
Celebration
You're almost a senior.

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

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

There is an exception to this rule…

- We do offer three classes, which meet for the entire year, that count for both the writing *and* reading requirements.
- These classes are:
  - AP English Literature & Composition
  - Humanities and Critical Expression
  - Journalistic Expression and Media Literacy

Senior Course Options for English Credit

AP Literature & Composition



Want to read books & poems that challenge your heart and mind?

In this class you will:

- Read 3 novels, 1 play, and a variety of poetry
- Engage in discussions about fictional worlds & real-life parallels
- Build your critical reading and writing skills to prepare you for the AP exam.
- Prepare for college-level thinking and coursework
- Impress your friends with your levels of nuance & observation!





"If you only read the books everyone else is reading, you will only think what everyone else is thinking" -Murakami

AP Literature & Composition - Resources

- In IC, your teacher's recommendation will be listed. In addition, Accelerated Placement will be listed as "ST" code if qualify.
- Chart to help you think through the differences between AP and English IV options.
- FAQ about English AP classes
- Accelerated Placement information

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 creativity too. You will be asked to engage in multiple aesthetic experiences.



More importantly, we'll probably figure out the meaning of life.





<u>We study</u>:

Philosophy- Literature - Mythology - Art - Religion - Music

Humanities and Critical Expression

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

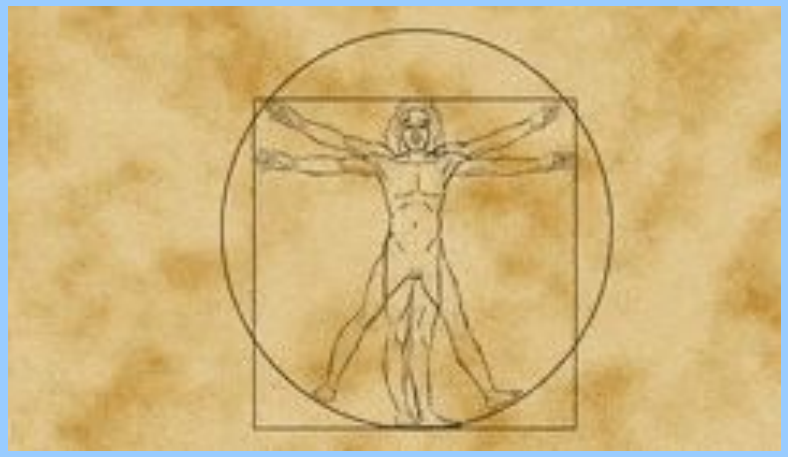
- What is evil, and how can it exist in a "good" world?

•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.



Journalistic Expression and Media Literacy



- A full year course open to Grades 10-12
- Earns you 1 English credit
- This class explores everything journalism
- This class offers opportunities to get published (great for resume and college applications)
- If you take this course as a sophomore or junior, you can take Advanced Journalistic Writing the following year. This class runs the *Blueprint*.

•This video talks about different journalism classes

Within Journalistic Expression and Media Literacy students will:

- **1st Semester:** Learn how to write news, sports, opinions, and entertainment articles for a print or online newspaper. You will have opportunities to have your work published on southblueprint.com.

- **2nd Semester:** Learn how to write, record, and edit podcasts, video news packages, and documentaries. You will become proficient in Adobe Premiere Pro. You will have opportunities to have your work published on southblueprint.com.



Again...

Full year options include:

- Humanities and Critical Expression
- Journalistic Expression and Media Literacy
- AP English Literature & Composition

  - These classes meet for the entire year
  - They will fulfill both your writing requirement and reading requirement

If those classes do not interest you…

We offer 4 semester-long classes that will fulfill your writing requirement.

- College Composition (Dual Credit)
- Senior Writing
- Creative Writing
- Writing for Public Speaking

College Composition (Dual Credit)

This one-semester, dual-credit course will introduce students to the fundamentals of rhetoric and writing, including understanding situation and context, audience, purpose, genre, and persuasion. Students use these concepts in a variety of writing projects that connect to real-world academic, personal, social, political, and professional situations. Throughout the course, students develop their writing through research, discussion, feedback, revision, and reflection.

