

*Senior Elective  
Courses for  
Language Arts  
Credit*

**Our senior classes are  
broken into two types:  
reading and  
writing/expression.**

**You are required to take  
one reading class and one  
expression class. They are  
semester long classes.**

# There is an exception to this rule...

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- We do offer three classes, which meet for the entire year, that count as both writing *and* reading classes.
- These classes are:
  - “Journalistic Expression and Media Literacy”
  - “The Humanities and Critical Expression”
  - “AP English Literature & Composition”—Teacher Recommendation Required
    - If you are interested in this AP course, please talk to your teacher outside of class.

# Can you handle the truth?!

Journalism, at its core, is the quest for the truth.



## Journalistic Expression and Media Literacy



A full year course open to Grades 10-12

- Create stories in newspaper and magazine format as well as for radio and television broadcast
- Learn to report the news, cover sports and entertainment, write opinion pieces, review movies and restaurants, and create blogs
- Design newspaper and magazine layouts and study photojournalism to understand how visual images tell stories

## Within Journalistic Expression and Media Literacy students will:

- Decide what makes an event or issue newsworthy
- Investigate what is going on in the world and in our school
- Discuss what is ethical and legal in journalistic writing
- Learn how to conduct interviews and polls effectively



## Within Journalistic Expression and Media Literacy students will:

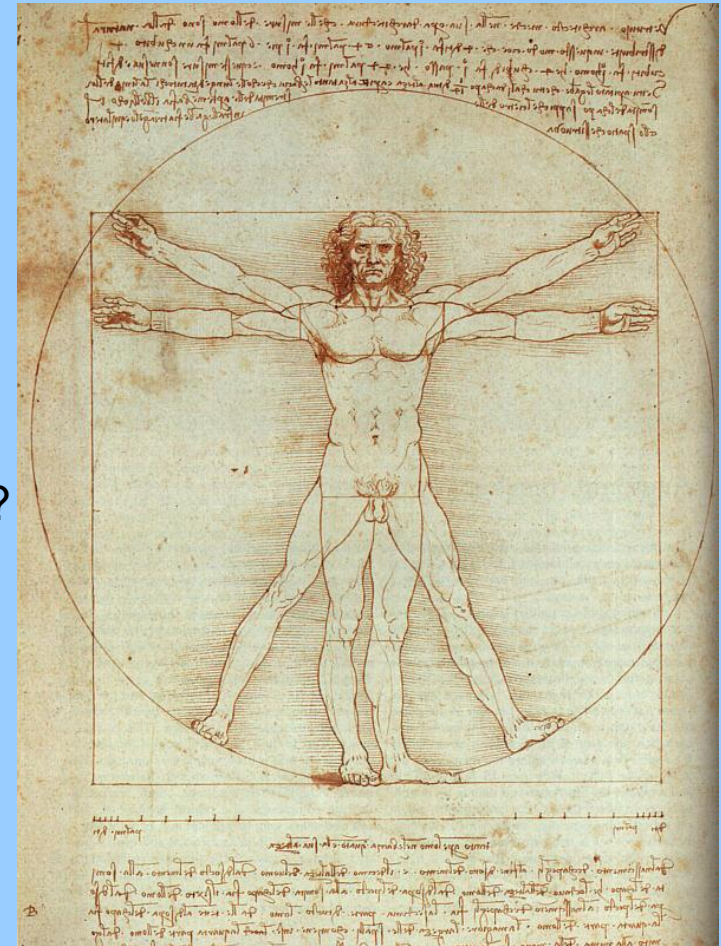
- Watch television news and news analysis programs and review scripts from radio broadcasts
- View documentary films and exposes
- Read and talk about *The Sun Times* and various magazine selections
- Read books about investigative reporting, rock 'n roll journalism, sports reporting, etc.



# The Humanities and Critical Expression

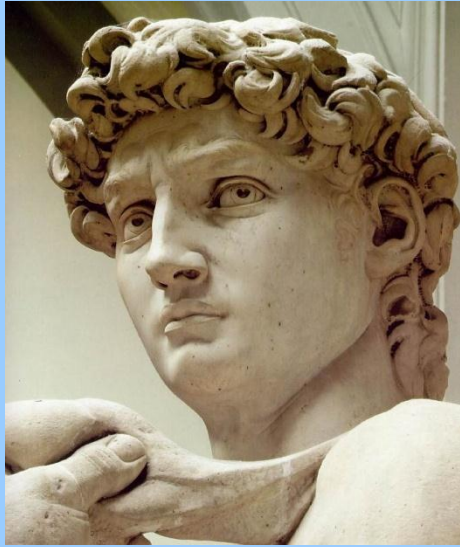
**The humanities study the human condition from a variety of perspectives, examining philosophical questions like:**

- What does it mean to be part of the human race?
- What is special about mankind?
- How should we live our lives?
- Is man the measure of all things?
- How have people made sense of evil in the world?
- How do humans make sense of the physical world?
- Why does man create?
- What is art, and what is it supposed to do?
- How do we make sense of our current culture?
- Why bother asking questions?!





