

Acting Workshop

F Paul

This course will give you the basics of the craft of acting. It is for beginners as well as advanced students. First, how does an actor make it look "real," then, how does an actor make it more interesting than real life? Beginning with warm-ups, exercises and theater games to build concentration and develop creative impulses, we will move into improvised scenarios, monologues and scenes from traditional modern plays. Students will gain practical knowledge of the nuts and bolts of acting while learning a working vocabulary to identify and apply essential concepts that can be brought to any rehearsal process. The class will culminate in a public presentation of selected scenes or monologues from plays on which we have worked during the term. (Students will be expected to do some rehearsal on their own, outside of class, especially in the latter half of the course.)

Advanced Algebra: Formerly Polygraph

B Kiki

[Math Pre-Req][Math Prof]

Content - Polynomials, symbolic equations, exponent rules, analytic geometry, systems of equations, complex numbers, quadratic formula analysis, circle equations, patterns, nth terms, logic and mathematical writing.

Methods - Puzzles, problem solving and playing games. You'll work mainly in small groups. Your job is to not only figure out but to also explain. There will be regular weekly homework assignments, closed book quizzes, and two exams.

Prerequisite - Teacher recommendation.

This class is a prerequisite for pre-calculus.

Algebra 1

D Cathy

[Math Pre-Req]

This class introduces you to the basic concepts of algebra: order of operations, signed numbers, solving equations, graphing and slope, exponents and roots. Solving problems and playing games are the basic procedures of the class and you will work mainly in small groups. Your job will be to figure out and explain how you did your work. There will be regular homework, periodic quizzes and two tests.

This class will offer the calculations and/or logic pre-requisites of the Math Proficiency.

Algebra 2

E Kiki

[Math Pre-Req]

This class is a continuation of Algebra 1 and will cover: distributive law, factoring, linear equations, two by two systems of equations, coordinate geometry, exponents and roots, nth terms, and the quadratic formula.

The basic procedures of the class include solving puzzles and short projects. You will work in small groups. Your job will be to figure out and explain your work. There will be weekly homework, two quizzes, and two exams.

This class will also offer the calculations and logic pre-requisites periodically.

American Sign Language (ASL)

A Alan

[Foreign Language]

American Sign Language (ASL) is the third most common language non-English used in the United States behind Spanish and Chinese and continues to be one of the fastest growing languages of study in the United States.

"ASL is a visually perceived, gesture-based language." That means it is a language that is expressed through the hands and face and is perceived through the eyes. It isn't just waving your hands in the air. If you furrow your eyebrows, tilt your head, glance in a certain direction, twist your body a certain way, puff your cheek, or any number of other "inflections" --you are adding or changing meaning in ASL. A "visual gestural" language carries just as much information as an oral/aural (mouth/ear) language.

The best way to learn ASL is through interactive activities, hands on experience guided by the teacher. This is a great opportunity for you to learn a new language, and who knows, perhaps some of you could make a career out of it to become an ASL interpreter!

Animal Behavior

E Caitlin, Rachel W

[Non Hands-On Sci Pre-Req Course]

Humans think of themselves as uniquely intelligent and special, but are we really so unique? Did you know that chimps wage wars, gorillas have been taught to sign words and bonobos have sex orgies? Did you know that the average dog has the mental capabilities of a two-year-old child? In this class we will conduct an in-depth look at the behavior of dogs, our loyalest animal friends. We will explore questions that include what does dog behavior mean? What can we know about what dogs think and feel? How did dogs' behavior evolve? We will also explore the intelligence of apes, our closest animal relatives. We will examine what thinking, culture and language looks like among apes and how it compares to humans. Throughout our studies, we will conduct extensive observations around the city - especially at the zoo, as well as read articles, watch movies and interview scientists who study animal behavior.

Art Projects

J Marcela

The focus of this activity period is to experiment with a variety of arts and crafts projects and techniques. We will try to do something new and interesting every week, including but not limited to candle making, printmaking, making small sculpture, mosaic making, wood burning and other projects.