UNITS *may* include:

1. Writing for Reflection and Self-Discovery (freewriting, journaling)
2. Analyzing and Creating Real World Writing (resumes, cover letters, emails)
3. Media Messages & Multimodal Writing (rhetorical analysis of ads in various genres or modes)
4. Persuasion in the Digital Age (analysis of news sources, social media)
5. Researching Questions That Matter (self-selected topics of interest)

Why Take College Composition?

- Students MUST take one semester of writing to graduate in D99
- This is an opportunity for students to earn both the required writing credit for D99 and college credit for a course that is likely required at every college for every major (Composition 101 or Rhetoric 101)
- Weighted credit in D99 as a dual credit course

COD Requirements to take course for Dual Credit

- **Grade Level: 12**
- **Prerequisite(s):** ***Successful completion of three years of English courses (in high school) AND any one of the following measures***:

- **Minimum high school cumulative, non-weighted GPA of 2.6 on a 4.0 scale, or equivalent, with a minimum of 5 semesters (3.6/5.0)**

OR

- **ACT Composite score of 20 or higher, ACT English subscore of 18 or higher, or ACT English Language Arts (ELA) subscore of 20 or higher.**

OR

- **SAT total score of 950 or higher or SAT Reading/Writing subscore of 480 or higher.**

Senior Writing

Students will **craft and revise multiple drafts of several different types of writing.** They will **explore writing they may not have experienced or mastered in previous English courses,** and that could ultimately prepare them for the college and career world.

Students will explore their **voice as a writer** through freewriting, **choosing their own topics and formats**, and **writing for real audiences.**

UNITS may include:

1. Storytelling & Perspective - memoir, personal narrative, short story, etc.
2. Evaluation - review and evaluate something: movie, literature, restaurant, video game, album, event, career/program of study, etc..
3. Persuasion/Call to Action - research essay, fundraiser/organization, letter to community/business/school, public service announcement, etc..
4. Presentation - live or recorded presentation of one written piece completed in this course

‹ Creative Writing ›

Calling all creative minds, storytellers, and potential poets!

★ In this **introduction to creative writing** class you will stray from the traditional writing styles in English class. The semester will be **split between poetry and fiction**.

★ Writers will **develop creative writing techniques such as** the use of powerful, figurative, and sensory language, rhyme schemes, sound devices, character development, and fiction writing/storytelling.

★ **Writers can expect to learn/practice any but not all of the following: Free Verse, Form Poetry, Slam Poetry, Haiku Throwdown, Microfiction, Character Collections, Short Stories, Screenplays, Film Study**

Writing for Public Speaking

The Power of the Spoken Word

Creating Effective Written Messages That Speak to an Audience!



Writing for Public Speaking

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!**



Again...

Your writing course options are:

- College Composition (Dual Credit)
- Senior Writing
- Creative Writing
- Writing for Public Speaking

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 also need to take a reading class the other semester.

Critical Reading Classes

We offer 6 semester-long classes that fulfill your critical reading requirement.

- Black American Literature
- Critical Lenses
- Cultural Literature
- Dramatic Literature
- Science Fiction and Fantasy
- Rebels in Literature



Black American Literature

Objectives

This semester long course provides an in-depth exploration of literature written by and about Black Americans. Each course text examines aspects of Black culture, **with a focus on life outside of and in spite of traditionally familiar deficit narratives.**

Students will analyze literary and artistic movements, along with historic and contemporary leaders, while highlighting the undeniable impact of said movements within the United States.



Course Units

We Were Seeds

Black culture & literary tradition pre-enslavement

So We Bloomed

Renaissance & Rebellion via voices of change both past & present

We ARE our Ancestors:

Echoes of the past via literary authors both past & present

It's Lit: Hip-Hop & Black Pride

Black artistic culture & messages in the modern era



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

Various Comedy T.V. Shows

Art and Photography

Political Cartoons

Music Videos

Satire

Original Portfolios

Analytical Essays

In this class, you will…
--Read a variety of texts.
--Create a portfolio of Imagery (photo essay),
--Watch and analyze comical commentary of society.
--Examine controversial issues from varying perspectives.
--Analyze visual techniques through which artists present their viewpoints.