# The Humanities and Critical Expression



This year long course explores how works of literature, art, music, drama, and philosophy are related. It will also help to prepare you for college.

This course would be especially interesting for those of you who are interested in music, art, or philosophy.



**Art-** Ancient, Greek/Roman, Medieval, Renaissance, Modern

**Music-** Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Modern

**Philosophy-** Plato, Socrates, Aristotle, Nietzsche

**Literature-** Greek Drama, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, *Shakespeare*,  
*Contemporary Fiction*

**Religion-** Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Hinduism



# The Humanities and Critical Expression

## Writing Component

- In studying these human issues, you will learn how to write critically through a total of **six** major essays.
  - one personal narrative
  - one critical review of a work of art
  - one persuasive/research project on a major artist
  - one piece of expository writing
  - one essay exploring your personal philosophy
  - and one creative piece.
- With each of these writing assignments, you will spend several days working on process, drafting, and reviewing (either peer review or student-led conferencing).

# Again...

## Full Year Options...

- “Journalistic Expression and Media Literacy”
  - “The Humanities and Critical Expression”
  - “AP English Literature & Composition”—  
Teacher Recommendation Required
- 
- These classes meet for the entire year
  - They will fulfill both your writing/expression requirement and reading requirement

# If those classes do not interest you...

- We offer 5 semester-long classes that will fulfill your writing/expression requirement.
  - Effective Expression
  - Literary Expression
  - Oral Expression
  - Written Expression
  - Writing for Broadcast Expression

# EFFECTIVE EXPRESSION

Do you really struggle with writing?

Do you need to relearn some of the basics so that you can succeed in the real world?

This class will work to develop your writing, speaking, and listening skills by:

- Exploring the writer's craft

- Experimenting with technology

- Building confidence as a writer and speaker



# EFFECTIVE EXPRESSION

In this class, you will work on...

- ❖ Multi-media projects
- ❖ Creative writing
- ❖ Letter writing
- ❖ Personal writing (Memoir)
- ❖ Persuasive letter writing
- ❖ Interviewing practice
- ❖ Publishing opportunities



# *Literary Expression*

Do you see yourself as a more creative writer? Do you enjoy writing poetry and stories?

In this class, you will walk in the shoes of a writer, tracing the development of a creative piece from the spark of an idea to its publication or delivery to an audience.

Writing and reading assignments may include:



Memoirs  
Historical fiction  
Biography  
Short stories  
Micro fiction

Free verse poetry  
Slam poetry  
Narrative poetry  
Formal form poetry  
Responsive essays



# *Literary Expression*

In addition to daily writing, important components of Literary Expression include the following:

- ◆ Research
- ◆ Oral presentations/performances
- ◆ Critique
- ◆ Workshops
- ◆ Developing creative ideas
- ◆ Working on using precise language
- ◆ Drafting/revising
- ◆ Freewriting/journaling
- ◆ Reading and response
- ◆ Portfolio





# **Oral Expression**

## **The Power of the Spoken Word**

**Creating Effective  
Written Messages That  
Speak to an Audience!**



# Oral Expression

**The Power of the Spoken Word!**

**This class will help you to find your Voice as you:**

- **Explore yourself as a Communicator!**
- **Research in order to support your ideas!**
- **Speak to Inform!**
- **Speak to Persuade!**
- **Speak for Special Occasions!**
- **Participate in Debate and Discussion!**
- **Become an effective communicator through group discourse and argumentation!**



# Written Expression



- For college-bound students who know they will face a variety of writing tasks, we offer Written Expression!
- This class will bring together all your writing instruction so that you can become an independent writer for college and thereafter.
- Students in this class will:
  - Compose non-fiction writing (narrative, critical, informative, persuasive)
    - These assignments will include movie reviews, editorials, college essays, and satirical stories.

