

Senior Course  
~~Options for~~  
English 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



This year long course explores how works of literature, art, drama, and philosophy all come together to define what it means to be human.

We will study classic and modern works to prepare you for college level thinking, reading, and writing. Writing in this class will include reflections, analysis, and some research. More importantly, we'll probably figure out the meaning of life.



We study:

Philosophy- Literature - Mythology - Art - Religion



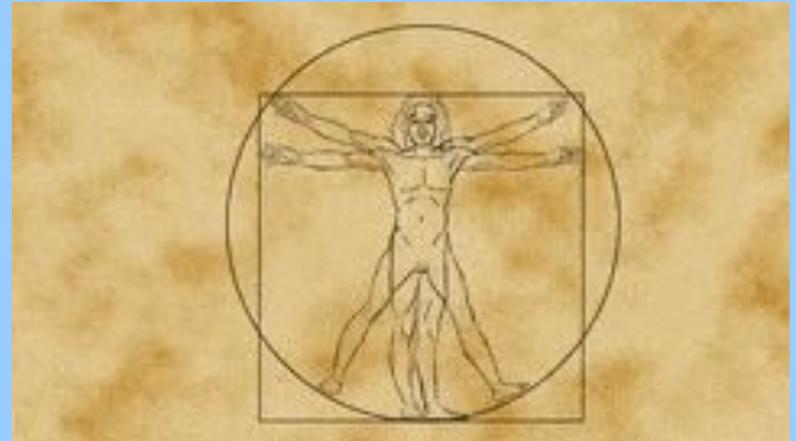
Thinkers, artists, and topics such as...

Socrates, Plato, Greek Mythology, Shakespeare, Hinduism, The 5 Ninja Turtle Renaissance Artists

# The Humanities and Critical Expression

In this class, you'll study the big questions of life, including:

- What is evil, and how can it exist in a world with an all powerful good God?
- How do we define beauty?
- What is art supposed to do?
- How can you prove you exist?
- Do we have free will or are we ruled by fate?

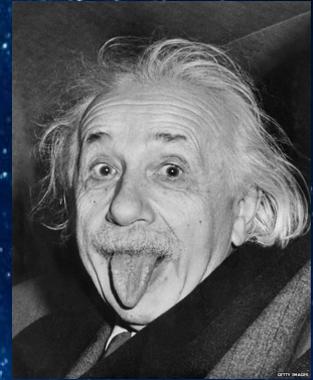


**Besides you personally answering these questions, we will examine how famous philosophers and authors have explored them.**

"It is not enough to teach man [math and science]. Through it he may become a kind of useful machine, but not a harmoniously developed personality...

He must learn to understand the motives of human beings, their illusions, and their sufferings in order to acquire a proper relationship to individual fellow-men and to the community...

Otherwise he – with his specialized knowledge – more closely resembles a well-trained dog." --Albert Einstein



COME LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A HUMAN. THINK ABOUT GREAT IDEAS IN PHILOSOPHY. PONDER GREAT ART. CONSIDER THE STORIES AND MYTHS WE TELL OURSELVES. SIGN UP FOR HUMANITIES!

# 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 want to learn to write in ways that will help you 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
- ❖ Career Research
- ❖ Interviewing practice



# 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



# Written Expression



Students will learn and practice multiple drafts of several different types of writing. Students explore their voice as a writer through freewriting, choosing their own topics, and real audiences.

UNITS include but are not limited to:

- Research-based discussion posts
- E-mail and business letter writing
- Creative nonfiction
  - College Essay
  - Memoir
  - Narrative
  - Scholarship
- TEDTalk writing and presenting
  - Informative
  - Persuasive
- Writing portfolio

# 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



# **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!**



# 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

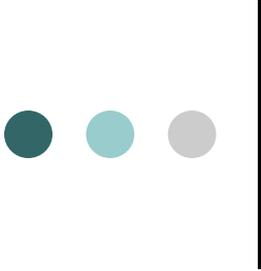
- Write a **research paper** on a contemporary media issue
- Write and produce a **radio drama** (performed on radio)
- Write and perform a **public service announcement** using persuasive strategies (performed on radio)
- Create a **blog** and compose **media reviews** through text, audio, and video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



Picture:  
authorsblogs.com



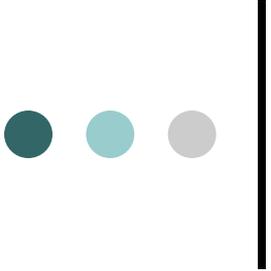
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ehow.com