Cultural Literature



- Explore stories from various cultures in America & around the world.
- Discover what makes up a "culture" & learn through texts to appreciate and learn about people who grew up differently, including their traditions, values, & points of view.
- Recent cultures we've explored:
  - Filipino, Nigerian, Afghan Chinese, and your cultures!







Cultural Literature



- In this class, you will also…
  - reflect on your own cultures & values
  - read 1-2 novels and short stories
  - study 1-2 films and documentaries
  - discuss reading/topics on a daily basis
  - research cultures and their genres
  - participate in a cultural feast







What is drama and what are the forms it can take?

How is theater used to effect social change?

What structural techniques do playwrights employ to communicate character relationships and dynamics?

How is otherness portrayed in dramatic literature and how do characters navigate their environments when “othered”?

Dramatic Literature

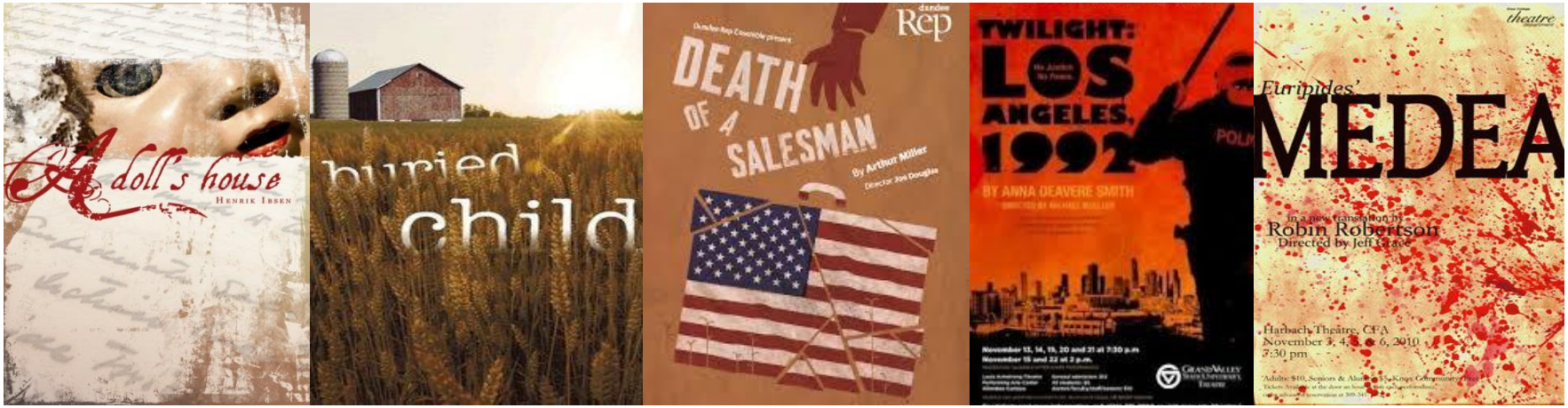
An exploration of theater, playwrights, and dramatic criticism



In Dramatic Literature you will…

- Analyze the impact of society on the creation and reception of various plays.
- Compare different playwrights, genres, and themes across eras.
- Watch a recorded performance of a play and discuss director's choices vs. playwright's intent
- 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.

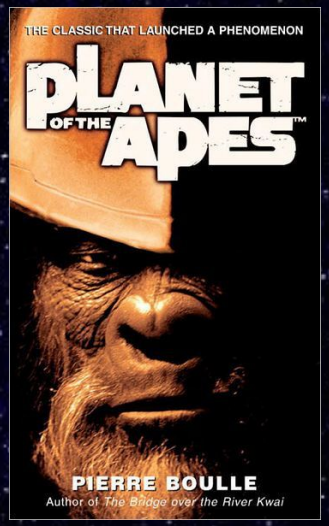
All plays will be read in class!



