

MARCH TERM



2025



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Important Dates:

August 27, 2024: March Term Course Fair for Students

September 5, 2024: Virtual travel course info session for families, 7:00 PM

September 18, 2024: Travel course application deadline

October 7, 2024: Travel course placements shared

October 11, 2024: March Term course selection form deadline

March 12 - 16, 2025: March Term 2025

March 26, 2025: March Term Exposition from 1:30 - 2:30 PM, parents welcome



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March Term: Immersive Experiential Education

"The curious thing about modern education is how far the learning process has been separated from first-hand experience of the subject learned about...the substitution of words for first hand experience often short circuits the human impulse to explore, understand, and master."

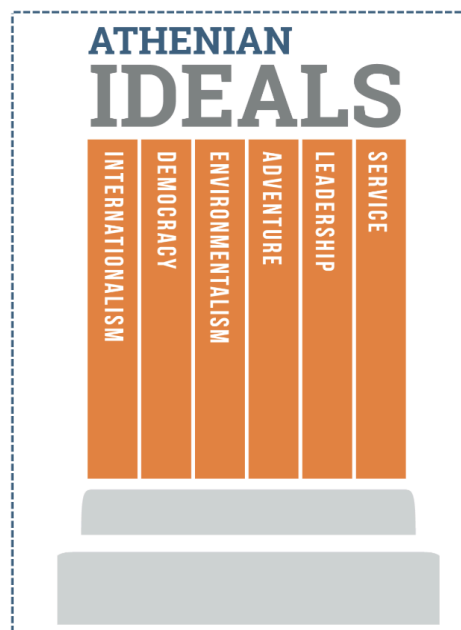
-Athenian Founder Dyke Brown, 1974

Educational research has shown time and again that the combination of concrete experiences, guided reflections, and student-centered application of new ideas and skills fosters increased student engagement, critical thinking and results in long-term learning outcomes. The principles of experiential education were central to the school's founding and Athenian faculty continue to incorporate them into their classrooms. March Term provides students and faculty a unique chance to go beyond what is possible within the bounds of the usual coursework and schedule, exploring interdisciplinary topics hands-on and in-depth.

Throughout March Term, students collaborate in learning alongside faculty and classmates. Faculty design courses to include Athenian's pillars or IDEALS. In addition to activities and reflection, students are challenged to apply their ideas and learning through projects. Most courses culminate with a final project or product, which are shared with the larger Athenian community during the March Term Expo. Full engagement and participation is necessary to capitalize on the opportunity a March Term course presents. Out of class work is intentionally minimal to support full engagement. Because students do not receive a letter grade for their March Term course, they tend to take more risks which can lead to incredible growth and the discovery of new interests.

For those wanting to learn more about the principles and value of experiential education, here are some resources:

- ["What is Experiential Education?"](#) from the Association for Experiential Education
- ["Experiential Learning"](#) from Northern Illinois University's Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
- ["Introduction to Experiential Learning"](#) from Northeastern University's Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning through Research
- ["It's in the Experience"](#) podcasts from the Association for Experiential Education



Attendance and Engagement

Although regular classes halt, March Term is an integral and graded part of Athenian's academic curriculum. Students are required to participate in their assigned March Term course, except for those participating in AWE Death Valley. [Upper School attendance policies](#) for absences and tardies apply during March Term. Because of the immersive nature of March Term, any student who misses more than two days will be in jeopardy of failing their course. Students, including seniors, should not schedule college visits or travel during this time.

Course Selection and Assignment

March Term creates a unique opportunity to build community across grade levels and friend groups. In most cases, courses will include mixed-grade level groups.

During course assignments, we do our best to honor one of your top five choices, but we cannot guarantee that students will be given their top choice. Factors that influence course assignment include:

- Program capacity: Each individual course can accommodate a specific number of students.
- Previous participation: Students may not participate in the same March Term course twice.
- Essay questions: Travel Course selection relies heavily on student engagement as shown through application responses.
- Grade level: Mixed-grade courses are a priority. Grade level seniority is taken into consideration while maintaining the opportunity to build community across grades.

Financial Considerations

The cost of most Bay Area courses is included in tuition. Courses that include multi-day travel—whether Bay Area or Travel Courses—have an additional cost listed in their course descriptions. The published price is our best estimation, though the final cost will depend on enrollment and actual trip expenses. These costs are inclusive of transportation, activities, accommodations and meals.

When applicable, billing for March Term courses will happen through MyAthenian accounts.

Financial Assistance

Students receiving financial aid may request financial assistance. Although funds are limited, we strive to support student access to Global Education through need-based assistance and are committed to providing support so that every student receiving financial aid can have one travel experience during their time at Athenian. The selection process for travel courses is completed separately from financial aid requests.

Once selected for a Travel Course, the business office will review and communicate financial aid requests and decisions. Families will have the opportunity to accept or decline their student's spot on the course

after they are notified of their support. In general, financial aid for travel is provided at the same percentage as a student's tuition support and students are only eligible for aid for one major trip while attending the Upper School.