Avram's Men

J Avram

This group discusses the many different challenges that young men in our society face - in education, in employment, in personal relationships and so on. Topics vary and students can play a role in choosing them. The point is to think through these issues with the help of other people.

Calculations Prerequisite: Getting to the Finish Line

J Becky

[Math Pre-Req]

If you almost passed the calculations test last semester but not quite, you'll be able to fill in your math holes in this workshop. Your study will be tailored to your particular needs.

Note: If you start in this class and then pass the calculations test, you can move into another class for the rest of the semester.

Chemistry Kit

F Terri G

[Hands-On Sci Pre-Req Course][Sci Pre-Req Paper][Sci Prof]

What has happened to the chemistry kit? We have heard stories about our parents or other older relatives making explosives in their basements. But the current kits basically contain a little vinegar, a little baking soda and maybe some colorful indicator. Where will our future chemists come from if they are not amazed and empowered by mixing some chemicals to make a "bang"? We will work towards alleviating this situation in this course. Together we will figure out the best demonstrations and explanations to add to a chemistry kit for young children. Expect regular homework assignments and lab reports.

Chess

J Adam

Like to play chess? Want to learn how? This is the activities period for you! (But not if you plan to ask to play other games or do homework; it's chess or nothin'. Period, end of story.)

For more advanced players, there will be some strategy exercises available. Chess expert Bobby Muhammad will be offering individualized (gentle) instruction for those who want to improve their game. Players will be asked to play with different partners over the course of the semester to expand their playing strategies.

Choose Your Own Adventure

B Caitlin

[SS Pre-Req Course][SS Pre-Req Paper][SS Prof]

Do you have a passion for baseball or basketball? Have you always wanted to know more about the Black Power Movement, the Gay Rights Movement, child soldiers, or the Vietnam War? Are you still confused about who bombed the World Trade Center? Is there anything that has happened or is happening in this city, this country or in the world that you want to know more about? Do you want the chance to choose what it is you study?

In this course you will have the chance to choose for yourself a subject you want to learn more about and do just that. The only requirements are that it be about something that really happened or is happening now and that there is book out there about it. If you can read about it, then you can study it here.

We will be reading in class, sharing what we learn, debating questions that emerge, and putting it all together in presentations and essays.

Co-Ed Mostly Basketball

J Adam, Andrea

Sneakers required. Come jump, shoot, pass and move. All participants are expected to be active!

Constitutional Law

F Adam, Rachel W

[SS Pre-Req Course][SS Pre-Req Paper][SS Prof]

How much protection is there for what you put on Facebook or Instagram - can you be arrested for threatening to beat someone up, or even kill them, if you imply that you might be joking? Can a state decide to outlaw gay marriage or abortion? Can a radio station be fined for airing a comedian's monologue that features vulgar, curse words? Can cheerleaders at a public high school football game run onto the field with a banner proclaiming "Win this one for Christ"? Do colleges and schools have a right to take race into account when deciding whom to admit? How about fire departments? If the police beat you up to get you to admit to a crime, can your statements ever be used against you?

What do these questions have in common?

These are issues of constitutional law that have been or will be decided by the United States Supreme Court, and they all affect your individual rights. In this class we will examine several constitutional questions by reading Supreme Court cases, by talking to lawyers and other legal experts and by arguing about the cases in class. We will also pick a case being heard this term, read related cases, and then travel to either Washington, D.C. or Albany, NY to hear oral argument in the case.

All students will be expected to function as lawyers (writing briefs and arguing cases) and judges (asking oral argument questions and writing opinions) during class.

Dance with Miranda and Cadijah: Bruck Up Dance and more

J Karen

In this activity period we will be learning different styles of dance such as hip hop, bruck up, contemporary, and also how to stretch and use our muscle memory. By the end of the semester we should have at least three choreographed dances. Student input will be recognized in the class environment. Ideas will be put to use. Class will begin with stretching and warming up. Learning the breakdown of general dance techniques is key in this activities period. Clothing for this class should be either body fitting and/or loose, to allow fluid movement. This class will be held in the dance studio on the fifth floor.