Science Fiction & Fantasy

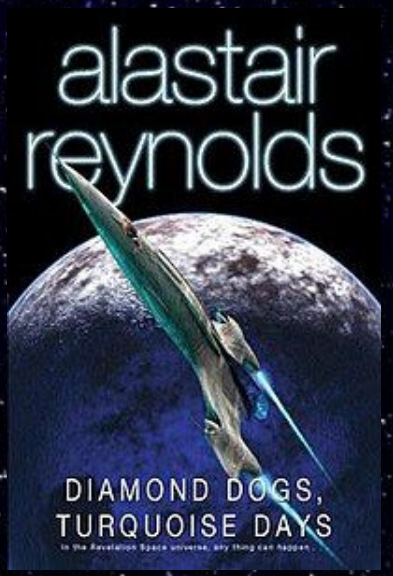
Uncover hidden truths about people & real life through reading & analyzing futuristic and fantastical worlds.





Some ideas we will consider:

- What does it mean to be human?
- Who & what defines reality?
- Will science & tech be our downfall or our salvation?
- How can we find our voice & live the life we want?
- What are the causes & consequences of revolution?
- How can we create a more just society?
- What is the hero's journey, & how does this apply to all of us?



Science Fiction & Fantasy



In this course, you will…

- Analyze science fiction & fantasy genres
- Read short stories & novels
- Watch & analyze 2 films
- Participate in daily informal & formal discussions
- Write short analytical journals
- Make real world connections

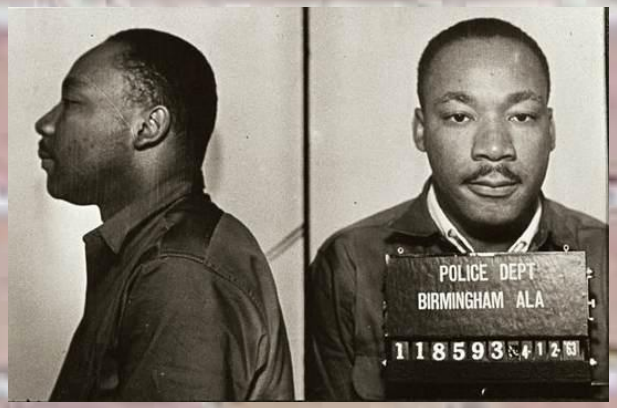




Rebels in Literature

An Exploration of Rebellion in Literature, Art, & Film







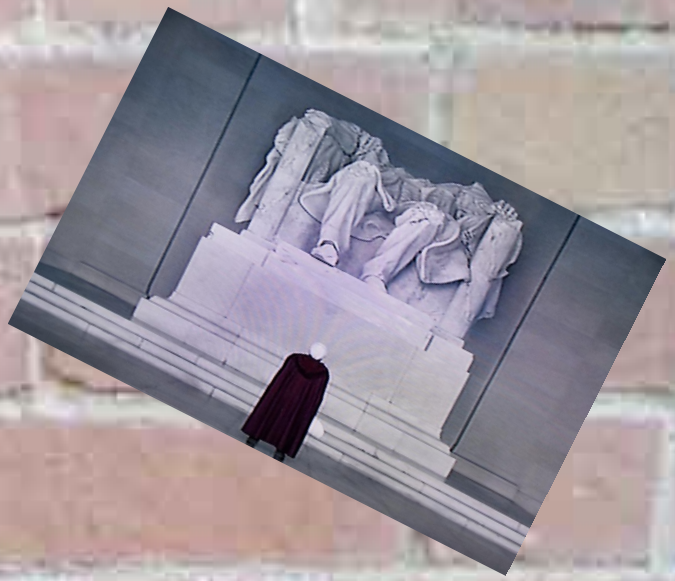
- **Overall Essential Questions:**
  - What does it mean to be a rebel?
  - What are some benefits and consequences of rebelling?
  - How does the audience's/society's perspective shape a rebel's legacy?

Rebels in Literature

An Exploration of Rebellion in Literature, Art, & Film







We will:

- 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

Again… your reading options are…

- Black American Literature
- Critical Lenses
- Cultural Literature
- Dramatic Literature
- Science Fiction and Fantasy
- Rebels in Literature
  - *These classes meet for one semester.*
  - *If you did not choose Journalism, Humanities, or AP Literature, you must take at least one of these.*

English and Communication

General Elective Courses

Besides our Senior Reading and Writing classes…

We also offer several other exciting elective classes that you can take in addition to your reading and writing classes.

Note: these classes do not fulfill your reading or writing requirements.