Recommendations for Course Selections

March Term is a wonderful opportunity to try something totally new or pursue a passion that you don't have time for during the traditional academic schedule. We encourage you to think about the following when ranking your course selections:

- What do you want to learn or try?
 - Each course includes unique learning opportunities. Review the descriptions to find courses that provide new ways of thinking, new activities, or technical skills you would like to develop.
 - All courses are oriented towards the Athenian Pillars of Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership, and Service. Consider which areas you are most interested in honing and select courses that highlight those pillars.
- What are your limitations?
 - Potential limitations include scheduling, transportation, extracurricular activities, athletic schedules, health and wellness, etc.
 - Where appropriate, course descriptions include specific program needs like overnight travel, early or later hours, physical activities, and other considerations. Please review these prior to course selection.
 - Reach out to individual course instructors before course selection to enquire about any specific limitations or situations you have questions or concerns about.
- Expand your circle
 - March Term is a great opportunity to pursue something interesting or new to you. Students are encouraged to use this as an opportunity to get to know subjects, faculty, or students that they are less familiar with.

Course Selection Process

Bay Area Courses

Course Selection Survey Deadline: October 11, 2024

All Upper School students will be emailed a March Term Selection Form to complete on October 11, 2024. Prior to completing this form, students should review the course descriptions in this catalog and connect with faculty teaching courses they would like to know more about. Students are asked to rank five or more courses in order of preference.

All students, including those participating in Death Valley AWE or accepted into a travel course, should complete the Course Selection Form.

Travel Courses

[Travel Course application](#) *Deadline: September 18, 2024*

Travel Courses are opportunities for cultural immersion, developing global citizenship, networking with peers from different backgrounds, and improving language skills. Students on a travel course are expected to demonstrate a dedication to Athenian's mission and pillars, a readiness to connect with people from diverse cultures with empathy and understanding, a willingness to push outside of one's comfort zone, and the ability to adapt to new situations.

This year Athenian is offering seven Travel Courses for March Term, with three domestic and four international courses. Each course promises to be an amazing learning experience through a deep dive into a culture or topic.

The application and selection process for travel courses is slightly more involved than regular course selection. There is a [common application form](#) for all the March Term travel courses, and students may apply for more than one course. Students should provide a rationale of their interest for each course they are applying for. The quality of responses is a significant factor in the travel course selection process.

There will be a virtual information session about this year's travel courses for parents on Thursday, September 5 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. Here's the link to the [virtual info session](#) on Zoom. Meeting ID: 916 5713 2389. Passcode: 2100.

You may also reach out to leaders of individual courses if you want more information or have specific questions. If you have general questions about March Term travel courses, contact Athenian's Global Education Director, Mark Friedman, at mfriedman@athenian.org.

Commitment - The application represents a commitment on the part of the student to go on the trip if their application is accepted (unless also applying for financial aid). Applying for a travel course is a commitment to the entirety of the course, including any pre-travel or post-travel work. If you are on a spring sports team, committing to a travel course could affect your playing time, starting status, or position, as you will likely miss practices and games.

Parent or Guardian Approval - After you submit this application, Athenian will send an email to your parents / guardians with a link to a Google form for them to 1) confirm their approval of your applying, 2) upload a copy of your passport, if applying for an international course, and 3) request financial aid, if applying for aid.

Course Changes

Because of the dynamic nature of March Term, it is difficult to accommodate course changes as the number of students has a significant impact on faculty planning and coordination of field trips, transportation, classroom spaces and materials.

If changes are unavoidable, travel course assignment changes must be coordinated through the Global Education Director. Once a commitment to travel has been made, there are non-refundable costs associated with dropping a course. This should be taken into consideration when enrolling in a course.

For Bay Area courses, students will be given access to a Course Change Request Form when course assignments are shared. The deadline to complete this form is Friday, January 10, 2025. The Dean of Experiential Education will communicate the status of requests in late January. Because of course capacity and logistics, students may be unable to change into the course they are requesting. Students will be able to request waitlist placement for one Bay Area course after course changes are considered. After January 10, course changes need documented extenuating circumstances.

March Term 2025 Courses

Bay Area Courses

[A-Town Studios: Songwriting & Recording](#)
[Community Engagement Internships](#)
[Creative Practice: Poetry, Art, and the World Around Us](#)
[Cultivating Joy Through Service](#)
[Exercise Science](#)
[Flour Power: The Art of Bread & Crafts](#)
[Game On: Tabletop Games](#)
[Get Lost](#)
[Grow Up!](#)
[Multicultural India](#)
[Oakland: History, Art, & Culture](#)
[Peak2Peak](#)
[The Recycled Theatre Project](#)
[The Shirt on Your Back](#)
[Urban Farms: Filmmaking for Change](#)

Travel Courses

[Greece: Democracy & Migration](#)
[France: Language and Cultural Immersion](#)
[Roatan: Coral Reef Conservation and Scuba Diving](#)
[South Korea: Itadakimasu on the Road](#)
[New Orleans: Rhythm & Resistance: Teachings on Social Justice](#)
[Santa Fe and the American Story: A View from the West](#)
[The Great American Pastime: MLB Stats, History, and Preseason](#)

Bay Area Courses

A-Town Studios: Songwriting & Recording

Ken Berman & Kristina Merschat

Students will participate in small workshops in composition, songwriting, and arranging. Students will compose a number of original pieces of music for an album that they will then record in our own A-Town Studio. In small group sessions, we'll learn the basics of music theory, songwriting and arranging, and basic music analysis skills. We'll also learn how to mix and record our own music at A-Town Studios. Field trips could include visiting a professional studio, connecting with industry professionals, or seeing live performances. We are looking for lyricists, singer/songwriters, and backing musicians. By the end of the course, students will be able to share their original work with the Athenian community through performance and more broadly on SoundCloud. This is a great opportunity to dive into and workshop collaboratively!