# 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.

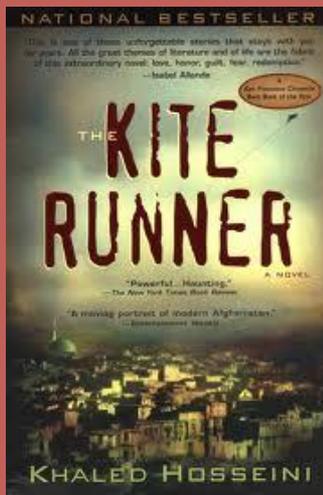
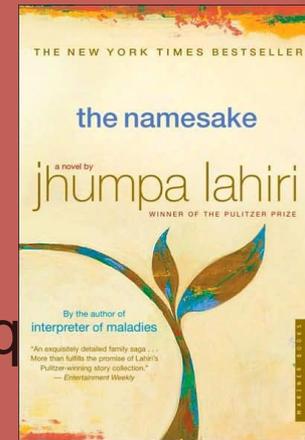
# Cultural Transitions and the Storyteller

- 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 Storyteller

- 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

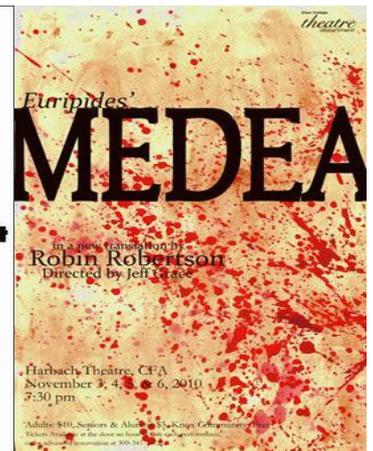
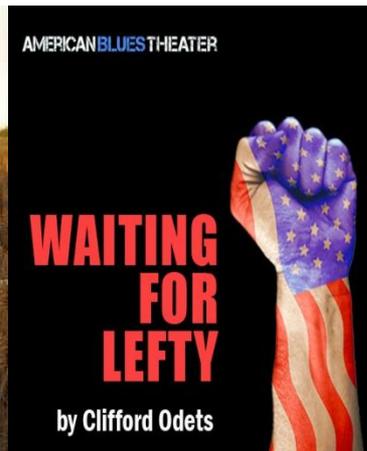
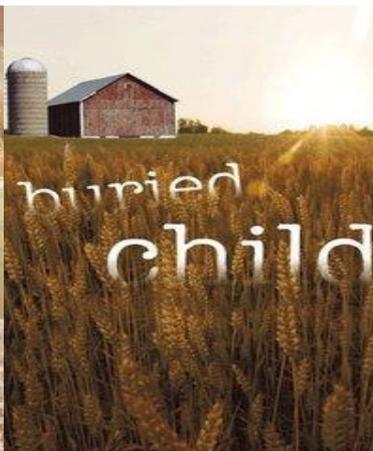
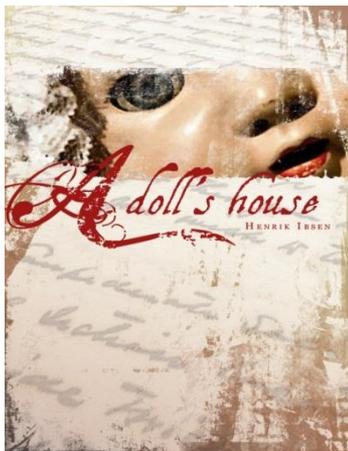
An exploration of theater, playwrights, and dramatic criticism