Dual Credit
Speech Communication

*weighted credit

Earn College Credit NOW!!

- Semester course. Open to Grade 11 and 12 students.
- Dual Credit Class - Earn both DGS Elective Credit (.5) AND College of DuPage Credit (3 hours).
- Many colleges require some form of a public speaking course, and your COD credit usually transfers to most 4 year universities.
- Examine the basic concepts of the oral communication process, including communication theory, speech preparation and delivery.

Dual Credit
Speech Communication



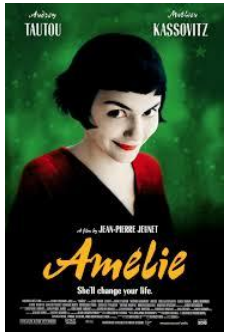
- Learn effective ways to communicate and develop confidence in a variety of communication contexts.
  - Small group and large group communication
  - Informative, Persuasive, and Occasion Speaking
- Transfer skills to other classes and work situations now and in the future.

LOVE MOVIES?

TAKE FILM STUDIES!





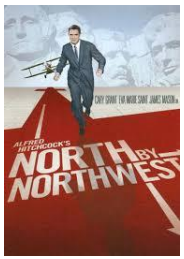


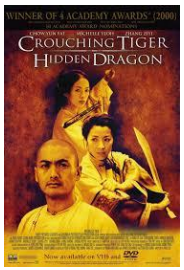


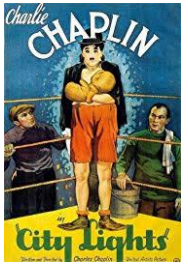
ORIGINS AND ELEMENTS OF FILM:
Study shots/angles/movement and editing techniques; development of film

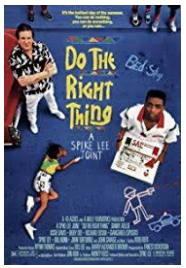
DIRECTORIAL AND STYLIZED APPROACHES TO FILMMAKING:
Watch and analyze the styles of noted filmmakers

GENRE EXPLORATION:
Class-selected movie genre unit, such as action, sci-fi,documentary, comedy, etc.





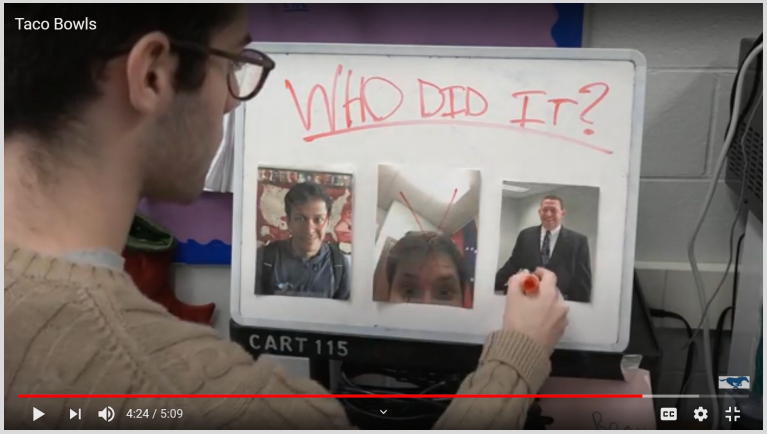




TV I: Video Production









TV I: Video Production

Eligible Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: ½

Credit Type: Elective

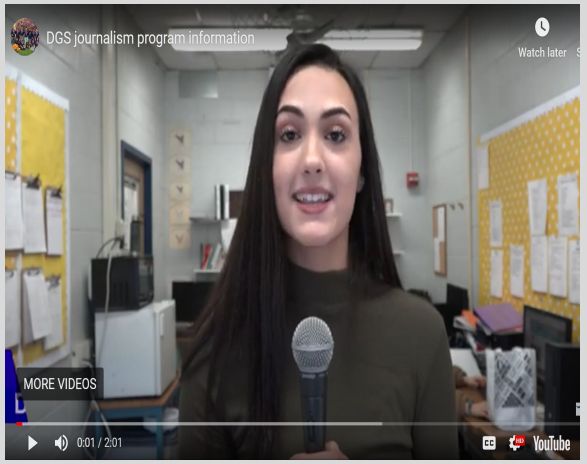
Prerequisites: None



- TV news
- Creative short films
- Behind and in front of camera work
- Editing (pre, during, and post production)
- Opportunities for publication on southblueprint.com

Who should take this class?