# The goal of Written Expression:

- Students will learn various techniques and strategies to help them become independent, skilled writers.
- Students will look at writing as a process by
  - Planning, researching, drafting & revising their writing
  - Reflecting on their strengths and weaknesses as writers and setting goals for improvement
  - Conferring with peers and the teacher about their writing at various stages of the writing process



# Writing for Broadcast Expression

- Are you considering working in the field of broadcasting, journalism, acting, or public relations and advertising?
- Are you interested in exploring how the media impacts society?
- Are you interested in learning to write and broadcast for radio, television, or the internet?
- Do you want to explore the art of documentary?
- Are you interested in learning to use sound and video editing software in order to influence an audience?



Picture:  
national-  
college.edu

## REQUIREMENTS

- Writing & Speaking
- Types of writing:
  - Literary (narrative)
  - Expository
  - Persuasive
  - Evaluative (reviews)
- No prerequisite or prior experience necessary



# Writing for Broadcast Expression Units

- Write a **research paper** on a contemporary media issue
- Write and produce a **radio drama** (performed on radio)
- Write and perform a **public service announcement** using persuasive strategies (performed on radio)
- Create a **blog** and compose **media reviews** through text, audio, and video (includes movies, TV, music, etc.)
- Create a 5-minute **documentary**



Picture: authorsblogs.com



Picture: ehow.com



# Again...

Your writing/expression options are...

- Effective Expression
- Literary Expression
- Oral Expression
- Written Expression
- Writing for Broadcast Expression
  - These classes meet for one semester.
  - If you did not choose Journalism, Humanities, or AP Literature, you must take at least one of these classes.
  - You will need to take a reading class the other semester...





# Critical Reading Classes

- We offer 6 semester-long classes that fulfill your critical reading requirement.
  - Critical Lenses
  - Cultural Transitions and the Storyteller
  - Realms of Possibility
  - Transformations and Triumphs
  - Voices from the Edge
  - Dramatic Literature



# Critical Lenses

Develop *advanced* skills in being able to read both traditional and non-traditional texts.

Explore how artists and authors critique and challenge society through comedy and satire.

Examine how visual, literary, and aural images influence society.

Discover how ideas are shaped by differing voices and perspectives.



# Critical Lenses: *A Multi-Dimensional Course*

***In Cold Blood***

***Holidays on Ice***

**Poetry**

**“A Modest Proposal”**

**Various Comedy T.V. Shows**

**“The Daily Show”**

**Andy Warhol**

**Political Cartoons**

**Music Videos**

**Satire**

**Original Portfolios**

**Analytical Essays**

**In this class, you will...**

- **Read a variety of texts.**
- **Create a portfolio of Imagery.**
- **Write comical critiques of society.**
- **Examine controversial issues from varying perspectives.**
- **Analyze visual techniques through which artists present their viewpoints.**

# Cultural Transitions

## and the Story Teller

- Are you interested in exploring various cultural viewpoints and experiences?
- Do you enjoy reading about diverse cultures, countries and societies?
- In Cultural Transitions & The Storyteller, you will examine the role culture plays in literature and the role story plays in various cultures (through short stories, novels & film).
- Students will also examine their own personal culture, go on a cultural visit, and learn about various cultures' history, religion, cuisine & music.

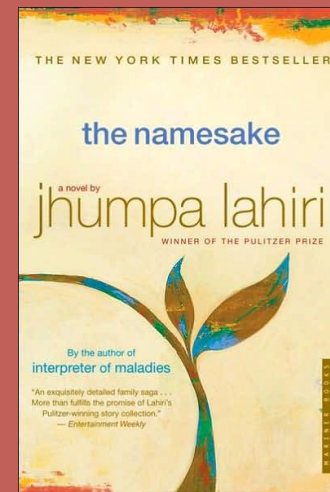
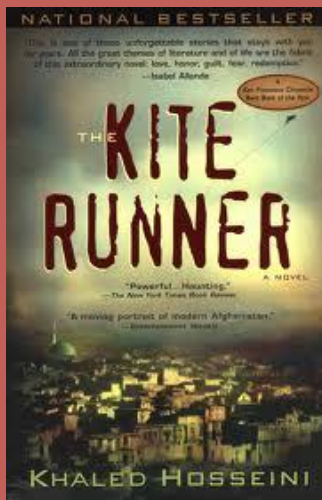




# Cultural Transitions and the Story Teller

■ This class will also discuss the following questions:

- ❏ Why are the qualities of a good story?
- ❏ How do stories represent culture, and represent truth?
- ❏ How does one's culture affect their development?
- ❏ What conflicts are created when cultures collide?
- ❏ How does our past influence our present?



