



OWjL On-Line Enrichment Program

This is the “Course Catalog” for this summer’s on-line program. (During our residential program, we offer more than 200 different classes over three weeks of camp.) Our teachers are bringing the same level of challenge and enrichment that you experience in their face-to-face summer classes to an on-line format. In our classes, you will meet each weekday for 75 minutes with the teacher and other students. Classes will be interactive, collaborative, and full of rich experiences and discussions. Some classes will require standard supplies you probably have at home. Other classes might require special supplies that we will mail to you before your class begins. We know you will find something that piques your interest. Feel free to sign up for any classes you like.

** The following course descriptions are written for in-person classes.
Teachers may provide the same content and information through different instructional strategies when moving to an on-line format.*

39 Clues

Based on the popular series of books created by Rick Riordan, there is a secret lurking on the campus of Ohio Wesleyan University. Scattered throughout the campus are a series of 39 clues, that when put together will unlock a mystery. Students will compete in the teams of the Ekaterina, Janus, Lucian, and Tomas clans. Each day these groups will search a different area looking for clues. These clues are in code so they must then solve the riddle in order to discover the clue. Once all 39 clues are put together, they will reveal a profound wisdom. (If you have taken this class in the past, there are all new clues for this year.) Instructor – Stanley

A Whole New World

Have you ever read a fantasy story in which you were so engaged that you felt that you were a part of the story? Have you wondered what it would be like to live in the setting the story took place? Come study the different fantastical elements that go into the fantasy genre as a whole as well as elements that go into each fantasy setting. After being equipped with the different components, you will have the opportunity to create a whole new world of your own. Instructor – Dugal

Advanced Dungeons and Dragons

You love playing Dungeons and Dragons...now you want to run your own game for your friends. If you are familiar with the rules of the game and have played as a character, this will take you to the next level. Create your own world, town, or dungeon. Populate it with interesting characters, frightening monsters, and dangerous traps. Place adventurers in frightening situations, play the characters they encounter, fight as the monsters trying to kill them, and describe everything that happens. We will examine writing adventures, populating it with interesting NPCs, creating challenging encounters, and keeping your adventurers engaged and entertained. We will study the processes and rules of running a game, create your own encounter, and practice running that encounter. Sign up and learn how to take your friends on the adventure of a lifetime! (There is an intro course available for new players. See below.) Instructor – Waselko

Adventures in Leadership

In this online course, you are the leader! Whether you are already a leader, or are ready to take the helm, this is the class for you! Are you on student council, a team captain, entrepreneur, or have ideas you want to share? Not only will you learn keys to effective leadership, but you will learn games and team challenges to do with your friends and family right there at home! You're in charge as Chet teaches you active challenges to practice your leadership skills. How do you become the leader of a group? How do you communicate, plan, prioritize and problem solve to be effective? I'm putting you in charge and challenging you to lead others right there with real challenges and problems to solve. Way more than a lecture series, this is a hands-on chance to step up and take the lead. Chet Snouffer is the owner of the Jungle Gym Adventure Center and has been teaching this popular course for OWJL for over 15 years! Sign up now to learn how to take charge and lead your team to success!

Instructor – Snouffer

American Sign Language

In about 6 hours, we cannot become fluent in ASL, but we can learn about a language, its culture and people. It's a visual language and much of it comes from the right hemisphere of the brain. The challenging part is listening/talking visually from our right hemispheres (artists have an advantage here). So all this movement begins to create linguistic structure in the right hemisphere of our brains, extending the usable space in our brains. We will discuss this diversity and how it impacts cultural interactions. We will watch the work of Deaf artists and hopefully will have a deaf/blind visitor. If you are taking the course to communicate with someone specific, let me know ahead of time so I can weave in that vocabulary. It's good to be ready in case you meet Nyle DiMarco.

Instructor - Kolb

App Development

Have you ever thought, this app could be better? Or, I wish there was an app for that? Well the time is now and the place is here! You will learn the design process that app developers use as you build an app to solve a larger world problem. Work with a team to build a prototype in only a few days' time! Learn how to make a positive impact and be part of the change in the world around you! Instructor – Bricker

Art, Sport and Science of Boomerangs!