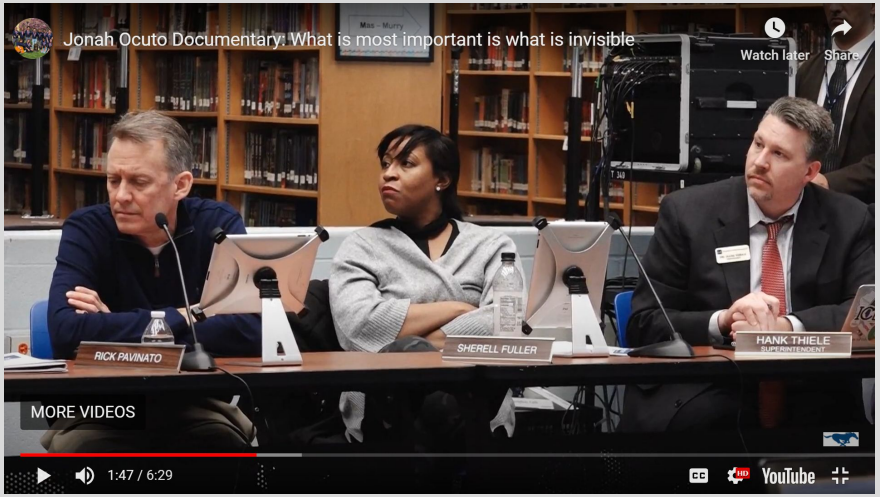
1) Anyone interested in video production
2) Anyone interested in TV news
3) Anyone interested in making creative films
4) Anyone who wants to know more about video editing
5) Anyone looking to improve their own video content
6) Anyone is creative and likes hands-on learning
7) Want to know more? Ask Ms. Long!
   a) mlong@csd99.org





TV II: Video Production







TV II: Video Production

Eligible Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: ½

Credit Type: Elective

Prerequisites: TV I



- Learn advanced editing skills
- Documentaries
- Short films
- TV news
- Editing (pre, during, and post production)
- Opportunities for publication on southblueprint.com

Who should take this class?

1) Anyone interested in video production
2) Anyone interested in TV news
3) Anyone interested in making creative films
4) Anyone who wants to know more about video editing
5) Anyone looking to improve their own video content
6) Anyone is creative and likes hands-on learning
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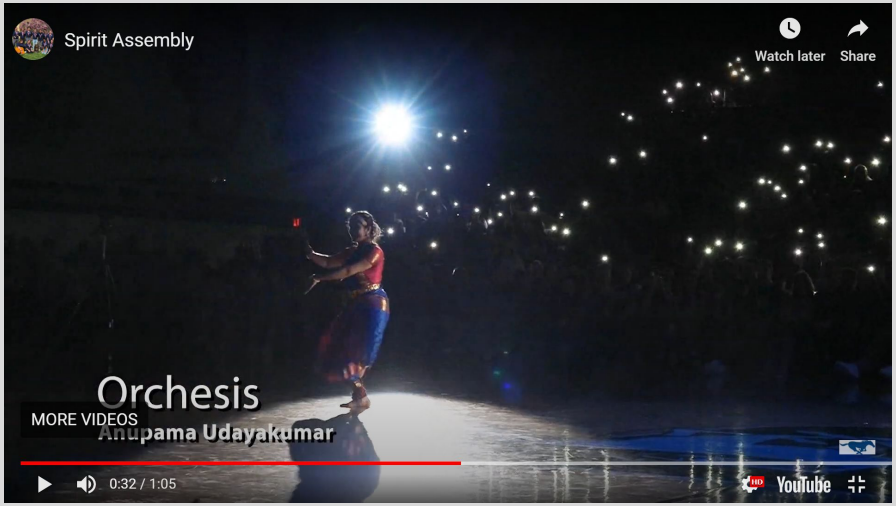