- How is family structure shaped or affected by the American Dream in drama?
- How have the roles of women developed throughout dramatic history?
- How is theater used to effect social change?
- What is the role of dramaturgy (dramatic and historical research) and analysis in theater?

# Dramatic Literature

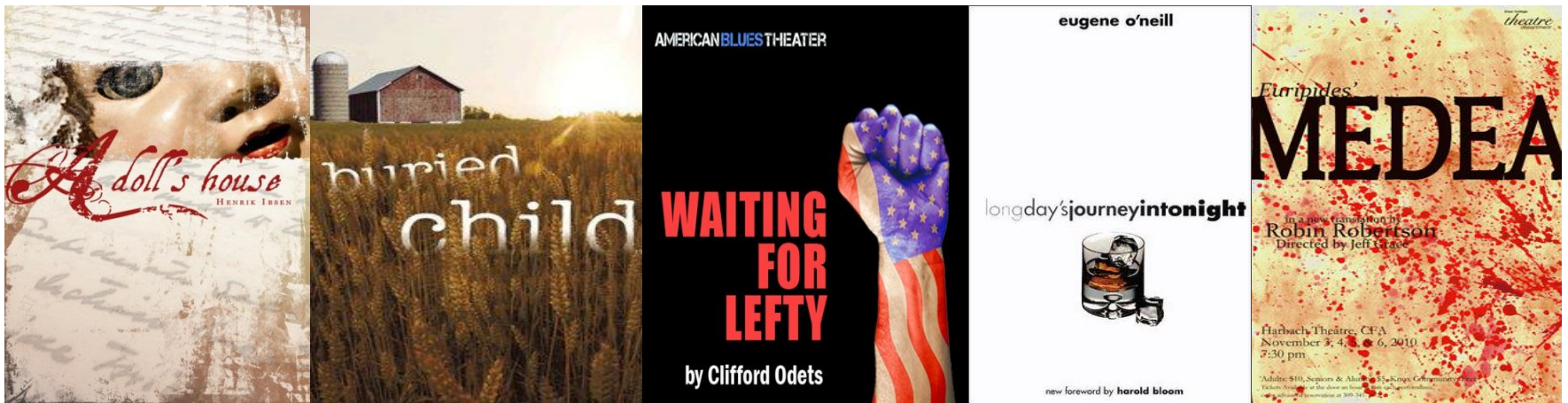
An exploration of theater, playwrights, and dramatic criticism



# In this class you will...

- ∞ Analyze the impact of society on the creation and reception of various plays.
- ∞ Compare different playwrights, genres, and themes across eras.
- ∞ Read varying translations and interpretations of a play.
- ∞ Appreciate dramatic literature as an art form and social commentary.
- ∞ Analyze drama to determine literary elements.
- ∞ Determine the purpose of the tragic hero within dramatic literature.