Community Engagement Internships

Laura Ellis, Peter Bonfanti, Rostislav Smirnov, & Sana Shukairy

The Community Engagement Internship Program allows students to pursue something they are passionate about in a real-world setting. Through an independently-organized internship with a nonprofit organization, government agency, or community group, students can gain valuable work experience, apply classroom learning, explore possible career interests, develop connections with adults who can serve as mentors, and build their resume. Please review the [Community Engagement Internship Program Description and Checklist](#) for more information and deadlines.

There is an early acceptance option available for those looking to do an internship outside of the Bay Area. Please review the program description for more details.

Creative Practice: Poetry, Art, and the World Around Us

Adam Thorman & Alex Mattraw

The root of the word “poem” comes from the Ancient Greek verb— “to make,” but what does it mean to be a practicing poet and artist? This course will explore how artists and poets enact creative practices when making their work. For most serious writers and artists, making work is a daily, all-encompassing endeavor that includes not only the act of creating, but also reading, conversing with others, quiet observation, and deep listening. The production of material requires a maker to sharpen their sensory faculties— to observe what is, to imagine what could be, and to interpret what *that* could mean. We will alternate days on campus and days out exploring and finding inspiration from time spent in the Bay Area. Locations will likely include a rocky beach on the California coast, a redwood forest hike, a neighborhood

and museum in San Francisco, and Rock City on Mount Diablo. We will talk about the connection between making poems and making art, and we will be doing both in this class. Each week, students will also have the opportunity to meet and discuss the work of local published poets and artists who will share why and how they make their work. Throughout the course, students will keep a journal in which they will record their observations, sketches, and reflections, with the aim of completing at least one polished poem and work of art that we will collectively celebrate through a culminating public gallery/reading.

Cultivating Joy Through Service

Jamie Julin & Leslie Cushner

Service is joy! We will be immersing ourselves in service and reflecting on the true nature of service as a reciprocal relationship between equals. We will step out of our comfort zones and connect with communities outside of Athenian, making a difference every day and cultivating joy through our work. Most days, we will be working with different organizations in the Bay Area. When on campus, we will have time to learn and reflect on how service benefits everyone. Join us to see how this work will give you a sense of joy and fulfillment!

Special Considerations:

Course days are scheduled around host organization needs. Some days will start and end earlier than the typical March Term schedule. Other days may start and end later than the March Term schedule. Specific dates and times will be shared prior to March Term.

Exercise Science

Darek Cliff, Kathy Papastephanou, & Zach Holt

Are you interested in learning more about the physiology of exercise? How does the human body respond to it? What's the best way to get stronger, faster, or recover after a tough workout?

This course investigates the anatomy and physiology of exercise and its effects on the human body. Students will learn about the body systems that are involved in exercise and explore various forms of exercise, such as strength training, yoga, HIIT, and CrossFit, to name a few. We will also examine how the body responds to exercise, such as how muscles get stronger and how cardiovascular capacity increases, as well as how the body recovers after exercise – and students will have the opportunity to try recovery methods such as cryotherapy. Students will have the chance to analyze best practices that are trending in the world of exercise science and decide what works best for them and their bodies.

Most days will include a workout relating to the topics being covered in the course that day. Being a strong athlete is NOT a requirement – students of ALL fitness levels and abilities are encouraged to sign

up. Students signing up for this class should expect to show up with a good attitude, use their bodies every day, and do their best!

Flour Power: The Art of Bread & Crafts

Britt Schlaeguada, Hannah Sugarman, & JeeYeun Kim

Come join a crew of crafty bread enthusiasts while learning about the history of breads, the cultural importance of breads, and of course making and EATING delicious breads from around the world! Each day we will focus on baking a unique bread **and** completing a craft project related to baking, bread, or kitchen tools. This course will also feature Bay Area field trips to learn about bread from local professional bakers and taste breads from different cultural traditions. Join Britt, Hannah, and JeeYeun on an edible, intellectual, and exciting adventure through the ages and stages of bread!

Special Considerations:

This course is not recommended for those who cannot or choose not to eat gluten or bread.

Game On: Tabletop Games

Rachel Phillips & Sawyer Thompson

What makes something a game? What makes a game compelling? And, the mystery that this class is ultimately hoping to unlock: how do you make a compelling game that people will want to play?

This class is all about games: where they come from, why we love them, and how they are developed. We will look at a wide array of tabletop games to explore themes for what makes games so darn fun to play. From Monopoly to Exploding Kittens to Terraforming Mars, we'll explore the full range of possibilities, refamiliarizing ourselves with old favorites and exposing ourselves to the wide range of mechanics, formats, and complexities modern board games have to offer.

The bulk of this class will focus on designing, testing, and making your own game, with your own rule set and your own aesthetic. Utilizing the resources of the CIS, you will produce a polished and well-tested tabletop board game that you can play with your family and friends.

