

# Endterm 2026 Course Offerings

## Snack on this!

Do you like to eat? Do you want to learn to cook, bake, chop, and plate like a pro? Do you wonder where food comes from, about its journey en route to our plates, and what it can tell us about our families and communities? In this Endterm, we will explore the many roles that food plays in our lives like celebration, sustenance, hospitality, connection, and identity, just to name a few! We will write, cook, research, reflect, and take on important challenges inspired by Top Chef and other shows! And of course, we will eat together while also learning about food deserts, multiple gastronomical cultures, farming, spice stories, and the restaurant industry. Come hungry, leave happy!

*Elizabeth, Anita, and Reena*

## Maritime Studies

In the Maritime Studies Endterm we will explore how humans have interacted with Marine environments in New England throughout history. We will learn about ships, mapping, and navigation, as well as studying how the fishing and shipping industries shaped (and continue to shape) the economics, social structure, and culture of New England through art, music, and tales of the sea. We will be on and off campus, including field trips to the Essex Shipbuilding Museum, the Schooner Ardelle, and the Schooner Adventure. Together we will learn practical skills like sailors' knots, reading a tide chart, and the teamwork it takes to work on a boat. We will also reflect on the impact of humans on the ocean and what it could look like to be in right relationship with the marine ecosystems around us. Come sail the high seas with the Maritime Studies Endterm!

*\*Please note this Endterm has an additional \$125 fee per student. If that fee is prohibitive for your family please reach out to Will Potter.*

*John Wiggs, Mike, Marika, Tabitha*

## It's Puzzling!

If you can't stop at your daily Wordle, but need to complete the Mini, the Spelling Bee, and Connections before grabbing a book of word searches or running through a sudoku and a ken ken; if you are itching to try an escape room or head to a corn maze; if a great night at home involves a 1500 piece jigsaw puzzle while watching Wheel of Fortune; if you like scavenger hunts, orienteering, geocaching, or trying to figure out how to use a napkin to get a cork out of a wine bottle - then this is the Endterm for you. We can't imagine a better use of twelve days than exploring, imagining, creating, building, solving, and being thoroughly frustrated and stumped by all kinds of puzzles. This will be a grass-roots Endterm co-created by all of us, as we share our favorite puzzle varieties and test ourselves with new challenges. We envision some cozy indoor puzzle hangs and plenty of outdoor puzzle adventures. We want to think about how puzzles can build practical skills, investigate careers that center on problem solving, and read mystery novels. We want to watch the DaVinci Code and play Clue. If this sounds like fun to you, join us in the It's Puzzling Endterm.

*Jill, Sara G, and Anna*

## **Picture This: Comics & Illustrated Stories**

Do you like to draw? Do you like to write? Are you obsessed with comics, graphic novels, illustration, or children's books? What about illustrating a classic tale in your own style? Join Waring alumna Leah Hayes, a NYTimes bestselling illustrator, author and educator, in a class where you will learn to show and tell the stories only you can. No prior experience with drawing or creative writing is required — just a fascination with visual story-telling, lively curiosity, and a willingness to explore being both the artist AND the author. By the end of the class, every student will have created a short graphic story. This can be a graphic novel, a children's book, or even a classic tale illustrated in one's own personal style. Students will take away a foundation in creative writing, paired with illustration and drawing skills that they can then apply to their own story ideas. Because visual story-telling is the foundation of so many art forms – everything from editorial illustration, to full-on comics, even short films – learning how to take an idea from beginning to end with both art and writing is invaluable.

*Ella, Terry & Leah Hayes*

## **The Algorithm & The Mirror**

What happens when the technology we create starts to reflect the best—and worst—of us? This Endterm is an immersive investigation into the "black box" of Artificial Intelligence. Beyond the buzzwords like Machine Learning and Generative AI, we will explore the blurry boundary between human consciousness and silicon intelligence. We'll look at how "coded bias" can accidentally bake human prejudices into our software and debate the "apocalypse" scenarios of sci-fi: if we don't treat our technology (and each other) ethically, what happens when the systems we build start pushing back? Through a mix of "unplugged" ethics debates and hands-on tech-play, we will deconstruct how these tools function and what they mean for our future. This isn't a training manual; it's a laboratory for student voice. Join us as we pull back the curtain on the algorithms shaping our world and decide for ourselves: is the machine a tool, a teammate, or a mirror?