Chet Snouffer is the most decorated US Boomerang thrower in history. With 3 World Championships and 12 US National Championships to his name, Snouffer has travelled the world throwing, competing, and promoting this fascinating sport for 40 years! In the Boomerang Class you will learn how to make and throw several types of boomerangs, from short range tri-bladers to mid-range wood models and specialty competition 'rangs! We study the Aboriginal influence on these flying wonders, and even hear the teacher to play dijeridu. We spend our time making, decorating and throwing "sticks" all week long, culminating with the now-famous Boomerang Competition on Friday! Instructor – Snouffer

Comic Design: More Than Words

Students will practice 5 fundamental techniques and a series of short perspective-based activities to support a beginning interest in designing frames for short comics or for larger graphic novellas. Students do not need to be good at drawing to participate. Instructor - Landefeld

Computer Composer

Ever wondered how Mozart would write his music in today's high tech, computer-generated world? Well, let's explore the cool things you can do with a computer and your creative, musical ideas. We will learn some basic music theory and print publisher-quality sheet music that you will write! We will even record your composition from the computer so you can take it home and show it off to mom and dad! No previous musical experience is needed, just a desire to learn and some creative ideas! Instructor - Grassel

Cracking the Code

Have you ever wondered how your favorite NFL player knows how to juke out its opponent with the simple click of a button? Have you ever thought about how a calculator knows how to multiply numbers in scientific notation instantaneously for a problem that would take humans hours? Has it ever occurred to you how wild it is that Siri is able to not only understand your requests, but understand the requests of all people regardless of their accent or language? All of these systems are made possible by coding. This is a commonly used word, but what really is coding and how can we use this to be more efficient and make things possible that previously were only in dreams and futuristic movies? This course will introduce you to what coding is and how to utilize it in different settings and for different purposes. Instructor - Dugal

Create (and Play) Your Own Role-Playing Game

Create your own worlds, create your own characters, create your own adventures...then bring them all to life! We will study the basics of role-playing games (games like Dungeons & Dragons and Pathfinder) before creating the world and storyline for your own game. It's tough work, and you must be prepared to use your imagination. You'll need to decide the specifics of the world, the types of characters, the equipment, the scenarios, and the basic rules for this game. Will you create a post-apocalyptic world where mutated humans fight for survival? A fantastic world where mythological adventurers battle evil and search for treasure? A futuristic universe where aliens battle for control of galaxies? A modern-world setting where humans try to gain fame, amass a fortune, or survive middle school? Once you have the pieces in place, you can gather others to join you in this bold adventure and lead them through the world of your own creation. Instructor - Waselko

Creating a Civilization

Students will work on teams to research successful civilizations, then use that information to develop a new civilization based on lessons from research. Students will decide a geographic location, construct a model of its infrastructure, develop a system of governance, division of labor, culture (language, art, music, ritual), and other aspects determined to be critical in a successful society. Each group will face a challenge/ obstacle that must be overcome for the society to survive, as developed by the peer group or the instructor. Students are encouraged to bring a digital camera and clothing, props, or objects that could be used in creative ways to build their society. Instructor – Landefeld

Design Your Own Home

Do you study home plans? Find yourself staring at cool homes and wondering what they look like inside? Draw houses for fun? It's time to take it to the next level. You'll examine some famous American homes, look at different styles of American home design, learn the basic elements of floor plans, study design elements, and put it all together by designing our own dream home. We'll look at all types of American homes - micro to mansion, cabin to colonial, and ranch to radical - to figure out your style and inspire your own designs. Instructor - Waselko

Fantastic Fiction

Students will study areas of fiction including: character, dialogue, details, planning and plotting, sentence patterns, and journaling. Students will work on a journal that will encourage and facilitate future writings. Mini-lessons on various aspects of fiction will be covered, with some focus on improving knowledge and skills the students already possess. You will need to bring a flash drive for this class if you would like to take your work home. Instructor – Waselko

Farm Life Exploration

At Stratford Ecological Center, you'll "virtually" visit a 236-acre organic farm that raises cows, sheep, pigs, goats, chickens, llama, field crops, fruits and vegetables, and honey bees. Throughout the week you'll learn about the biology and ecology that occur on a diverse agricultural operation. Come find out what makes the interactions between nature and agriculture so important for the food we eat and the challenges that exist in agriculture today. Instructor – Pflaumer

Finding Your Voice - Public Speaking Made Easy

Public speaking, the ability to freely communicate in front of a group of people, is an important skill to possess. However, it can produce anxiety, especially in younger students. But it doesn't have to! In this class, we will learn how to order our thoughts, rely on our breathing, polish our diction, and project our voices, all of which will combine to give us a greater sense of confidence in our speaking! In just one week, you will be on your way to becoming a confident public speaker! Instructor - Sadler

French I

French I is a course to introduce basic French concepts to get students familiarized with the language and the culture. Among the topics, the course includes the alphabet, greetings, numbers, telling time, colors, and if time allows, French countries, their cultures, and their people. The course, in addition, includes hands-on and fun activities such as: coloring the paintings of well-known French painters, playing bingo, and also playing Twister. Each class ends with 5 or 10 minutes of a film; such as The Adventures of TinTin, Ratatouille, and/or Les Choristes. On the last day, I share a short video of programs that take students abroad with the hope of getting students to realize that it is not only studying the language but to learn the long-term benefits of acquiring a second language. Instructor - Perez