In addition to playing, deconstructing, and building games, we will also look at the societal impacts of games. For example, who are games made for? How can we make games more inclusive? And also, why can games be so addictive, and how can we have more balanced relationships with games?

Get Lost

Maria Luca & Lea Hartog

Where have you been? Where are you going? How are you getting there? An individual's life is defined

by the paths one takes, chosen and unchosen. In this interdisciplinary March Term, we will examine how people throughout history have created trails to navigate a variety of environments and meet a diversity of goals. We will examine bird migration patterns, salmon spawns, deer paths, and other animal-created routes. Additionally, we will explore the meditative aspects of trails by reading memoirs and reflecting on our experiences visiting nearby labyrinths. During the second week of our course, we will spend two nights camping to hone our navigation skills by using maps and compasses as well as conduct trail maintenance to support our parks. Students should be prepared to spend a lot of time outside, do moderate hikes, get pumped about camping, and be open to new adventures outdoors.

Special Considerations:

This course includes a two-night camping trip anticipated for Wednesday, March 19-Friday March 21, 2025. Students will participate in outdoor adventure activities.

Grow Up!

Emily Welch & Howard Kaplan

Ever wondered how to stop a bleeding wound, nail a job interview, or survive on your own cooking? Curious about how to make your car stop making that weird noise or how to wash your prom dress?

Welcome to Grow Up, the class that tackles essential skills not usually covered in high school! From budgeting like a pro and preparing your taxes, to mending clothes, navigating public transport, and mastering table manners, we've got you covered. You'll even learn the art of auto maintenance and get to move to the rhythm with some basic dance steps!

With the help of a diverse group of knowledgeable adults from the Athenian community and beyond, we will set you up to conquer the challenges of adulthood. So, whether you're preparing to apply for that summer job or just want to impress your friends with a home-cooked meal, this class is your ultimate guide to being a capable adult, ready to tackle the real world with confidence—one skill at a time!

Multicultural India

Urmila Padmanabhan, Catherine Lu, & Elizabeth Jurado

Modern India is one of the most diverse countries in the world: a subcontinental home to over 100 languages, over 700 different tribes and every major religion in the world. India's diversity is reflected in its religions, ethnicities, and customs across a population of 1.4 billion people. This course will expose students to the different cultures that call the subcontinent of India home. We will spend our days in a variety of activities cooking and tasting dishes from the various cuisines of India, learning music and dance forms from the various regions, researching the myriad festivals and even experiencing a Holi celebration locally. We will shop in local Indian stores, investigate the different clothing & cultural traditions as well as briefly look at 5000 years of Indian history. Our final project will be researching the

various travel destinations in India and using that to design a travel brochure for a future March Term trip to India.

Oakland: History, Art, & Culture

Stephanie McGraw, Trish Ludovici, Emily Raymundo

Oakland, Oak-Town, the Town - these are just a few of the ways Oaklanders lovingly refer to their city. One of the most diverse cities in the United States, Oakland is known for many things: its history of activism, its thriving art scene, its stunning bay views, and its perfect Mediterranean weather.

In this course, we will peel back the many layers of Oakland's history and culture through a deep dive into its diverse neighborhoods. We start our course up in the Oakland Hills with an overnight camping trip among California's majestic redwoods at Redwood Regional Park. We then journey to different neighborhoods each day as we explore Oakland on foot, by train, by boat, and possibly even by bike! We won't just be touring through Oakland, however; we will immerse ourselves within and "experience" the city - from making art together, to working at an urban farm, to paddle boating in Lake Merritt—the nation's oldest designated wildlife refuge, to dining in some of Oakland's most famously delicious restaurants. We will learn about the long history of activism within Oakland along the way, helping us contextualize the town we see today.

Students will synthesize their learning through collaborative art projects about Oakland, which we will sell as a fundraiser for an Oakland nonprofit chosen by the class.

Special Considerations:

- This course includes an overnight camping trip at Redwood Regional Park, likely on Thursday March 13 or Friday, March 14, 2025.
- There is an optional pre-March Term experience at Oakland's [First Fridays Art Murmur](#) on Friday, March 7, 2025.

Peak2Peak

Mark Lukach & Rose Stoloff

Peak2Peak is a local adventure course which challenges students to explore familiar surroundings in a unique way. At its essence, the course is a six-day expedition that starts at Athenian and takes students to the two most iconic peaks in the Bay Area: Mt Diablo and Mt Tamalpais. Students will design the route of the trip, with straightforward parameters: you need to make the journey without cars and without phones.

Peak2Peak will challenge students physically as well as intellectually and aesthetically. We will slowly walk through areas which we usually speed through in cars without the distraction that phones offer.

This intentional opportunity will be our entry into the science and philosophy of attention: the awareness of, and choice in, what we think about. Throughout the course we will study this as we read from thinkers who have celebrated walking as a means of meditation. And finally, the course will enrich your appreciation of the Bay Area, both through reading about it, and also navigating the public infrastructure. Beyond these abstract concepts, students will learn skills in journaling, navigation, planning, and budgeting.

If you're into maps, urban exploration and planning, the outdoors, mindfulness, or just want a break from your phone for a week, this course is for you.

