challenge their knowledge of music further and continue education on their individual instrument to a more advanced level. Practicing a musical instrument teaches focus and perseverance while training the mind and body. Students in the Parnassus Band will be well versed in the elements of music: pitch, rhythm, melody, harmony, and dynamics. Students will demonstrate the elements of music through performances, composition, and written work.

Visual Art Courses

The Parnassus visual art courses explore a variety of art forms and techniques that include drawing, painting, and printing-making methods while expanding on the techniques and principles of design learned in previous art courses. Students will build a portfolio of artwork that will showcase their talent through the development of personal style and voice.

A variety of visual concepts, methods, and techniques will be discussed while studying the history of great works of art.

All visual art courses are semester-equivalent courses that meet year-round on alternating days.

Each visual art course earns ½ credit of Fine Arts or Elective credit.

ART 1049 & 1050

DRAWING I & II

ART 1051 & 1052

PAINTING I & II

ART 1054

PRINTMAKING

Not offered in 2025-2026

This course covers a variety of processes for printmaking without a press and basic book making techniques. Authentic experiences in relief printing, intaglio, monoprinting, and book binding will be provided. Emphasis will be placed on the development and presentation of images.

ART 1055

ADVANCED DRAWING & PAINTING

This course is for the experienced art student wishing to further develop creative and technical skills in drawing and painting. Students will work with the instructor to design personal learning goals and projects while exploring new materials and techniques.



Health & Physical Education

The Roman poet Juvenal spoke of the importance of “*mens sana in corpore sano*,” or “a healthy mind in a healthy body.” Health and physical exercise are an essential part of well-being. Scholars at Parnassus are required to complete one half-credit of Health and one half-credit of Physical Education in order to graduate.

School of Rhetoric scholars are strongly encouraged to complete their Health and Physical Education requirements in their 1R year so that they may pursue additional elective course offerings in levels 2R and beyond.

HEALTH 11091

SOR scholars are required to take Health in their 1R year so that they are free to explore other course offerings in 2R and beyond.

Semester Course/ ½ Credit

Students are provided with a variety of health concepts and demonstrate their understanding of those concepts through problem solving. This course is completed online and offered through PLATO/Edmentum CourseWare.

Students who have shown a high level of academic discipline in the School of Logic may elect to take this course as an independent study, in which they complete the course modules at home. Students electing to take this course as an independent study must receive permission from the Principal and must arrange to take their end-of-unit tests at the school during lunch or SST under the supervision of a teacher.

HEALTH

PE 11092

SOR scholars are required to take Physical Education in their 1R year so that they are free to explore other course offerings in 2R and beyond.

Semester Course/ ½ Credit

This course integrates physical education with the study of the history and philosophy of physical education from the Greeks to the modern era. Students will explore a variety of sports and physical activities integrated with reading and discussions on the history and philosophy of physical education, as well as topics related of a healthy lifestyle, including heart rate, nutrition, and exercise.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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