



elgin
academy

JANUARY TERM 2023
Program Guide



350 PARK STREET
ELGIN IL 60120
ELGINACADEMY.ORG

May 2022

Dear EA Classes of 2023 - 2026 and parents,

We are excited to host our fourth annual January Term program in January 2023. During that experience, our faculty will be facilitating a variety of courses designed to maximize student engagement and skill development based on unique content.

This booklet provides students and families with an overview of the January Term program as well as information about the specific course offerings for January Term 2023. I encourage you to read it cover-to-cover to learn more about the opportunities that await Upper School students. We are confident that the January Term will be a transformational one for our students as they engage in unique, immersive classes designed to fulfill Elgin Academy's unique mission of *Inspiring students to become our creative, courageous, and compassionate future.*

Sincerely,

Doug Sept
Assistant Head of School for Academic Affairs

Calendar for January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day Winter Break	2 Winter Break	3 Winter Break	4 Winter Break Faculty Work Day	5 January Term day 1	6 January Term day 2	7
8	9 January Term day 3	10 January Term day 4	11 January Term day 5	12 January Term day 6	13 January Term day 7	14
15 J2306 Trip Departs J2307 Trip Departs	16 Martin Luther King Day No School	17 January Term day 8	18 January Term day 9	19 January Term day 10	20 January Term day 11 January Term ends J2307 Trip Returns	21
22 J2306 Trip Returns	23 Semester 2 Begins	24	25	26	27 January Term Symposium (tentative)	28

January Term Daily Schedule

Unlike our regular A-G day rotating schedule, Upper School students will have the exact same schedule each day of January Term.

- 7:30 - some AP classes may meet, schedule to be announced in advance
- 8:15 - some AP classes may meet, schedule to be announced in advance
- 9:00 - January Term classes begin
- 11:30 - lunch and community time (advisory, assembly, clubs)
- 12:30 - January Term classes resume
- 2:45 - end of school day; Winter Sports practices and games begin

A schedule of AP class meetings will be created and published prior the start of January Term. Upper School students will be expected to arrive on campus by the time of their first obligation. Attendance will be taken in 7:30 and 8:15 AP classes as well as at 9:00 for January Term classes. Students without AP classes who arrive earlier than 9:00 are welcome to congregate in Upper School common areas.

January Term Policies

Course Grades and Graduation Credits

During this three-week program, January Term courses will meet for approximately the same amount of time as a one-semester course. Therefore, students will earn grades on the standard EA Upper School grading scale:

97-100: A+	87-89: B+	77-79: C+	67-69: D+	0-59: F, no credit
93-96: A	83-86: B	73-76: C	63-66: D	I = Incomplete, no credit
90-92: A-	80-82: B-	70-72: C-	60-62: D-	W = Withdrew, no credit
				P = Pass, with credit

Students who successfully pass a January Term course will earn 0.5 required graduation credits. This grade and credit will be reflected on official EA student transcripts, although the January Term course grade will not count in a student's cumulative grade-point average.

Experiential Learning

January Term courses are designed to include numerous experiential learning opportunities on and off campus. When appropriate, local field trips ranging from partial to full days will be included in each class. Students and families will be informed of these plans prior to the days they will happen. Two classes during January Term 2023 (J2306 and J2307) have planned overnight trips. See course descriptions for further details.

January Term Symposium

Shortly after the end of the January Term, families will be invited to campus for a Symposium to take place during the school day. During this Symposium, students will share their January Term experiences. The Symposium is tentatively scheduled for Friday, January 27. Details will be finalized and publicized closer to that date.

Attendance

Attendance during the January Term is crucial to a student's success. Missing one day of a January Term course is equivalent to missing one week of a course on a regular semester schedule. Much of the learning taking place during January Term is experiential in nature and cannot be duplicated outside of class through make-up assignments. Therefore, students must make every effort to attend each day of the January Term. While we will explore makeup options with any students who are ill or have other medical or family issues arise during the January Term, students who are excessively absent during those three weeks may have to complete an alternate project in order to earn their January Term graduation credit.

School Cancellations

In the event that school is canceled for weather or another reason during the January Term, that day will not be made up. January Term will still end on Friday, January 20, and the second semester will still begin on Monday, January 23 regardless of the number of cancelled days that could occur.

Course Selection Process

In late May 2022, students will be given a January Term course selection form on which they will identify and rank their top four course choices. These forms, with parent signatures, are due to the Upper School office by Friday, June 3. Students whose first-choice classes have an additional fee should also bring a deposit check to submit with their January Term course selection form.

Students whose forms are submitted by the deadline (and fees paid where necessary) will be given priority in the course scheduling process, starting with the senior Class of 2023. However, efforts will be made to balance the course rosters among the different grade levels, so no student is guaranteed to get placed into their top choice.

Questions about the course selection process should be directed to Doug Sept at dsept@elginacademy.org.