Special Considerations:

Travel Dates: March 16-21, 2025

Course Cost: \$500

Students will participate in outdoor adventure activities and need to be able to walk uneven terrain and carry a backpacking pack.

The Recycled Theatre Project

Mae Mironer, Annie Potter, & Megan Leich

Have you ever wanted to create your own production from start to finish? Curious about how to decrease the environmental impact of putting on a show? In this course, you'll take a deep dive into all aspects of production, from selecting, adapting or writing a show to costume, set and prop design, all through a sustainability lens. You'll learn about play writing methods and put those methods into practice through writing, acting, and designing a show together. You will have the opportunity to try out a variety of roles in theatre such as: dramaturg, playwright, actor, designer, technician, and director—all while using your given surroundings to build a brand new work to share with the community! The show will be performed during the March Term.

The Shirt on Your Back

Becky Cebula & Kathleen Letellier

Picture your favorite shirt - What makes it your favorite? Where did it come from? What is it made of? How was it made? What color is it and why? Who made it? What will happen to it when you don't wear it anymore?

This March Term will explore all of this and more through the study of textiles. We'll start with the properties of different fiber types and the implications those properties have on the final textile. We'll look at how those fibers are spun and assembled into yarn/thread, how that yarn/thread is made into fabric, and how that fabric is further processed (printed or dyed) to create the textiles that are then used to create the clothes we wear. We'll be hands-on - spinning fiber into yarn, creating fabric by knitting and

weaving, dyeing and printing fabric using dyes like indigo and learning different resist techniques like batik and shibori, and using onion skins and other plants to create different patterns on fabric. We'll then use the fabric we created to make a pair of pajama shorts or pants. Along the way, we'll explore the impacts of each of these steps on the environment and other people, including the global impacts of textile and clothing manufacturing, fast fashion and take-back textile recycling programs. Someone has to sew the clothes you buy - who was it and why were they the people involved? Why are most of the clothes sold worldwide manufactured in places like China and Vietnam? What steps can each of us take to minimize the environmental impacts of what we choose to wear? If any of these questions interest you, come join us to learn more about the shirt on your back!

Our field trips will likely include: visiting a local farm that produces alpaca and wool, a trip to Point Reyes to participate in a workshop or two on using plants and natural resources to dye fabric, and a potential trip to a manufacturing or recycling plant.

Special Considerations:

This course may include an overnight during the week of March 17.

Urban Farms: Filmmaking for Change

Molly Gowen & Peter Tamaribuchi

Immerse yourself in the world of urban agriculture this March Term! This experiential class will combine the art of filmmaking with the hands-on process of urban farming. In this course we'll connect with real urban farming organizations, gaining firsthand knowledge of their work, the roots of the movement, and their positive impact on communities. From increased access to fresh food to fostering a sense of connection, we'll explore the multifaceted benefits of urban agriculture. At the same time, we will be working on the fundamentals of documentary filmmaking so that our group will produce a compelling short documentary about the urban farming experience and movement. This collaborative project will allow students to showcase the urban farming movement and the inspiring work of the organizations we encounter, sharing these stories with a wider audience. Novices in farming, environmental advocacy, and filmmaking are welcome!

Travel Courses

As noted previously, the courses below require students to submit their completed [Travel Course application](#) by September 18, 2024.

Greece: Democracy & Migration

Mark Friedman & Meadow Davis



Greece is located at a crossroads between continents. The country's identity as the center of Western civilization, coupled with its geographic position at the edge of Europe and the European Union, makes it a dynamic place to investigate the origins of democracy and learn about global migration.

From past periods of forced relocation to more recent refugee crises, Greeks have responded to new waves of migrants and shifting cultural influences many times over. Traveling there, we'll have the chance to meet with organizations working on the frontlines of refugee response, historians who can lend a deeper perspective on classical Athens and current patterns of migration, and everyday people with unique outlooks on how their communities have been impacted by migration and the factors that drive it. We'll have local guides with us throughout the trip.

- Visit the Acropolis, the Acropolis Museum & the Agora to get a sense of life in the ancient city.
- Investigate modern Athens exploring street art, key political sites (such as Syntagma Square) and dynamic neighborhoods (such as The Plaka, Psyrri and Exarchia).
- Visit 3 different NGOs in Athens, learning how people are coming together to provide support and resources for displaced communities.
- Travel to the island of Lesbos. Meet with staff from an NGO to learn about their work. Visit the original Stage 1 site where migrants would often first arrive.
- Talk with refugees & volunteers and hear about their experiences. Walk the grounds of Moria refugee camp with a former resident.
- Connect with locals in the town of Skala Sikamineas and learn about the transformation in the community and their Nobel Peace Prize nomination.
- Visit one of the old monasteries of Lesbos to get a different perspective on the island.
- Travel to Nafplio and Epidauros. Visit the ancient theater of Epidauros. Visit the Acropolis of



Nafplio. Admire the Baroque architecture of the Palamidi Castle.

- At the end of the trip, work with a local artist in Athens to make our own works of art inspired by our experiences together.

Special Considerations:

Projected Travel Dates: March 14 to 24

Projected Cost: \$5,800

- Students in the course will hold a fundraising walk to support some of the NGOs we will be visiting in Greece. Students are expected to read one book about Greece and/or immigration in Europe prior to departure.

