

The St. Joseph's Prep colleagues who will be teaching the new courses offered insights on their classes:

Kate Ambrose, *African American Studies*: "LaGarrett King, professor in the College of Education at the University of Missouri, said, "We teach about Black history instead of through Black history. Teaching through Black history should mean listening, writing, and teaching narratives from the actual historical experiences and voices of Black people." This is the inspiration guiding me through the creation of the African American Studies course at The Prep. It is time we place the historical spotlight on the African American experience through the lens of African and Black Americans."

Tanika Di Giovanni, *Caribbean Studies*: "This course was suggested to introduce students at the Prep to the Caribbean region, especially as it relates to what Caribbean people consider to be the identifying characteristics that distinguishes them as Caribbean people culturally and politically. These distinct Caribbean characteristics emerge as a result of a history of conquest, colonization, slavery, struggles for independence; and it will be academically rewarding for students to have access to this understanding of a region that is so close to the United States and has and continues to be influenced by the United States."

Tanika DiGiovanni, *Modern World*: "American students are often exposed to the world academically through a narrowed focus on events in Europe and Asia; however, the world expands beyond these regions, and I thought it would be intellectually and socially stimulating for students of the Prep to be exposed to events that have shaped developing countries in Africa, Latin America and some areas of the Caribbean."

Bethany Weed, *Intro to Sociology*: "It's my hope that this course will cultivate in students "the sociological imagination," what C. Wright Mills famously described as "the quality of mind essential to grasp the interplay of individual and society, of biography and history, of self and world." Sociology teaches us to look at taken for granted situations with new eyes, asking meaningful questions about their causes and consequences. After having taught A.P. Human Geography for years, I am excited to expand our social science offerings and use my background in Sociology to develop this new course."

Leo Vaccaro, *AP Microeconomics*: "In regard to offering microeconomics, it was simply supply and demand: a number of academically ambitious students have studied economics with me over the last ten years. A number of these economics' students stay after class to pick my brain and to ask for additional resources and materials. Some students have even enrolled in online economics courses or engaged other resources outside of our school. So that's the demand curve shifting to the right. On the supply side, I've been adjuncting microeconomics for some time, and also, I attended a rigorous official AP workshop for this course in the summer of 2019, in the expectation that it would be a future opportunity for our students. Nothing gets past the models of an economics teacher."

Dan Ranalli, *Latin American Short Stories*: “One of the literary genres most often associated with Latin America is the short story. This class examines both famous works and hidden gems written in various countries of the Americas between the late 19th century and the present day. Through each short story, students will gain new insight into different cultures and traditions born of centuries of intersection among various cultures (notably indigenous peoples, Africans, and Europeans). Because each work is far shorter than a typical novel, students have the opportunity to read quite a variety, including short stories by Jorge Luis Borges (Argentina), Carlos Fuentes (Mexico), Isabel Allende (Chile), Gabriel García Márquez (Colombia), Horacio Quiroga (Uruguay), and more.”

Sheri San Chericco, *Modern American Prophets*: “This discussion-based senior seminar looks at seven religious’ activists of the 20th century (Abraham Joshua Heschel, A.J. Muste, Dorothy Day, Howard Thurman, Thomas Merton, Martin Luther King Jr., and Fannie Lou Hamer) as examples of American prophets. Students will use these models to identify and understand modern prophets in the world around them today (politically, musically, theatrically, athletically) and even within themselves, to examine their own ‘fire in the bones.’”

Dan Ranalli, *Mexican Art*: “The class meets approximately eight times in November/early December during the community period for initial instruction, which is followed by approximately 8-10 days of travel through Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula and the Mexico City area. In the Yucatan, there will be an emphasis on Mayan art/architecture. In the Mexico City area, the emphasis will be on Aztec art/architecture, European art/architecture in the Americas, Colonial Baroque and Neoclassicism, the evolution of a post-Columbian style through Modernism, and Mexican surrealism as exemplified by Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, among others.”