Fun with Mathematics

Calling all math lovers! Do you enjoy working with numbers? Do you take on challenges that require mental perseverance? Join us as we explore math challenges together. Each day will focus on a different topic. You will learn a little history behind the numbers and then team up with fellow math lovers to solve daily challenges for all levels of math ability. Instructor - Bricker

Gaming: Inside and Outside the Box

Come to this class for the love of board-gaming and a desire and curiosity to learn new games. Not every fun game comes from a box. Come discover the joys of games you know and many you don't. At the end of the week, bring back the joy of social gaming without technology to your family and friends. Games featured in this course include Werewolves of Miller's Hollow, Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, Pandemic, various kinds of FLUXX, improvisational games and ideas for when you don't have access to a traditional board game. This class is extremely interactive. Game instruction is followed by actual gameplay which covers more than 75% of the class time. Instructor - Burgeson

Improv Comedy

In this course, we will explore the elements that give performers confidence in their abilities to entertain without a script. While improvisation may seem chaotic, there are actually distinct points of focus that, once polished and refined and relied upon, will allow the students to consistently find success when they are called upon to improvise onstage! Instructor - Sadler

Intro to Dungeons and Dragons

Enter a world of monsters, magic, and adventure...where you get to make the decisions that determine your party's success or failure. Seize your opportunity and become a great leader; prove yourself in battle and become a legendary fighter; use your knowledge to cast marvelous spells; or utilize your specialized skills to heal, guide, and provide for others. Learn the basic rules of the game and choose your place in this magical world. Create an elven wizard, a dwarven fighter, a halfling ranger, or many others before taking them on an adventure full of strange creatures, terrifying dangers, and treasure galore. Geared toward beginners, this class will introduce you to a world of creativity, logic, quick thinking, role playing, and fun. Join us in our quest! (There is an advanced version of this class for experienced players. See above.) Instructor – Waselko

Introduction to Script Writing/Filmmaking

Interested in learning the basics of filmmaking? In this collaborative class, students will work together to create a short film project (either a trailer, music video or short film under 5 minutes) by writing a script together, creating a shot list and storyboard, then shooting the movie as a team with simple video cameras and audio equipment. Finally, the students will work together to edit, put in music, sound effects and graphics to finish the 1-5 minute video, then they'll watch it together for final approval before uploading it onto the internet for all their friends and family to see! Instructor – Irvine

It's All About the Benjamins

Have you ever wondered how credit cards work? Or been curious about the different types of insurance and how each operates? Do you believe you have what it takes to become successful in the stock market? This course is designed to give you a basic foundation for how to make the most of your money. A real-life version of the board game "Life", we'll preview everything that goes into financial planning. Instructor - Dugal

It's Elementary, My Dear Watson

Sherlock Holmes has often been called the most brilliant detective ever. Using his powers of deductive reasoning, he had always been able to crack the case. Now it is your turn. Students will learn about deductive reasoning and see how Holmes uses it in several of his stories, as well as its use in modern shows. This will culminate in teams of students creating a mystery for the others, each team having to solve the crime using deductive reasoning (if you have taken this course in the past there will be new mysteries to solve this year.) Instructor - Stanley

Japanese Language 1

Japanese I will examine topics such as numbers, colors, family, pets, and houses. In order to practice these topics, we will use such fun activities as twister, UNO, coloring and songs. Japanese will utilize these activities to practice the above topics thoroughly. We will also use a book which takes a Japanese girl through her day. Together, the above will give the students a good introduction to basic Japanese. Instructor – Walker

Outdoor Survival

Shelter, water, fire and food are the essentials of outdoor survival! In this course we will teach you these skills so that you can not only survive, but thrive when the power goes out and the camping trip goes sideways! From your own backyard, we will learn to prioritize those survival essentials. We will learn how to build a debris hut, and one of the coolest tarp tents ever! We will learn how to start a fire three ways without a match and we will cover the essentials of safe drinking water! Chet Snouffer is the Owner of the Jungle Gym Adventure Center and trains with Creek Stewart, star of the Weather Channel's SOS Secrets of Survival show. Chet has been teaching wilderness skills for over 10 years now through summer camps into the wilds! (We will mail each student several free survival tools and provide online PDF download of all the plans and lessons in the course.) Instructor - Snouffer

OWJL Concert Band

The OWJL Camp Concert Band has a 14-year tradition of good music mixed with a whole lot of fun! We take some of the latest band arrangements for middle school students and mix in a bit of music theory and sight reading to create several songs suitable for performance – all in 5 short days! This group uses 3 of the 4 families of instruments: woodwinds, brass and percussion. Bring your own instrument and let's make this year's OWJL Concert Band the best yet! Instructor - Grassel