Payments

In January Term 2023, two of the courses have a week of travel resulting in additional costs. These course costs are noted in the description on the following pages. Students and families who register for these course are committing themselves to make payments in a timely manner so that travel arrangements can be finalized. For any course with additional costs, payment can be made in full or via this timetable:

Payment Deadlines

Course	Deposit (due 6/3)	Sept 1, 2022	Oct 1, 2022	Dec 1, 2022
J2306: Literature of the American Landscape	\$300.00	\$650.00	\$650.00	\$650.00
J2307: Wild Florida	\$300.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$700.00

Checks made out to Elgin Academy should be brought to the Upper School office prior to or by each deadline. Families who are using an Elgin Academy Tuition Payment Plan should contact Doug Sept at dsept@elginacademy.org if they wish to have their January Term payments applied to their Payment Plan.

Missing payment deadlines will likely result in a student being switched into a different January Term course.

January Term 2023 Course Offerings

Courses with No Fees

J2301: Are we alone in the universe? Studying the history and probability of finding extraterrestrial life

“Are we alone?” is a question that has always been fundamental to humans, but that only recently has become the subject of empirical science. This class will study both the history/mythology and folklore surrounding beliefs and encounters with extraterrestrial life as well as the major developments in biology and astronomy that have helped us form our modern understanding of the nature of life, the discovery and location of habitable environments in the universe, and the possibility of encountering extraterrestrial life.

J2302: Are You Ready for Some Football?!

This course is for all students, from those who are already football fanatics to those who have no knowledge of the sport. Students will learn about the history and development of football with a major focus on the professional National Football League. Since January is when the regular season ends and the playoffs begin, some aspects of this course will focus on analyzing the games that are happening every weekend during January Term.

J2303: A Needle Pulling Thread: The World of Fiber Arts

Learn the warp and weft of several popular needle crafts from wool to cloth and cotton to silk. Learn about the harvesting of textile raw materials as well as dying fabrics and threads. Then, create artwork in the form of hand embroidery, knitting, quilting, crocheting, tufting, loom weaving, and more. Explore the history of textiles around the world and how they were and are produced from the Silk Road to sweatshops. Gain practical skills as well as an understanding of how textiles and those who produce them have changed history and technology. This course will enable students to develop technical and conceptual skills relating to a range of fiber arts and to explore a range of relevant design/image making techniques. Students will develop skills and knowledge relating to historical and contemporary applications of embroidery, quilting, and other stitching methods, and use these as a means for the creative expression of ideas through a series of class and individual projects.

J2304: Picture This: Discovering Digital Photography

Everyone is quick to pull out their phones to grab a quick picture, but what about the art of photography? How do you manipulate shutter speed, depth of field and composition to create works of art? In this course, students will learn the technical skills of shooting a DSLR camera in manual mode as well as artistic skills needed to create beautiful works of art. In addition to building their own skills, students will study the works of professional photographers, speak with professionals in the field and tour photography exhibitions in the area. Finally, students will gain a basic understanding of Photoshop to help them edit their work and create the art they envision.

J2305: Student Internships (11th/12th grades only)

Seniors and juniors will have the opportunity of finding their own internship experience. They will be required to find an internship (not with a parent) in an area of interest. Students will spend an amount of time at an internship site equivalent to the time they would have spent at school. An Elgin Academy faculty member will keep in close contact with internship mentors to check on student progress. Students will be expected to keep a journal, write a reflection paper, and give a presentation about their internship.

Courses with Fees

J2306: Literature of the American Landscape

Additional fee: \$2250.00

America is a pretty expansive place. Under the guise of Manifest Destiny, we've sought to cover it, conquer it, claim it as our own. For many Americans, the lure of what lay over the next ridge, in the next town, passed the next horizon, fueled trips that criss-crossed the States in intimate ways. From Lewis and Clark, to Steinbeck, to Kerouac and Didion, American writers have chronicled their trips across this country. The wanderlust of exploration and escapism pushed them out across the land and broadened many of their definitions of self, country and home. This class will focus on the writing of several American travelers. The first seven days will be spent in discussion and study of various books, poems, essays and such, and the final week will be spent traveling America from the ground-level aboard Amtrak trains. Class will continue in the lounge car as we take in the wide-open spaces of Big Sky country, majesty of the Cascade Mountains, and the awe of the Golden Gate Bridge. The ever-changing American landscape will be our teacher as we chart and record our own journey. Travel for this class will be from Sunday, January 15 - Sunday, January 22, 2023.

J2307: Wild Florida

Additional fee: \$2500.00 (based on current airfare costs)

It is easy to forget that Florida is so much more than Disney World. In this January term students will have the opportunity to investigate the habitats that early explorers like Ponce de Leon encountered when he came to Florida looking for the Fountain of Youth. We will study the native plants and animals of the unique and still very wild areas of Crystal River and Homosassa Springs Florida. Students will learn about the water cycle and conservation issues affecting freshwater as it relates to the aquifers and the people and animals that depend on them. The goal is to learn positive ways that they can help protect our planet's precious water no matter where on Earth they live. Our first seven days of study will be preparing us for our six days of adventure in Crystal River, a tributary of King's Bay which is part of the Gulf of Mexico. We will spend time in the Crystal River Wildlife Refuge as well as the refuge at Homosassa Springs observing and studying the watershed ecology of the areas. Fun outdoor adventures like kayaking, nature walks, and an in-water "meet and greet" swim with wild manatees will make this trip a life-changing experience for students. Travel for this class will be from Sunday, January 15 - Friday, January 20, 2023.

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