Darkroom Photography

G Roy *[also meets 3:30pm to 4:30pm on Tuesdays]*

[CA Pre-Req Course][CA Prof][Crit Pre-Req Course]

This class is open to both experienced photographers and students with no photography experience. Through an initial group photography assignment and weekly individual assignments focusing on your individual topic, the class will create photographs in the darkroom and discuss what makes them visually significant and relevant. We will also visit various galleries around the city which concentrate on presenting photography. A final presentation of class work will be required at the end of the semester.

A Tuesday lab is required for this course, from 3:30-4:30.

Digital Photography

E Roy

[CA Pre-Req Course][CA Prof][Crit Pre-Req Course]

Through weekly projects and group critiques, this class will explore how to use digital photography to create visually interesting images. We will also use the computer and the open-source programs: GIMP (similar to Photoshop) to learn how to manipulate these images, and Inkscape to design page layouts that incorporate text, graphics and color with our images.

Each student will be responsible for compiling a final portfolio of their semester's work, as well as will have the opportunity to contribute pages to this year's yearbook.

This is a digital darkroom and computer design course. Though there is no scheduled after school lab set aside for this class, you will need to complete work on school computers during class and after school.

Disney: American Popular Culture

B Rachel B

[Crit Pre-Req Course][SS Pre-Req Course][SS Pre-Req Paper][SS Prof]

The Disney Magic Kingdom logo calls up different emotions. Critics cover their children's eyes, for them Disney is a negative force in our culture. Doesn't the powerful Disney Corporation take advantage of its audience to shove products down our throats? Hasn't Disney sanitized American history in its films and parks? Aren't Disney's female characters stereotypical helpless girls robbed of their voices and power? And hasn't Disney promoted a racist agenda? Others get warm and fuzzy when the Magic Kingdom logo appears. These fans dismiss the critics and their analyses.

In order to evaluate these interpretations of Disney we will look at Disney films with a critical eye. We will read reviews and interpretations of the films, talk to parents and children about their experiences with the films, and compare the Disney films with other, very different versions of the same stories. We will also look beyond the films to the amusement parks (no visits though!), to figure out for ourselves whether the corporation has had a positive or negative impact on our culture.

Documentary Photography

F Rachel B *[also meets 3:30pm to 5:00pm on Thursdays]*

[CA Pre-Req Course][CA Prof][Crit Pre-Req Course]

In this darkroom course we will be using old fashioned film cameras to take photographs of the people and places in our lives - friends, families, hang out spots - or other things in the city you love or hate and want to document.

In order to make our own work better we will look at the work of a few photographers who have shot the city. We will also be reviewing our own images and sharing them with others. At designated points during the semester you will more formally present your projects to the class for critique.

This course is open to beginner and advanced photographers. You do not need to have your own camera. In order that we have enough time in the darkroom you will be required to attend a Thursday lab from 3:30-5:00.

Evolutionary Simulations

A Terri G

[Hands-On Sci Pre-Req Course][Sci Pre-Req Paper][Sci Prof]

How do populations change over time? How do new species appear? How and why do some species go extinct? In this course we will look at how genetic characteristics change in populations over time.

We will explore how evolution works by playing with Biogenesis, a computer program that simulates lifeforms and their interactions. We will also conduct an experiment using bean bugs - a small, non-flying insect that can produce several generations during the semester.

There are no pre-requisites for this course. You will have opportunities to complete the science pre-requisite lab. If you have taken the class before, you can build on a successful experiment for the Proficiency

Games

J Sinthia

Like to play games? Backgammon, Blockus, Clue, Connect Four. We have them and for the period we will play them. Bring suggestions for other possible options. All skill levels welcome!

Geometry: Constructions

B Andrea

[Math Pre-Req]

Starting with a compass and a straightedge, this class will look at angles and shape relationships of all sorts from theoretical and practical viewpoints. No need for a protractor or a ruler!