France: Language and Cultural Immersion

Severine Morris & Robert Nelson



France is a country with a diverse history and regional variation; as Charles de Gaulle once quipped, a land of 246 cheeses is impossibly complex. On this immersive language and culture program, students will visit four cities with distinct identities and histories. They will stay with locals in two homestays, gaining unique insights into daily life in these communities.

A key focus of this course is language acquisition. During this two-week voyage, students will enhance their language skills through immersion, learn about French culture, and connect with local students, families, and artisans. For students with a lower level of French, the trip provides a valuable opportunity to learn in a real-world context, navigating daily interactions and seeing tangible progress. Advanced students will refine their skills, engage in complex conversations, and may serve as language ambassadors within their group. Finally, students will bring their experience home. Through reflection and discussion, students will think about how to integrate the language and cultural learning into their daily lives. By engaging with the language in authentic settings and diverse communities, students of all proficiency levels will come away with enriched language skills and a deeper appreciation of French culture, ready to apply their newfound knowledge in both their academic and personal lives.

Program Itinerary

Quimper: Exchange with Le Likès High School

- Stay with a French student from Le Likès School and attend the school with your host.
- Excursions include historic sites like Lorient, Pays Bigouden, and Concarneau, offering students a first-hand experience with the unique regional identity of Brittany.

- Learn about Breton culture through a Breton dance initiation session, a sampling of the local cuisine, and cultural visits to cathedrals, museums, and beaches.

Paris Exploration:

- Explore the historic Montmartre neighborhood, including the Sacre-Coeur basilica, the Musée du Montmartre, and the tomb of Degas in the Cimetière de Montmartre. From the top of the Montparnasse tower, gaze upon Paris' labyrinth topography of winding, medieval streets and big, modern boulevards to get a sense of the unique neighborhoods and socio-political divisions of this global city.
- Visit the Louvre museum and learn about their collections in a docent-led tour of some of the Louvre's most famous holdings.
- Visit the Arc de Triomphe at the Place de l'Étoile, the Eiffel Tower and the Champs de Mars.
- Sample Paris' famous culinary collection and have the chance to take home some sweets from one of Paris' award-winning *chocolatiers*.



Aix-en-Provence: The IS School

- Stay with a homestay family, engaging in language-learning and cultural activities.
- Take guided tours of Aix-en-Provence. Visit historical sites and local markets to get insight into Provençal heritage and gastronomy. Activities may include a baking workshop, a visit to a food co-op and a goat cheese farm.
- Travel to Marseille to study the city's multicultural identity and rich history with visits to the Panier neighborhood and Notre Dame de la Garde basilica.
- Reflect and discuss complex historical and environmental issues. Participate in a half-day service project, cleaning up at the Calanques—a natural park on the Mediterranean coast known for its beautiful yet fragile ecosystem. Visit Camp des Milles, a former internment camp from World War II.

Special Considerations:

Travel Dates: March 13 to 27—Note that this trip returns on the first full day of Spring Break.

Projected cost : \$5,400-5,600 per student

Special Considerations

- This trip is open to all learners of French of all levels, previously or currently enrolled in a French class. Students will be given a crash-course in French history and culture to build on their understanding from their language and history courses at Athenian. Students may be asked to read a book that will help form the basis for discussion.
- We will be participating in a cultural exchange with English-learning French students from the [Likès School](#). Athenian students selected for this travel course are expected to host a French student from the Likès School during their visit to Athenian from April 23 to 28, 2025.

Roatan: Coral Reef Conservation and Scuba Diving

Bruce Hamren & Dave Otten

Come join us in our underwater classroom where you will be introduced to the amazing Caribbean marine ecosystem, become part of it, learn how it works, and how to take action in reviving and protecting this important resource. For this trip, we're continuing our partnership with Whalefall, a nonprofit that connects students to climate action through project-based learning.

We'll have a few days on campus exploring the physics of diving, marine biology, and the basics of coral reef restoration. Then it's off to Roatan, Honduras to learn how to breathe underwater! You'll get comfortable with your new scuba equipment in the warm shallow waters of an island sanctuary while learning how to do underwater science. Then it's out into the deeper blue to put your new skills and knowledge to work.



We'll spend seven days in the Caribbean Sea restoring damaged coral reefs, collecting indicator and invasive species data, learning about and exploring marine ecosystems and remote sensing of oceanographic information, developing your diving skills, and exploring this diverse island. Oh, and you also get to hug a sloth. At the end of the course, you'll have earned your Open Water Diver, Research Diver, Coral Reef Restoration, and any other advanced SDI certifications you achieve, all of which will qualify you to join us on future Whalefall dive expeditions.