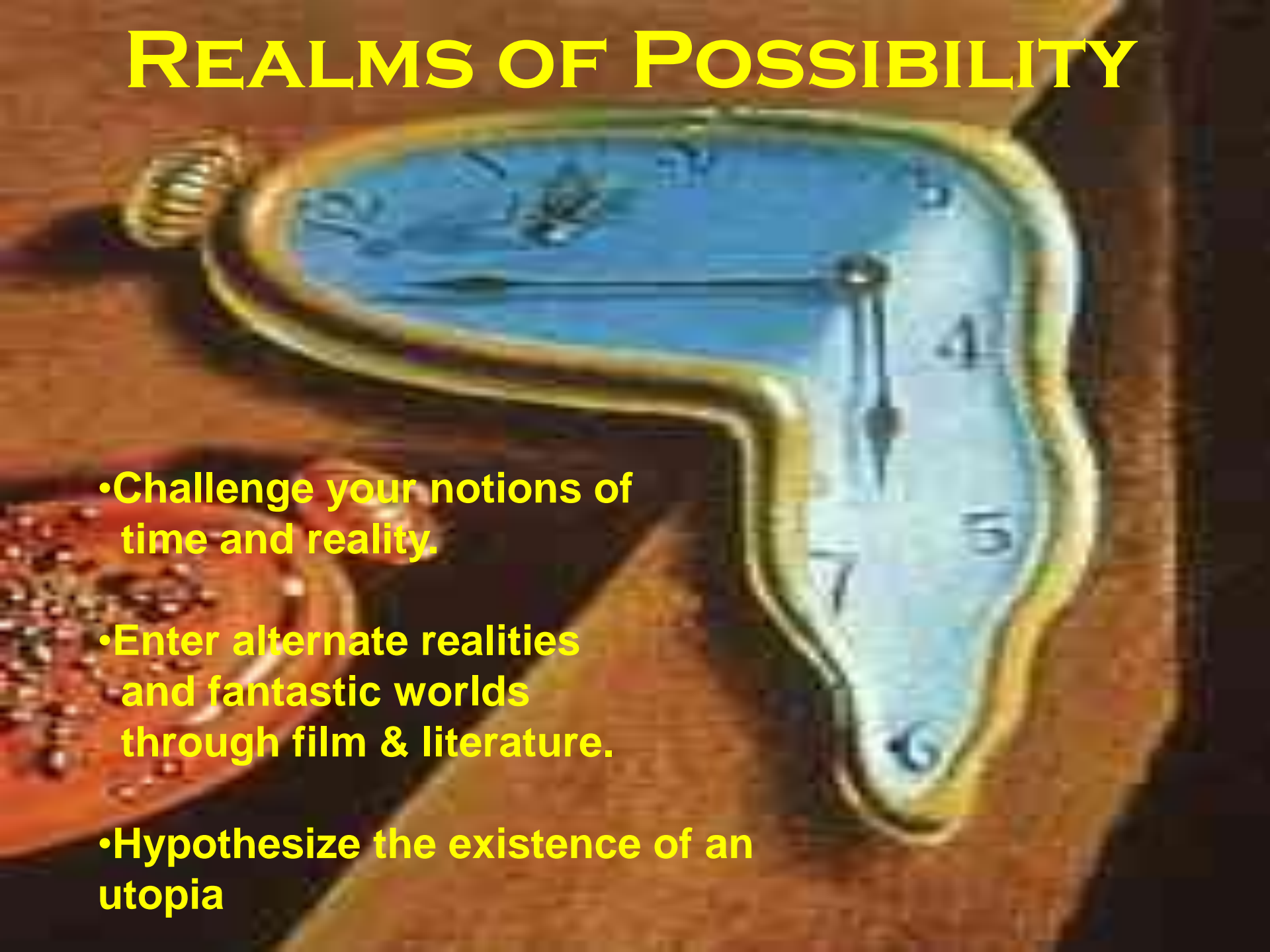
Possible plays to be read and analyzed:





# REALMS OF POSSIBILITY

- Challenge your notions of time and reality.
- Enter alternate realities and fantastic worlds through film & literature.
- Hypothesize the existence of an utopia



# IN REALMS OF POSSIBILITY YOU'LL ALSO...



- Explore & discuss implications of environmental, social, psychological, political & scientific innovations
- Encounter different genres of "science fiction" and "fantasy," including speculative fiction
- Envision & build new realities through the creation of writing & artistic projects

# Transformations & Triumphs

What it means to be human in a complex, impersonal world

Do you struggle with reading? Do you sometimes get confused by books and their meanings, plots, and characters?

This class will give you the skills to read texts, think about them, talk about them, and write about them.



# In Transformations & Triumphs, students will...

Experience **high interest, highly accessible** stories, novels, and films such as...

- *The Body* by Stephen King
- *Shawshank Redemption*
- *Bend it Like Beckham*
- *Destination Unexpected*



Study how characters overcome prejudice and intolerance in works such as...

- *A League of Their Own*
- *The Count of Monte Cristo*

Write a variety of responses...

- *Personal Memoir*
- *Movie Reviews*
- *Character Analysis*
- *Reading Logs*
- *Personal Response*





# Voices from the Edge

An Exploration of the Rebel in Literature,  
Art, Film, and Music

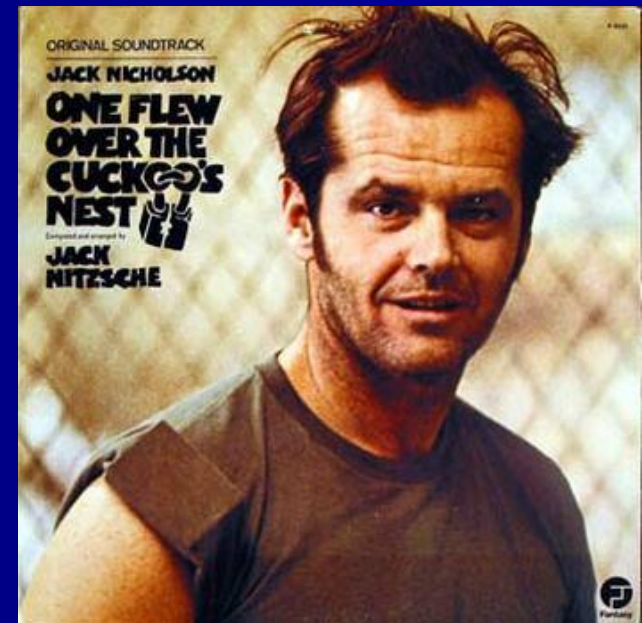
- **What is rebellion and how should it be done?**
- **How do rebels think?**
- **Why do individuals rebel against convention and what are the effects of this rebellion?**
- **How can artists rebel and raise social consciousness?**