Be ready to look for patterns, relationships and logic in our geometrical constructions. We will devise practical ways of proving our constructions are what they are.

Students will work mainly in small groups and there will be puzzles, quizzes, tests and weekly homeworks.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Immigrant Fiction

G Karen

[Crit Pre-Req Course][Lit Pre-Req Course][Lit Pre-Req Paper]

America has been called "the land of opportunity" and for millions of people each year they dream of coming to this country. But what is this dream about? What do people have to go through in order to make their dreams come through? What price, if any, do they pay in their quest for success? What happens to those who do not achieve it? What happens when the dream becomes a nightmare?

In this literature class we will read a series of novels and short stories, which lay bare the experiences of immigrants. We will visit various immigrant neighborhoods and landmarks. We will also watch films which sheds light on what this experience is all about.

Students should come prepared to do a great deal of reading and writing. There will also be several opportunities to get pre-requisite papers done.

Intensive Math Projects: The Joy of x

D Andrea

[Math Prof]

This course is designed for select students to complete their math proficiency and/or explore new branches of mathematics. We are covering topics anywhere from addition to calculus!

There will be frequent homework, evaluations, and a final project. All of these are mandatory in order to succeed in the class.

It's Bigger Than Hip Hop: Rapper's Delight

G Mike

[SS Pre-Req Course][SS Pre-Req Paper][SS Prof]

In 1974 DJ Kool Herc threw a free block party in response to the violence erupting in his neighborhood, South Bronx New York. He could not have predicted that he would start a movement that defined a generation and created cultural icons like Biggie, Tupac, Jay-Z, and Snoop Dogg. Kool Herc's decision to repeat the "break" of popular funk songs created a new genre of music called Hip-hop.

This music rose out of some of the toughest socio-economic conditions in this country's history. In this class, we will study Hip-hop and its influence on American culture. We will study the art of MC-ing and discuss defining moments in Rap Music's history. Expect to read texts that analyze major moments in Hip-hop history, watch films, write some rhymes, and listen to Hip-hop music to gain a better understanding of this cultural phenomenon. You will also be expected to write two substantial papers on Hip-hop music.

Jibril's Skate Session

J Mica

Skateboard with Jibril (and Mica) in the park. Jibril will instruct people in tricks they would like to learn. Other students who have experience can teach tricks they know as well. The objective of this group is to introduce you to skating if you haven't skated before, and to give those of you who have some experience a chance to work on your skills. If you have a skateboard bring it, if you don't have one Jibril will bring some extra skateboards that students can use.

Ladies Book Club: Books and Tea

J Rachel B

In this activity period we read books of your choice--but all by female authors--drink tea, and chat.

Ladies only.

La Vie Francaise avec LEO et ZAIRE

J Marcela

Hello--Bon Jour!

In this activity period we are going to be learning the French Language as well as all about the French culture. We are going to screen French films and cook French food! Our goal is to give you the whole Parisian experience without leaving the classroom... welcome to LA VIE FRANCAISE

Math Workshop

B Cathy

F Kiki

Do you need some extra help with math? This workshop is designed so that students in similar math classes can work together along with the additional support of the instructor.

Mythbuster Physics

F Shingi

[Hands-On Sci Pre-Req Course][Sci Pre-Req Paper][Sci Prof]

The Earth is Flat! Hot water freezes faster than cold water! If you drop a penny off the Empire State Building it could kill someone!

In this hands-on science class we will use physics to examine claims like these and figure out which really are just myths we can bust. In addition to physics principles and experiment design, you will learn and practice some data analysis techniques including basic statistics, as well as refine your lab report writing.

Requirements: Students must have passed Algebra 1 and their Calculations test.

Novels

A Karen

[General Prof Skills]

Would you like to read more? Are you having trouble getting started? Do you have a hard time figuring out what book to choose? Maybe you have never enjoyed reading novels or have never read a novel you enjoyed. Perhaps you've never actually finished a novel.