# In this class you will...

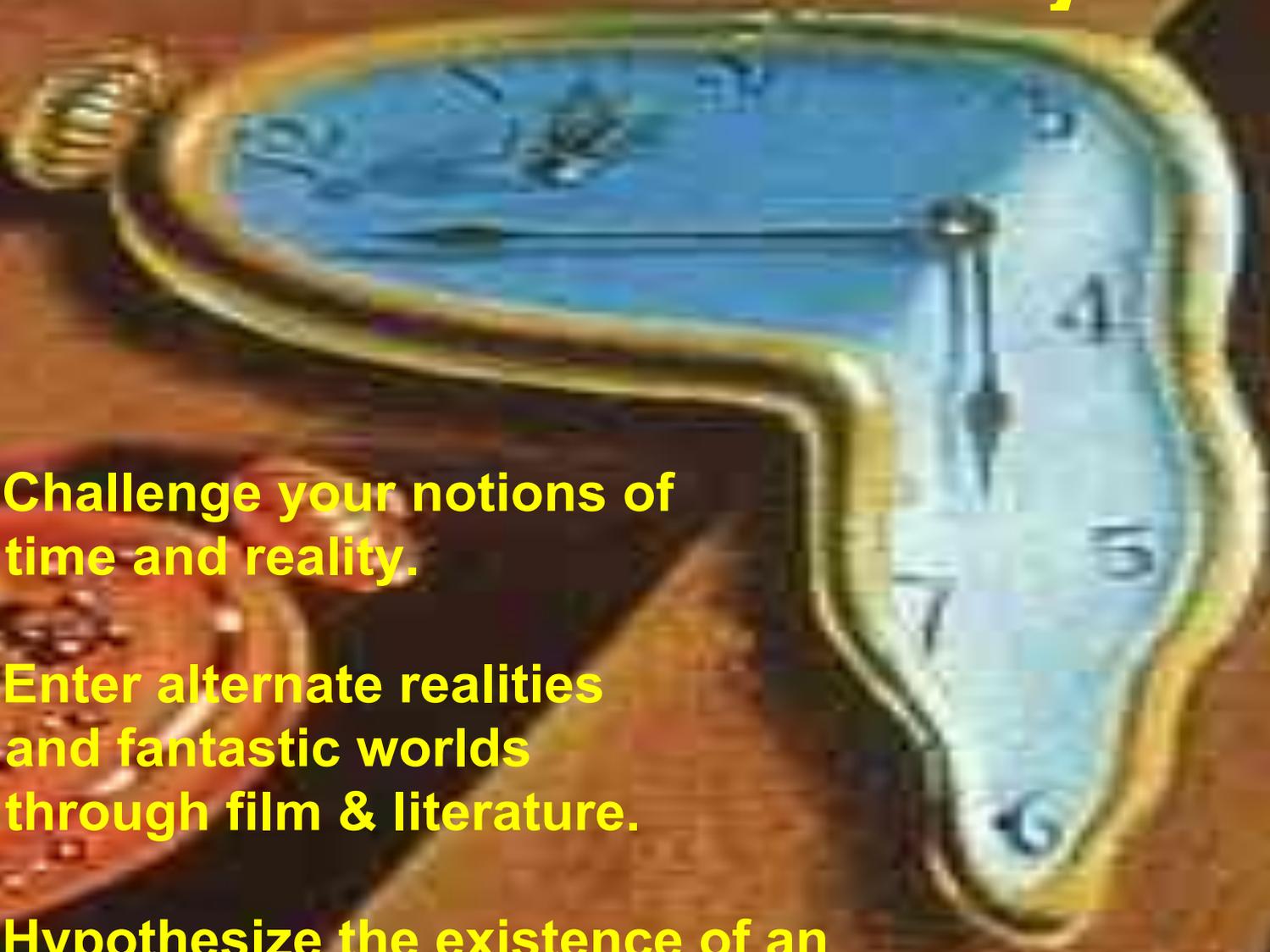
- Analyze the impact of society on the creation and reception of various plays.
- Compare different playwrights, genres, and themes across eras.
- Read varying translations and interpretations of a play.
- Appreciate dramatic literature as an art form and social commentary.
- Analyze drama to determine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

Possible texts:

- Anansi Boys
- I am Legend
- Diamond Dogs
- Planet of the Apes
- Masterpieces: Best Sci-Fi of the 20th Century

# Transformations & Triumphs

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

**Are you interested in reading about characters who are looking to change or to overcome personal and societal conflicts?**

**This class will provide you with opportunities to read high interest 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...

- *I am the Messenger*
- *Looking for Alaska*
- *The Body*
- *Shawshank Redemption*
- *Bend it Like Beckham*
- *Destination Unexpected*
- *Persepolis*



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 Rebellion in Literature,  
Art, Film, and Music

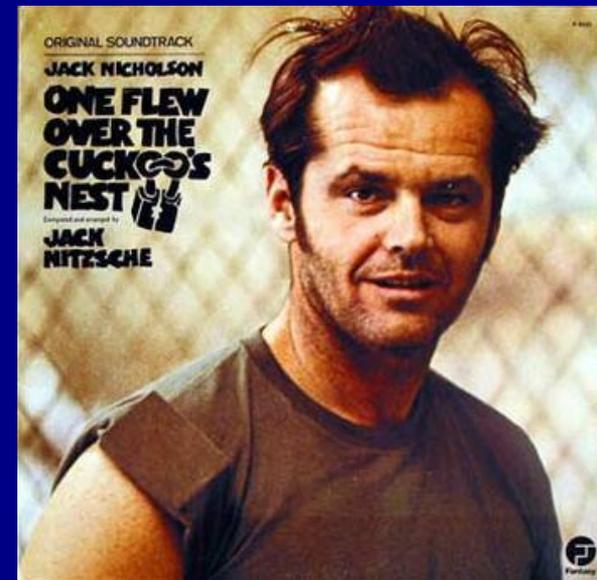
- What makes someone a rebel?
- What are the many different ways people, characters, and artists have rebelled?
- How do rebels think?
- How can artists rise social consciousness and change the world?



# 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 create new or innovative works of art
- Texts may include:
  - *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
  - *The Road*
  - *Civil Disobedience*
  - *MLK's Letters from Birmingham Jail*
  - *V For Vendetta*
  - *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)



# Oral Interpretation

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

- 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



# 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 Grades 9-12
- 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

- Open to Grades 9-12. Pre-requisite: Radio I
- 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 Grades 10, 11 and 12
- 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 tv crew members by working with Cable 99
- Projects include game shows, news, live broadcasts, music video production and the creation of a video yearbook
- This course will be taught at North High during 1st period. South students must provide their own transportation and have a study hall 2<sup>nd</sup> period to account for travel time.



# 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
- This course will be taught at North High during 1st period. South students must provide their own transportation and have a study hall 2<sup>nd</sup> period to account for travel time.



# 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 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\*\*\*