Physics of Superheroes

Physics of Superheroes is a science course that spans one week. The course covers basic physics (like forces and motion) through the lens of superhero comic books. Superheroes have outstanding abilities that often use, enhance, and defy the basic laws of physics. By studying superheroes we can begin to understand the laws of physics. Instructor - Hall

Setting the Scene: Basics of Screenwriting

Students will write an original short drama script within a small group or independently depending on their interests. They will be provided instruction in the most important techniques for writing beats, character, building conflict through dialogue and blocking of stage movements, and interpreting a scene, including pacing and motivation. They will be provided feedback, tips, and encouragement along the way as they prepare for the reading of their script on the final day. Instructor - Landefeld

Songwriting 101

Listen to all types of music and share your favorites with the class. Investigate why some songs stand the test of time to become truly timeless. Learn the components of lyric and music writing and create your own individual song. Collaborate with your classmates to write (and perform, if you dare!) a group song. Instructor - Frondutti

Spanish I

Spanish I is a course to introduce basic Spanish concepts to get students familiarized with the language and the culture. Among the topics, the course includes the alphabet, greetings, numbers, telling time, colors, and if time allows, Hispanic countries, their cultures, and their people. The course, in addition, includes hands-on and fun activities such as: coloring Hispanic countries, playing UNO, playing bingo, and also playing Twister. Each class ends with 5 or 10 minutes of a film; such as Coco, La Quinceañera, and/or Shrek in Spanish. On the last day, I share a short video of programs that take students abroad with the hope of getting students to realize that it is not only studying the language but to learn the long term benefits of acquiring a second language. Instructor – Perez

Theatre Acting - Use Your Imagination!

In this fun and exciting course, students will learn all of the fundamentals that an actor needs to have before they go onstage to act in the theatre! In this course we will talk about having strong stage presence, being physically involved in what we're doing onstage, and using our imaginations to the greatest extent possible! All classes will allow students to be hands-on and up on their feet, developing their skills, and allowing them to be confident in themselves! After this course, students will have the foundation they need to be ready for success when they step onstage! Instructor - Sadler

Vampires: The First Gothic Monster

What are vampires? Are they myth, legend, reality? From where do the first stories of vampires spring? Why do they frighten us? We will explore these questions and more as we view movies and discuss visions of vampires in a delightfully spooky course. To ponder the vampire is to touch themes of love, devotion, passion, fear and evil. This course will take you into the fantastic world of vampires and be the seed for many interesting discussions of very human issues. Students are encouraged to view vampire movies and read vampire stories for this course and to bring their own set of fangs! Optional reading: Sweetblood by Pete Hautman. Instructor – Burgeson

Video Game Design

Do you play video games? Have you ever wanted to make one? In this class, you will learn game design by playing Gamestar Mechanic games. Everyone will design their game story and game, and then, using a drag and drop interface, build professional-looking side-scrolling platformers or top-down mazes. You will not be learning or using any coding in this class. After class ends, you will have your own Gamestar account so you may continue making, playing and sharing your games. Instructor - Aubrecht

Who Wants to Be the Next J.K. Rowling?

Do you like to write stories or poetry? Then this is the place for you. Students will create their own short stories and/or poetry, presenting their work to the class who will conduct workshops to offer suggestions for improvement. Eventually, students will find a market they would like the piece to appear in and learn how to properly submit it for possible publication. Instructor - Stanley

World's Greatest Mysteries

Who built Stonehenge? Why did the Ancient Mayans abandon their cities? What causes so many planes and ships to disappear in the Bermuda Triangle? This class will look at such mysteries and the theories that try to explain them. Students will eventually take sides in a debate over an historical mystery. Instructor – Stanley

Writing Flash Fiction

Students will learn techniques for how to write stories that are between 100 and 1,000 words in length. They will practice first lines/last lines, inciting incidents, observational details, pacing, and characterization. Students will receive some prompt options and will also have freewrites to explore their own ideas. Students should finish the course with a completed story and ideas for future stories they may choose to pursue. Instructor - Landefeld

Writing Powerful Poetry

Did you know there is poetry all around you? Have you ever been inspired to write but not known how to get started or what to do next? This course will help. We will blow up the traditional attitude toward poetry by exploring newer voices and forms that show how poetry can be real and meaningful in the 21st century for young adults. Students will spend about ⅓ of the week finding inspiration for poetry all around them by exploring various areas in their neighborhood in order to use found objects and people as inspiration for developing their unique poetic voice. They will draft, revise, and share one original poem as a final project. Instructor – Landefeld

(Below are photos from previous summer residential camps.)