In this course you will:

- * choose what you read
- * decide whether you like it
- * give and take recommendations about what to read from your classmates
- * learn what you like to read
- * write reviews about the books you read
- * read short stories which introduce you to a range of genres

Number Theory and Pre-Algebra

D Kiki, Roy

[Math Pre-Req]

If you are not yet proficient in decimals, fractions, proportions, percents and signed numbers, then this course will fill in those gaps in your math knowledge. In this class you'll work in small groups doing puzzles and problems.

This class will help you pass the calculations prerequisite of the math proficiency.

Painting Workshop

A Marcela

E Marcela

F Marcela

G Marcela

[CA Pre-Req Course][CA Prof]

Do you want to know how to paint but have no clue what colors to mix to get orange, purple or green? Have you painted before but need practice creating space, light and shadows on a canvas? Do you want to experiment with gauche, acrylic and watercolor?

This class will focus on the basic "rules" of painting. We will begin by conducting color and color mixing experiments. We will analyze how professional painters have used color to create space, light and mood. We will use a variety of media including watercolor, acrylic and gauche. We will create a series of paint sketches before settling on a final painting series.

Physics and Society

G Daniel

[Hands-On Sci Pre-Req Course][Sci Pre-Req Paper]

Does cold air cause helium-filled balloons to deflate? What about footballs? Ever wonder how scientists determine the limit on the number of people allowed in an elevator? Why do smartphones have shorter battery life than tablets? What is the role of physics in determining the speed limits in NYC and other cities around the country? A woman who is 5'2" and weighs 140 pounds is considered "overweight" according to the Body Mass Index chart-- how accurate is Body Mass Index, and is it a good indicator of your health?

In this hands-on science course, students will employ concepts in physics to explore and analyze some recent controversies and other questions about the world around us. Students will conduct background research about the issues as well as collect and analyze data using mathematical techniques. Students will use scientific method to write lab reports.

Physics Seminar

A Shingi

[Hands-On Sci Pre-Req Course] [Sci Pre-Req Paper] [Sci Prof]

Are you interested in pushing your knowledge of physics further? Have you started a proficiency on a physics topic that you would like to complete? Do you do your best work in a small class when your teacher is available to work with you? This will be a small physics seminar, in which we will go deeper into physics principles, practise thinking like a physicist, and each student will do their own experiments.

Plant Science

G Shingi

[Hands-On Sci Pre-Req Course][Sci Pre-Req Paper][Sci Prof]

How to grow and care for plants is very controversial believe it or not. Very few people will agree on how much water to use or which fertilizer is better. This makes plant science fertile ground for doing experiments. Can you develop and carry out an experiment to test whether tap water is better for plants than spring water? Are plastic pots better than clay ones? In this class you will learn how to set up experiments, make observations, take measurements and draw conclusions. Since every experiment can be improved, you will learn how to pick out problems and figure out how to solve them. You will have opportunities to write a qualifying lab pre-req or to start a proficiency.

Poetry Workshop: A Language of Liberation

G Mica

[CA Pre-Req Course][CA Prof][Writing Req]

Can liberation be produced through poetry?

Writer, poet, and activist, Audre Lorde, wrote, "the poet - whispers in our dreams: I feel, therefore I can be free." Can a poem free us? What is the use of a poem? Is poetry a form of resistance? Or just a form of expression? Can poetry inspire you to seek change in yourself and the world?

We will explore poetry's art form and liberatory possibilities. Students will write, share and study many styles of poetry. We will watch films, listen to songs, visit with poets, and go on trips to find inspiration. We will use this class to learn more about ourselves, and to locate and express our voices. By the end of the term, each student will self-publish an individual collection of poems.

Note: Students who took this course in the Fall are welcome to take it again in the Spring.

Pre-Calculus

A Andrea

[Math Prof]

What's the opposite of an exponent? How do you predict whether or not two flying objects will collide into each other?

This course covers manipulating and graphing non-linear functions, inequalities, logic, limits, logarithms (natural and otherwise), and other topics to round out your knowledge prior to a calculus course.

Puzzles and projects will happen. You'll work in small groups. Your job is to "figure out and explain" logically. There will be homework (weekly), quizzes, tests, and, of course, projects.