Radio I



- Open to Grades 9-12
- 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. Prerequisite: 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
- DJ live school events and sports
- Be an integral part of a broadcast management team
- Plan and participate in fundraisers and charity events

Radio III

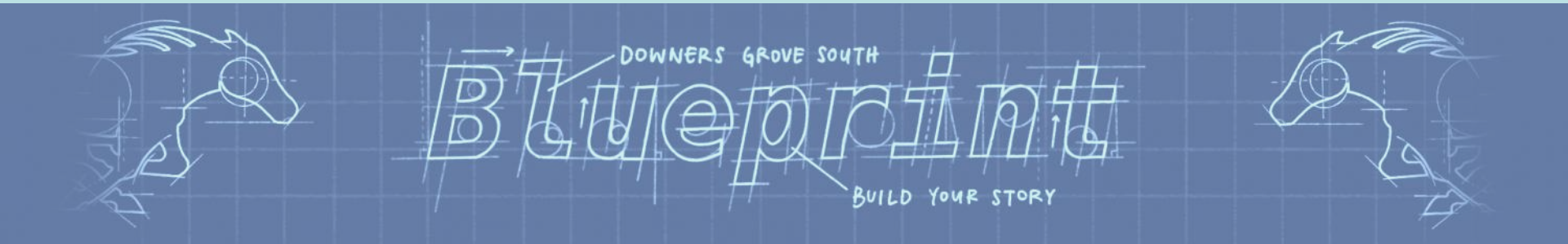
- Open to Grades 10, 11 and 12
- Prerequisites: Radio I and II (an A or B in both)
- Independent study designed for the advanced communication student who has a definite interest in broadcasting as a career



Advanced Journalistic Writing

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation
or Journalistic Expression and Media Literacy

- Earns 1 general elective credit (regular or honors!)
- Open to Grades 10-12
- Write articles for online and print newspaper
- Further develop skills learned in Journalistic Expression
- Opportunities for leadership and competition
- Be part of an award winning publication
- Experience what it is like to work in a newsroom
- This class is open for repeat enrollment
  Students often take it 2 or 3 consecutive years!



Yearbook Class

Why you should take yearbook:

- Tell important stories and preserve memories
- Develop skills that prepare you for careers in journalism, photography, and graphic design
- Become part of a close class community
- **Your hard work gets published for everyone to see!**