# Voices from the Edge

## Course Overview

- Investigate how rebels react to and influence a society that tries to hold them down
- Observe characters in literature who rebel
- Examine how writers, artists, filmmakers, and musicians defy ordinary expectations to create new or innovative works of art
- Debate contemporary examples of rebellion in various art forms
- Texts may include: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Brief History of the Dead*, *V For Vendetta*, and *Memento*



# Again... your reading options are...

- Critical Lenses—a class in satire, comedy, and images
  - Cultural Transitions and the Storyteller—a class in literature of the world and stories
  - Dramatic Literature—a class in exploration of theater, playwrights, and dramatic criticism
  - Realms of Possibility—a class in science fiction and fantasy literature
  - Transformations and Triumphs—a class in personal strength and defeating prejudice
  - Voices from the Edge—a class in rebellion and divergent perspectives
- These classes meet for one semester
  - If you did not choose Journalism, Humanities, or AP Literature, you must take at least one of these
  - You may take more than one (and several students do!)



# English and Communication

General Elective Courses

# Besides our Senior Reading and Writing classes...

- We offer several other exciting classes that you can take in addition to your reading and writing classes. They are...

(Note, they do not fulfill your reading and writing requirements)



“This class taught me how to present myself in the best possible way... not just to casting directors, but to people in general.”  
-Tina, class of 2011

# Acting I, II & III

# ACTING I



## Improvisation

Learn how to perform on the spot-  
"Whose Line is it Anyway?" style.

## Character Development

Create interesting characters  
through developing walks,  
voices and gestures.

## Scene Work

Work with partners to  
direct and act in your  
selected scene.

**"I was able to speak in front of groups of people much easier after this class."**

**-Nick, Class of 2012**

# ACTING II



Audition Workshop

Advanced Scene Study

On-Camera Work

Learn how to audition for both  
stage and screen

Experiment with different methods  
of acting and different styles  
of theater

Learn the difference  
between acting for stage  
and acting for  
commercials, television & film

**"I took Acting I because I wanted to be a lawyer.  
I took Acting II because I wanted to become an actor."  
- Dave, class of 2007.**



# ACTING III



## Directing Workshop

Learn how to apply your acting skills to a directorial position

## Independent Study in Acting

Select a period style of theater to research and perform in the manner traditional to that time