Depending on their progress, students may be given an opportunity to complete the application portion of their Math Proficiency.

Proficiency Lab

D Karen

In this lab, students will work independently on proficiency and pre-requisite papers and projects that have been assigned in other classes. Juniors and Seniors with specific goals they need to achieve this semester are especially encouraged to sign up.

Reading for Fun

B Taina

[General Prof Skills]

Would you like to read more? Are you having trouble getting started? Do you have a hard time figuring out what book to choose? Maybe you have never enjoyed reading novels or have never read a novel you enjoyed. Perhaps you've never actually finished a novel.

In this course you will:

- * choose what you read
- * decide whether you like it
- * give and take recommendations about what to read from your classmates
- * learn what you like to read
- * write reviews about the books you read

Reel Shorts: Making Movies

E Mike, Rachel B

[CA Pre-Req Course] [CA Prof] [Crit Pre-Req Course]

Get ready to write, shoot, direct, and edit your own short films using our snazzy new equipment! In this class you will have the opportunity to try your hand at both the creative and technical aspects of filmmaking. We will also be watching and critiquing films in order to make our own work better. Based on the demands of the films you will be working on, you must be prepared to shoot and edit after school on Tuesdays. Returning Reel Shorts filmmakers will have an opportunity to direct their own independent films.

Rememoir Me: Reading Memoirs

B Gail

[Lit Pre-Req Course][Lit Pre-Req Paper]

What is a memoir? Is it different from an autobiography? Why do people write memoirs? Do they feel compelled to share their stories with the world? Why?

And why read memoirs? Don't we have enough of our own problems without reading about someone else's?

Bookstore shelves are loaded with memoirs. New ones are published every day. What is it that attracts us? Can we get something valuable from reading them or are we just voyeurs - getting a thrill from "watching" someone else's experience?

These and other questions will be explored while we read several memoirs. Be prepared to read, write, discuss and argue. There may be an opportunity to write a pre-requisite paper.

Retro Pop: 20th Century American Identity and The Popular Culture That Shaped

E Avram, Mica

[SS Pre-Req Course][SS Pre-Req Paper][SS Prof]

Popular culture influences who we are, how we act, and what we believe in, and it shapes our understanding of what it means to be American. In this American History course we will look at the people, events, acts and trends that defined pop culture throughout the 1900's.

By studying film, advertising, radio, television, news and writing that was popular throughout the 1900s we will construct an understanding of 20th century American identity, specifically focusing on race, gender, sexuality and economic class.

We will explore questions such as: In what ways have women, racial minorities and people of diverse sexualities been both oppressed and liberated by popular culture? How have immigrants used popular culture to gain access to the American identity and how have they been excluded by popular culture? Has pop culture been a site of revolution or an enforcer of rigid traditional ideals?

Robotics

G Andrea

[Hands-On Sci Pre-Req Course]

Do you have what it takes to engineer a robot? How do you tell a machine what to do? What design do you need to take into consideration in order for your robot to work? Are you ready to compete?

In this course, we will be using Lego Mindstorms to design, build and program robots in teams. We will visit various exhibits for inspiration. Your robots will compete against each other to accomplish specific tasks. No prior knowledge of programming is necessary. Group work and homework completion is mandatory to succeed in this course.

Science Proficiency Workshop

D Terri G

[Sci Prof]

Are you ready to start your science proficiency? Are you doing your experiment in a class that doesn't meet this semester? Do you need support to conduct your background research? And do you need help writing it up? This is where you belong. You must have the science prerequisite, a mentor and a plan in order to enroll in this course.

Sound Physics

E Shingi

[Hands-On Sci Pre-Req Course] [Sci Pre-Req Paper][Sci Prof]

(Proficiency Requires Permission from Teacher)

What is sound, and how does it travel? What does it mean to talk about sound 'waves?' How do you create sound, and how do you control it? How do you make a sound louder, for example, or lower-pitched? And why do saxophones sound different from pianos?