*Rebecca, Casey, Steve, Lyn*

## **Mockumentary**

When a Waring lounge singing Endterm begins a weeklong series of lunchtime concerts at a local bowling alley, all seems well until students start disappearing. OR a placid entomologist gives an in-depth presentation on the world's most tedious insects. OR students embark on a campus improvement project that, through a series of snowballing mishaps, results in broken windows, poked eyes, a small fire, and the release of a long contained Waring ghost. All these scenarios and more are possible in Chris and Brendan's silent film and mockumentary making Endterm. We are looking for actors, directors, editors, designers, composers, musicians and more. Come with a sense of fun and an appetite for collaboration. Nothing more required,

*Chris and Brendan*

## Won't You Be My Neighbor?

*"Would you be mine? Could you be mine? Won't you be my neighbor?"*

Join us this Endterm as we consider our neighborhood (Waring, Beverly, the North Shore and beyond) through the frame of the classic children's TV show *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. What is "culture," and where do we find it? Learn some of the patterns by which people live all over the world, and create a home-away-from home together at Waring. Slip into a cardigan as we practice baking bread, making meals and serving them to others, and learn to mend and sew. Consider the pleasures of music, and learn to be curious about Bach's favorite instruments—organs—visiting where they are made and hear them played. Learn how stories can be used to tell hard truths about tough questions, and make puppets, draw together, and dialogue about things we wonder such as, where and how is the food sold at Dunkin' Donuts made? And, who is my neighbor?

*Joshua and Sarah CL*

## Sew Waring

Welcome fashionistas! Do you love creating? Do you love fabrics? Do you love clothes? Do you love anything handmade? We are going back in time and making our own clothes, modifying existing outfits to reuse them, making what we SEW desire buying. Have a look at your current outfit, wouldn't it be cool if you had made it yourself? Think of that perfect pair of pants that you tried on...if only they had been... shorter, longer, bigger here, smaller there... then, you would have bought them! Why buy perfection when you can make perfection? How about gloves, bags, sachets, towels, napkins? The list goes on... If you can imagine it made out of fabric, then you can sew it. Sew Waring: 3 weeks, 3 patterns, an off campus excursion, infinite items to add to your creative, personal, nobody-else-owns-it collection! Sewing machine needed. Please bring your own, if possible, or contact Anna Marie if you need to borrow one.

*Anna Marie & Julie*

## Scrabbennis

What's the difference between Novak Djokovic and Nigel Richards? Well one probably needs an introduction: Novak Djokovic is a Serbian tennis player who has won a record 24 Grand Slam titles. And as I'm sure everyone knows, Nigel Richards is the greatest scrabble player of all time, winning world championship titles in 2007, 2011, 2013, 2018, and 2019 – and who could forget that time in 2015 when Nigel, who didn't speak a lick of French, spent nine weeks memorizing the French Dictionary and won the French World Scrabble Championships. In the Scrabbennis Endterm, we will focus on two games: **tennis**, a game of fitness and patience and **scrabble**, a game of probability and vocabulary. Central to both games is the art of putting your opponent at a disadvantage, but to do so, we must refine our own skills. We will be playing tennis at different courts in the north shore – focus will be on the fundamental strokes of tennis and footwork. In the afternoons we will be reading books and keeping a vocab journal to build our scrabble lexicons.

*Gus and Jack*

## Discover Québec!

Do you love to travel and learn about other cultures? We will go to Quebec June 1 through 4. We will learn about the history of Quebec and the Indigenous Nations of the area. We will visit the Huron/Wendat museum and make a traditional talking stick, an ancient craft used to guide group discussions or a medicine wheel. We will visit the atelier of an artist who is a friend of Paul from Haystack and have a jewelry workshop with her. Hone your interview and moviemaking skills! We will explore the city and interview Quebecois to learn about their daily lives and what is special about their French language. You will make a film with English subtitles. You will perform a skit possibly based on folk stories from the area. Of course, we will sample some of the fine food that the Quebecois are famous for - poutine! Be prepared to walk long distances, as we have plenty of sightseeing and activities planned throughout our stay. Get ready for an unforgettable experience — and sign up for lots of fun!

*\*Please note this Endterm has an additional \$200 fee per student. If that fee is prohibitive for your family please reach out to Will Potter.*

*Paul & Roseann*

## Canoeing

This Endterm we're going to head into the wilderness, and fall in love with canoeing. There is simply nothing quite as delightful as exploring by canoe... And sometimes challenging - get ready for an arms and core workout. We'll take our fleet of canoes out every day, starting here on the north shore plying the waters of Chebacco Lake, where we'll learn a slew of basic skills like steering, maneuvering, and safety. By day 3, we will be ready for our first overnight camping trip, and we'll fall asleep on an island on the Ipswich River, snug in our tents, listening to owls, beavers, and coyotes. We'll continue to build skills in week two, heading to northern Maine for a 3-day 2-night camping trip. Besides learning to paddle, you'll learn trip planning, campcraft, cooking, knots, navigation, New England ecology and history, teamwork, and more.

*\*Three key details: 1) Plan to be away the night of May 28, and June 3 & 4. 2) This is a rain or shine Endterm. We will be paddling in most weather - except high winds or lightning - and learning how to dress for comfort no matter the conditions. Don't worry, it's possible. 3) You do not need a canoe, paddle, or PFD. A sleeping bag and other gear would be helpful, but we can sort out needs, and this should not be a barrier to your participation.*

*Molly and Dan W.*