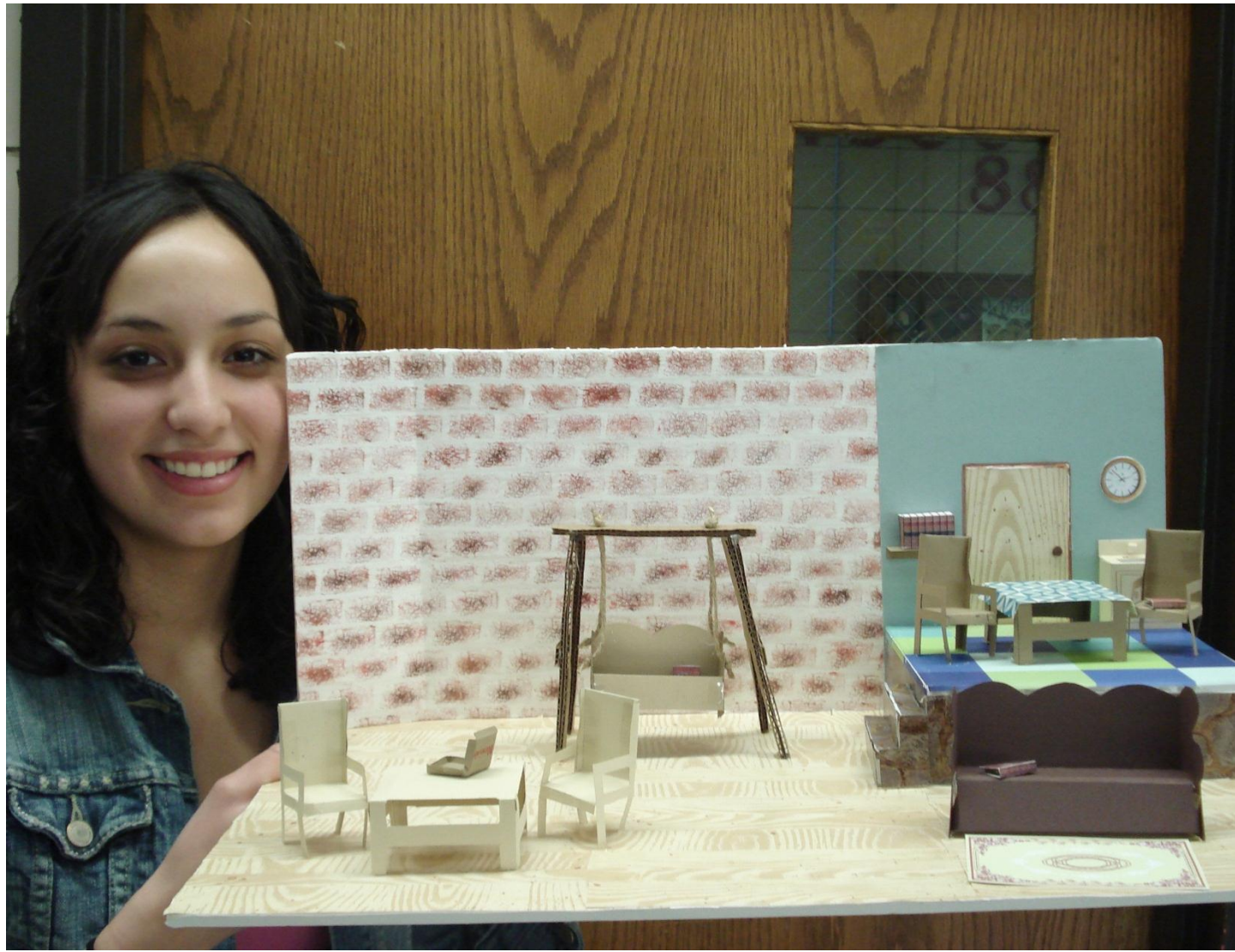
## Dramaturgy

Study the background of a playwright and play and apply that information to an in-depth character study

“I took away a lot more than I thought I would from an acting class...it became a family atmosphere and a comfortable place to take risks. I was unafraid of making mistakes.”

- Elise, Class of 2011





“My favorite part about this class was all of the hands-on design experience we got. I loved coming to class to build my set design model.”

-Becky, Class of 2013

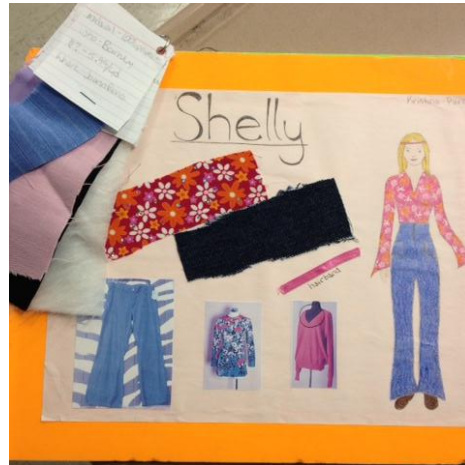
# THEATER DESIGN

# THEATER DESIGN



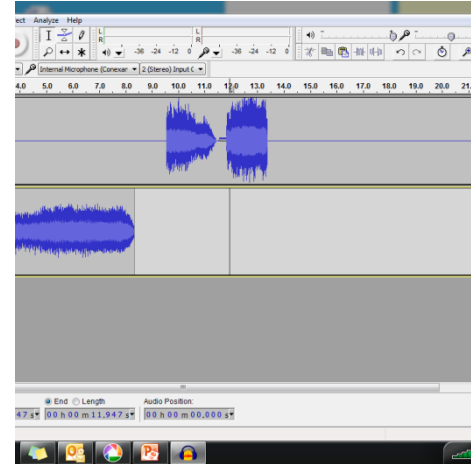
Set Design

Choose a play and design the set;  
then build the model!