Students will study these kinds of issues through a combination of reading, discussion, writing, and experimenting. You will play with various ways of making sounds, perhaps including some musical instruments or some sound-making devices that you could build. You will also complete reading assignments, write reports, and participate in class discussions.

You do NOT need any musical training or experience to take this course.

Speak Up

D Gail

[General Prof Skills]

What is the most common fear that people will admit? The fear of public speaking.

In this course we will write and deliver several speeches. We will analyze famous speeches, commit parts of them to memory and interpret some poetry orally. We'll work on listening skills. You will have a chance to improve your ability to project your voice and work on your pronunciation.

Step Up: Hit the Streets and the Books

G Dani

We will start each class period with a brisk walk and healthy snack. The second half of the class will be a quiet study period, when students will be able to get some work done for their other classes. Occasionally, we will go on a longer adventure to a more interesting part of the city.

Student Committee

J Shingi, Terri G

The student committee works to provide all of Urban with a strong sense of community. While it is not an elected body, we try to represent the whole student body. Anyone who wants to help with raising money, putting together fun activities and working to make a better school, join us!

The Civil War and Reconstruction

D Avram

[SS Pre-Req Course][SS Pre-Req Paper][SS Prof]

This course will focus on the Civil War and post-war Reconstruction periods of American History in order to explore the meaning of freedom, democracy, and power to different groups of American people. We will pay particular attention to the debate over the causes of the War, the arguments that historians have had about who or what was responsible for the end of legal slavery and the degree to which former slaves and other "ordinary" Americans were capable of managing their own affairs and participating in government after the Civil War.

Students will pursue these issues by reading conflicting primary and secondary source interpretations of them, exchanging our own ideas about them, doing independent research, interviewing guest speakers, and writing assignments and paper that develop our their own point of view.

The Cutting Room

D Mike

[CA Pre-Req Course]

Film editing is arguably the most important job in creating movie magic. Without a cut, films would be nothing more than a continuous image. Editing allows movies to jump through time, to build emotion, and to convey an idea through juxtapositions.

In this class you will have a chance to master the skill of film editing by being immersed into the various editing techniques that make movies work. You will learn the "ins and outs" of film-making's most important skill by doing hands-on editing and studying films. We will meet professional editors who will talk to us about their process and critique your work. We will also look at classic cutting techniques like montage and continuous editing. We will spend time on sound editing, transitions, and even some special effects. You will have the opportunity to work with documentary footage as well as narrative footage.

This class is open to both students with experience and beginners. You will be required to stay after-school in editing labs throughout the semester.

The Holocaust: Hitler and the Nazi State

F Caitlin, Cathy

[SS Pre-Req Course][SS Pre-Req Paper][SS Prof]

Adolf Hitler, the leader of the Nazi party, has been called the most evil man in history. Anti-Semitism -- the hatred of Jews -- consumed him. He strove to make the entire Jewish people extinct through a plan he called "The Final Solution." He came terrifyingly close.

Between 1933 and 1945, the Nazis murdered over 11 million people using starvation, gas chambers, and mass shootings. This included 6 out of 9 million European Jews and 5 million non-Jewish people, among them the disabled, gay men, and Gypsies.

Why did this happen? How could this happen? Who was Hitler and what motivated him and other Germans to commit history's first mass killing named a genocide? What did people targeted experience? Who worked with the Nazis, who stood by, and who courageously resisted? And, finally, how should we judge and remember those who were a part of this?

In this course, we will investigate the origins of anti-Semitism, Hitler's rise to power, and what life was like under the brutal Third Reich. We will read memoirs of Holocaust survivors and watch films and documentaries that capture the experience and horror of this time in history. We may look, too, at other examples of genocide carried out around the world.

The State of the American Dream

A Avram, Herb

[SS Pre-Req Course][SS Pre-Req Paper][SS Prof]

For many generations many people in our country believed in the idea that in the United States, more than almost anywhere else, a person, through their own hard work, could rise from humble beginnings to a very comfortable way of life, and sometimes life at the very top levels of wealth and power. Today, however, some are saying that the American Dream, if it ever really existed, is disappearing. This course will consider the present and future condition of America and what these mean for young people such as yourselves who are beginning to decide what they want to do with their lives.