Course elements and highlights:

- Open Water Scuba and Marine Survey Scientist Certifications
- Two separate tracks for non-divers and previously certified divers
- Learn to conduct and report coral reef fish surveys
- Introduction to coral reef ecology
- Introduction on impact of scuba diving on human physiology
- Coral reef restoration
- Advanced diving skills
- Working with local youth to learn diving skills together
- Optional Nitrox diver course
- Advanced diver track for those who already have experience
- Island tour including sloth and monkey wildlife sanctuary visit

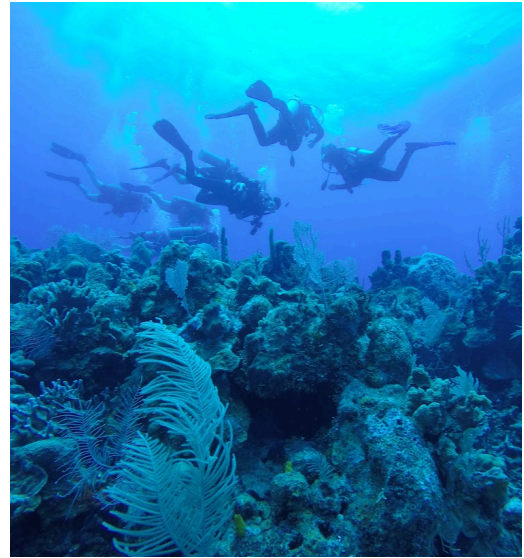
Check out the [Whalefall Athenian](#) site for trip details and updates. Hope to see you in the deep blue!

Special Considerations:

Travel Dates: March 15 to 23

Projected Cost: \$7,950

- Students will be required to complete dive certification online coursework before the trip (about 8 hours total). The Open Water and Research Diver certifications are included in the cost of the trip.
- Students will need to purchase their own basic dive equipment unless they already own these items. Proper equipment and discounted student packages will be discussed during a family orientation session. All other dive equipment will be provided.



South Korea: Itadakimasu on the Road

Michelle Park, Stephanie Kim, & Kimiko Sera-Tacorda



Itadakimasu (a Japanese phrase that means, “I gratefully receive this food,” said before partaking in a meal) is the name of an Athenian March Term course that teaches the culture behind why we eat what we eat. We explore aspects of culture including history, religion, languages, and community traditions while

learning culinary skills and trying various cuisines. This experiential course connects with Athenian’s international/multicultural understanding pillar and introduces students to the diverse cultural traditions and practices that exist in our world.

We are thrilled to take Itadakimasu on the road to South Korea! Whether you are a history buff, a pop culture fan, a techie, a budding economist, an art and aesthetics aficionado, a foodie, or all of the above, you are sure to learn why South Korea should be on the radar of every global citizen today. On this trip students will experience the joys and lessons of cultural immersion through Korea’s rich culinary traditions. We will travel through several cities including Seoul, Busan, Gyeongju and Incheon, exploring the bountiful food culture of the peninsula. We will engage in unique opportunities that include an overnight stay at a temple to learn from a monk about farm to table temple food, a visit to a Korean school, service work on a local farm, and clam-digging (and eating!) by the sea.

We are partnering with RealAsia, a premier educational travel services organization specializing in trips to Asia and North America since 2005. An experienced local guide will accompany us throughout our trip. This custom program offers students a comprehensive view of the heart of Korea and the rich history, culture, and modern trends that make up its culinary world. The itinerary features exploring iconic palaces, temples, markets, farms, and the seaside through hands-on educational activities and experiences that deepen students' understanding of the country and its cultural practices.



Students will learn from food experts and everyday people how to shop for, prepare, eat, serve, and appreciate Korean food. The food and cooking experiences will be a jumping-off point to learn about other aspects of Korean culture like history, business, music, visual arts, dance, pottery, and architecture. A farming service project will help students reflect on how food traditions shape us no matter where we come from. Finally, participants will consider how they can build on the experiences of this trip when they return to Athenian. Join us to learn how global citizenship can be active, connecting, reflective, joyous, and delicious!

Trip highlights:



- Visit to Gyeongbokgung Palace while wearing hanbok (traditional Korean dress)
- Experience Gwangjang market, Dongdaemun gate and plaza
- Visit Bukchon Hanok Village
- Korean cooking comedy show, “Nanta”
- Picnic along the Han River
- Myeongdong street food scavenger hunt
- Seaside clam dig and Jagalchi fish market in Busan
- Overnight temple stay to learn about monk life, food and Buddhist traditions
- A visit to trendy CU Ramyun Library to create a bowl of noodles and engage in a Mokbang activity, just like popular internet celebrities
- Local school visit/lunch with Korean students
- Workshops in making kimchi, gochujang, sweet rice drink (shik-hye), rice cake (tteok)
- Classes in food as medicine, chopstick-making, and tea ceremony

Special Considerations:

Travel Dates: March 13-25, 2025

Projected Cost: \$6,700 to \$7,300

- For those with dietary restrictions, please note that while we will do our best to make accommodations, trip leaders and guides will not always be able to know all ingredients or how food was prepared.
- Beginning in January, students will attend weekly group meetings to prepare for the trip, learning about Korean culture and customs. This will also give our group the opportunity to get to know each other before we embark on our adventure.

New Orleans: Rhythm & Resistance: Teachings on Social Justice

Victoria Akinsanya & April Smock

“The freedom songs are playing a strong and vital role in our struggle. They give people new courage and a sense of unity. I think they keep alive a faith, a radiant hope in the future, particularly in our most trying hours.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1962



The struggle for equality and human dignity sparked by American resistance movements began as a result of tragic historical events, and gathered strength from inspirational “freedom” songs. This music, which traces its roots to the spirituals and work songs used by the African-American communities of the deep south, played a central role in inspiring liberation movements throughout the US and the globe.