Costume Design

Create a costume design for  
a male and female character;  
complete with fabric swatches



Sound Design

Find and edit music and  
sound effects for a  
one-act play

**“This class allows students to explore their own creativity. Even students who don’t plan to pursue theater in the future enjoy experiencing what designers do first-hand.”**

**-Ms. Rubin**



# Oral Interpretation

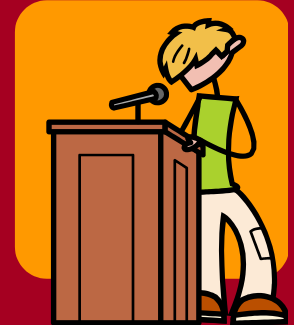
Taking the Words on the Page and Bringing them to Life!

- Earn General Credit or Fine Arts Credit
- Literature Study through the Art of Performance
- Poetry, Short Stories, Drama and Speeches
- Group Interpretations





# Forensics



- Open to Grade 10, 11 and 12 students
- Training in Acting and Interpretation
- Performance of Literature
- Public Speaking and Debate Activities
- Comedy Writing and Radio Speaking





# Journalism Workshop: Yearbook



- Open to Grades 10, 11, and 12
- Get Credit for Creating (and Getting a Sneak Peak at) the Yearbook!
- Use your Creativity and Become a Journalist from Day 1 of the Course
- Learn Magazine-Style Writing, Photography, Graphic Design, Organization, Brainstorming, & Time Management Skills
- This Class Offers Leadership Opportunities and Teamwork Experiences

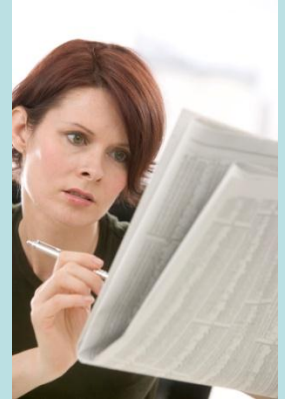
This class is open for repeat enrollment.  
Students often take it 2 or 3 consecutive years!



# Advanced Journalistic Writing



Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation  
or Journalistic Expression and Media Literacy



- Get general credits for working on the **Blueprint!**
- Open to Grades 11 and 12 students
- Writing articles for the school newspaper
- Development of principles learned in Journalistic Expression and Media Literacy
- Opportunities for Leadership and Advancement
- Experience other aspects of newspaper production, including editing, desktop design, page make-up and use of graphics

This class is open for repeat enrollment.  
Students often take it 2 or 3 consecutive years!





# Radio I



- Open to Grade 9-12 students
- Earn a C or better in Radio 1 and become a DJ on 88.3 FM! (optional)
- Study history of popular music
- Write and perform newscasts and advertisements
- Hands-on intro to basic studio equipment, programming, and broadcast writing
- Study FCC Regulations
- Plan and perform an entertaining radio show for an audience



# Radio II

- Advanced instruction in programming and performance
- Conduct live interviews
- Write and perform radio dramas
- Learn techniques in recording, editing, directing and production
- Prepare materials for radio broadcast on 88.3-FM
- DJ live school events and sports
- Be an integral part of 88.3s management team
- Plan and participate in fundraisers and charity events

# Radio III

- Open to Grade 10, 11 and 12 students
- Pre-requisites: Radio I and II (an A or B in both)
- Independent study designed for the advanced communication student who has a definite interest in broadcasting as a career







# Television I



- Open to Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12
- Hands-on class teaches students how to operate a camera, how to script and direct a TV show, and how to edit their own productions
- Trained as television crew members by working with Cable 99
- Projects include game shows, news, live broadcasts, music video production and the creation of a video yearbook
- Student who take this class need to allow for 2 periods: 1 period for the class, and 1 period to drive from DGN to DGS



# Television II



- Open to Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12
- Fine tune the skills they have learned in Television I
- Write, direct, produce, and edit a multi-episode program series to be aired on Cable 99
- Create individual projects, polishing their work with the goal of airing it on Cable 99
- Student who take this class need to allow for 2 periods: 1 period for the class, and 1 period to drive from DGN to DGS



# Film Studies



Casting: Students who are interested in film as art  
Credits: General  
Tagline: Become an active film viewer!  
Broaden your knowledge of film techniques while experiencing *great* films!

Production: A variety of classic and contemporary films including Suspense (Hitchcock), Western (Wayne and Eastwood), Silent (Chaplin), Art (*Citizen Kane*), Films of Youth and Rebellion (Brando and Dean)

\*\*\*Along with film viewing, this class includes analysis, discussion, and writing\*\*\*