Students in this class will read a book called "Losing Our Way: An Intimate Portrait of a Troubled America," which is basically a report on Americans across the country who are struggling financially and emotionally. Students in this course will also conduct a series of interviews with people about their education and work experiences. They will write a larger paper that analyzes an issue raised by these interviews and perhaps the book which interests them.

Tragic Plays in Literature

D Rachel W

[Lit Pre-Req Course][Lit Pre-Req Paper]

When does a sad story become a tragedy? What is the role of fate, luck and people's decisions in causing suffering? What draws us to tell, hear and watch tragic stories and why do they make such compelling theater? In this literature course, we will read many plays, starting with several Greek tragedies, including Oedipus and Antigone. We will also read modern tragedies by great playwrights such as Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller and August Wilson. Students are expected to read outside of class, complete written homework assignments as well participate in reading (and even acting) parts of the plays in class. We will hopefully also attend a play outside of school. There will be opportunities to write a literature prerequisite paper here.

Trigonometry: Buildings, triangles and mystery distances

E Becky

[Math Pre-Req][Math Prof]

How can you use triangles to measure heights of buildings or distances to places you can see on the horizon? In this class you'll be using trigonometric relations and hand-made tools to figure out great distances. You'll also use proofs, patterns, equations, identities and graphing to solve practical problems. This class will include trips to the river, park and several buildings. You will work mainly in small groups and will have regular homework and periodic quizzes and tests.

Prerequisite- Teacher recommendation

War Stories

B Karen

[Lit Pre-Req Course][Lit Pre-Req Paper]

Why do nations go to war? Are we as human beings simply "wired" to be aggressive? Are some wars more just than others? How does going to war affect the soldiers who do the actual fighting? How does it affect the families who stay behind? Should "conscientious objectors" be considered heroes? Or were they cowards for refusing to go fight when others had to? Is America fighting too many wars? Will there ever be a time where there is actually "peace on earth?"

In this literature class we will read stories, which will examine the ways war affects us all. In addition to books, we will see films and speak to individuals involved in both pro and anti-war movements. Students taking this class will be able to complete the literature pre-requisite paper.

Website Design

A Roy

[CA Pre-Req Course]

What should an effective website do? What information should it contain and what should it leave out? What should it look like? Are certain images more effective than others?

In this class, we are going to look at re-designing the Urban Academy website. This is no small task. We'll look at and analyze the existing site, page by page. Which images should be updated? Which parts of the school should the site emphasize? How much student work should be featured and where should it go? In other words, what is the best way to represent the school online?

What's the Story?: Stories About Men and Women

A Gail

[Lit Pre-Req Course][Lit Pre-Req Paper]

What is expected of males in our society? What is expected of females? What happens when those expectations cross paths with real people living real lives?

In this Literature class we will read short stories about men and women and have a chance to explore these questions. We'll look at whether gender influences the lives of authors and the characters they have created as well as our own.

You can work on a prereq paper in this class

Word Games

J Rachel W

Have you played Boggle, Taboo, Apples to Apples or Banana Grams? There are dozens of fun word games and we'll sample quite a few - from board games like Scrabble to group party games like Celebrities.

Yearbook

J

Talk to Roy if you're interested in working on the 2014-2015 yearbook.

Yoga

B Julie

[Phys Ed]

Have you ever heard people say that yoga reduces anxiety and can actually make you happier? Come get energized in this class as we explore the benefits of yoga and mindfulness together. We will practice yoga postures and mindful breathing exercises, relaxation, and meditation. Through these techniques, we will improve our physical and emotional strength and awareness. The skills we develop in this class will also help you better cope with stress.

We have a quiet, private space for this class in the JREC dance studio. Students are expected to change into loose, yoga-appropriate clothing at the beginning of the period.

You do not need any prior experience -- just an open mind!