By combining a passion for social justice & the music that inspired the longest liberation movement in US history, this March Term is designed to offer students first-hand experience exploring the culturally rich city of New Orleans and immersing themselves in the music that inspired a revolution.

On this 7-day journey, students will learn the power of resistance and the role music plays in pushing forward social change. Led by local experts, students will explore major sites, enjoy live music at historic venues and build community through shared meals & reflection.

When we return to campus students will work independently or in collaboration to write and perform music based on their reflections of the experience.

On this trip students will....

- Take a Hidden History Tour of the city of New Orleans, a city built by 50 different African nations over 300 years.
- Attend a concert at Preservation Hall, originally built in 1750 and created as a sanctuary to protect & honor New Orleans jazz.

- Visit the Backstreet Cultural Museum that houses the world's most comprehensive collection of New Orleans' African American community-based masking and processional traditions, including Mardi Gras Indians and jazz funerals.
- Visit Treme's Petit Jazz Museum to explore the rich history of New Orleans music.
- Visit Studio BE, a 36,000- square foot gallery established by New Orleans artist Brandan BMike Odums for the work of local artists emerging from the culture of the city.
- Take a Singing is Praying Walking Tour in the Treme, the oldest African-American neighborhood in the nation and Congo Square in Armstrong Park, an open space where the enslaved and free people of color gathered throughout the 19th century for meetings, open markets, and the African dance and drumming celebrations that played a substantial role in the development of jazz. Local voodoo practitioners still consider Congo Square a spiritual base and gather at the Square for rituals.
- Visit Whitney Plantation, the only former plantation site in Louisiana with an exclusive focus on slavery. Generations of Africans and their descendants were enslaved here to establish and maintain indigo, rice, and sugar crops.
- Attend a rehearsal of Shades of Praise, a choir nominated for the Big Easy Award for Best Gospel Choir and known for its joyous, high-energy, contemporary gospel sound. *Shades of Praise* performs at numerous venues in the city, including singing at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.
- Go bowling & see live Zydeco music at the Rock'n'Bowl.
- Enjoy the taste of New Orleans fare by taking Creole cooking class at the Deelightful Roux School of Cooking, the only African American-owned cooking school taught by a New Orleans native.



Special Considerations:

Travel Dates: March 15-21, 2025

Projected Cost: \$2,800

Santa Fe and the American Story: A View from the West

Rebecca Lee, Sally Baker, & Marty Rubio

American history is a story: a narrative continually written and rewritten, revised as political and social dynamics change. The American story is often told through the eyes of European Americans from the East Coast. This course offers a fresh way to understand American History by exploring the history,



literature, art, and culture of the peoples who have lived in the West, including indigenous groups and Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo-American settlers. We'll travel to Santa Fe, New Mexico, a rich cultural crossroads, to examine how indigenous, Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo-American cultures interacted to shape modern Western identities. Along the way, you'll consider, and perhaps even redefine, your own place in the American story -- whatever your personal connection to America and American identity.

On campus before our trip, we'll read an array of texts, including work by indigenous, Latinx, and Anglo-American writers, and excerpts from history textbooks published over the past 100 years. Visual art by Georgia O'Keeffe, Edward S. Curtis, Nikesha Breeze, Maynard Dixon and Matika Wilbur will help us examine different perspectives and understandings of place. You'll spend much of your on-campus time creating art, working in ceramics, watercolor, and other media, and developing short pieces of creative writing.

Destinations in Santa Fe include:

- The Coronado Historic Site, site of first contact between Spanish explorers and indigenous Kuaua people in 1540;
- The Bandelier National Monument, comprised of pueblo structures built before the arrival of Europeans;
- The Museum of International Folk Art;
- El Rancho de los Golondrinas, a historic waystation for traders traveling between Mexico City and Santa Fe;
- The Los Alamos Museum, on the site of the Los Alamos National Laboratory;
- A picnic in the Sangre de Cristo mountains; and
- The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

After we return to campus, you will create and exhibit a final project reflecting on your experience in the course, making connections between history, literature and art, and offering new accounts of the American story.

Students can expect to spend lots of time outside in beautiful surroundings--writing, reflecting, and making art.

Special Considerations:

Travel Dates: March 16-20, 2025

Projected Cost: \$1,750

The Great American Pastime: MLB Stats, History, and Preseason

Beth Lowe, Matt Stewart, & Gabe Del Real



Dive into America's pastime with this exciting March Term course, perfect for baseball enthusiasts and curious newcomers alike. We will trace the evolution of baseball from its roots in rounders to the modern game we know today. In addition, we will work to master the art of scorekeeping, allowing you to track every play with precision and then

play simulated games against other fantasy owners. This week will include a tour of Oracle Park, home of the San Francisco Giants. We will fly to Phoenix where we will attend multiple baseball games and hike Scottsdale to learn about its unique landscape. After our return to campus, we will work on final projects and plan to attend either a St. Mary's women's softball game or a men's baseball game.

What you'll experience:

- Baseball deep dive including its rich history, game details and strategies, & fascinating statistics and analytics
- Arizona road trip with Spring Training games, stunning landscapes, and hiking adventures
- Hands-on learning as you score a real game, analyze baseball films such as *Moneyball* or *A League of Their Own*

Special Considerations

Travel Dates: March 17-20, 2025

Projected Cost: \$1,825