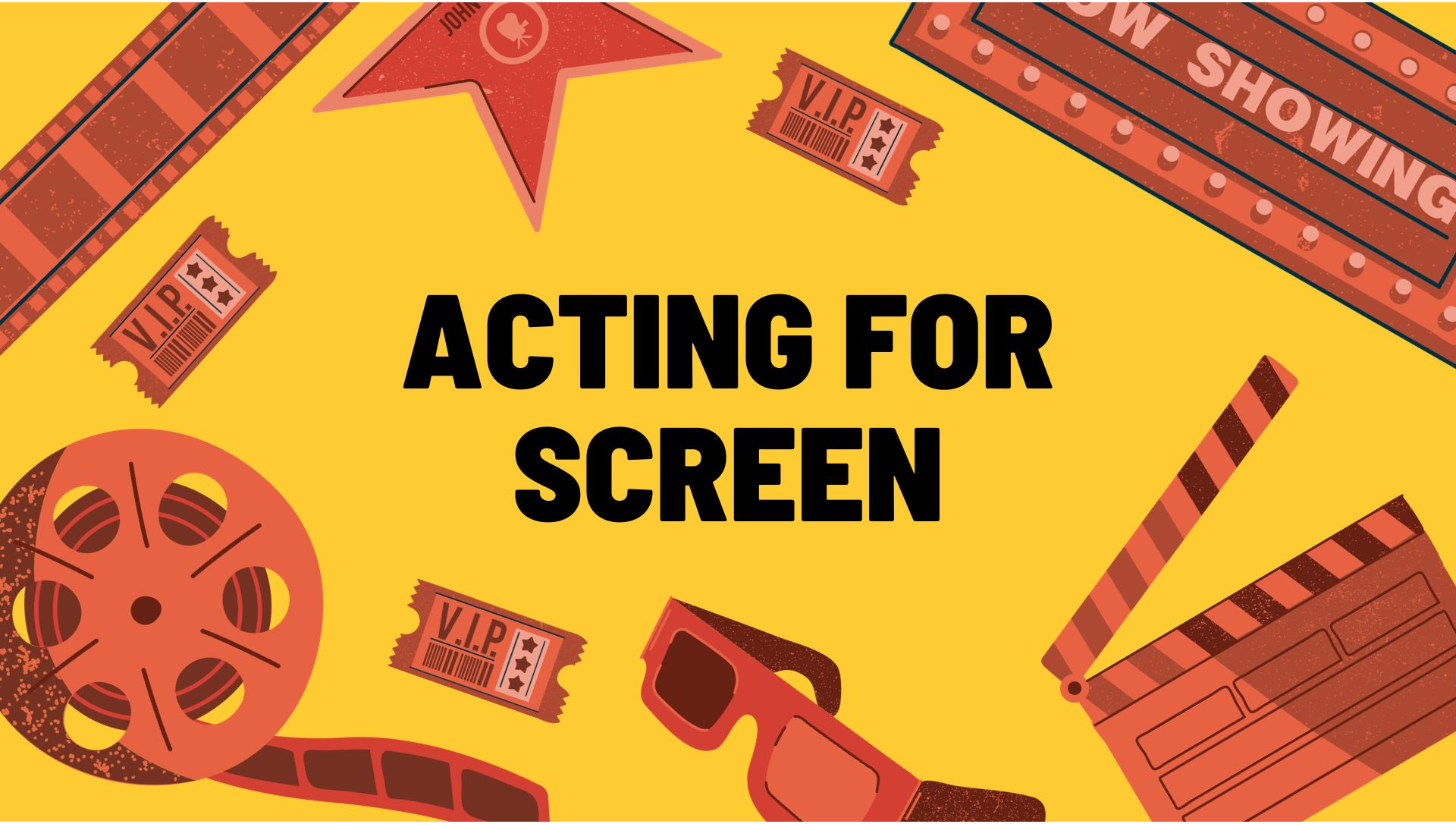
What type of students are we looking for:

- Students who are interested in **photography** or **graphic design**
- Students who are social and would be interested in **interviewing** others
- Students who are involved and know what is going on at DGS
- Students who can meet deadlines (the yearbook is printed in 6 deadlines throughout the year)



"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 Classes (Fine Arts Credit)


V.I.P.
V.I.P.
V.I.P.
SHOWING
ACTING FOR
SCREEN



In Acting for Screen, you'll:

- Understand and apply the technical and practical ins and outs of **auditioning for the camera (television, film, and commercials).**
- Analyze **film and television scripts** in order to better understand **character motivation and relationships.**
- Take part in the **business of acting**- set yourself up as a marketable performer by creating a **resume, headshot advice, reels, and self-tape.**

You'll also get tons of experience actually shooting mock auditions and practice on-camera scenes!





This class is for...

- Students who want to know more about how to "make it" in the film/television industry as an actor.
- Students who feel comfortable acting on stage, but would like to broaden their options and learn to act on screen.
- Students who don't mind being recorded and who don't mind watching themselves back for feedback and self-reflection
- Students who have behind-the-camera knowledge but who may want to try their hand in front of it!


ACTING
FOR
STAGE

In Acting for Stage, you'll:



- Understand and apply the technical and practical ins and outs of **auditioning for stage productions.**
- Analyze **theatrical scripts** in order to better understand **character motivation and relationships.**
- Understand and apply basic elements of **physicality & movement**, along with **vocal expression** to create a more realized character onstage
- Understand and apply the basics of **theatrical staging** in order to create an **effectively blocked and staged scene or monologue**



You'll get plenty of chances to rehearse, take part in games and exercises, and receive feedback!

This class is for...

- Students who want to know more about how to develop interesting characters for the stage
- Students who would like to become better public speakers, but would like to do so in a creative way.
- Students who don't mind being in front of the class and who don't mind receiving feedback and self-reflection
- Students who have tried acting for screen, but who may want to broaden their acting styles for stage.



FINE ARTS HONORS COURSE

ADVANCED ACTING STUDIO

Can be taken multiple times!

Content changes each semester

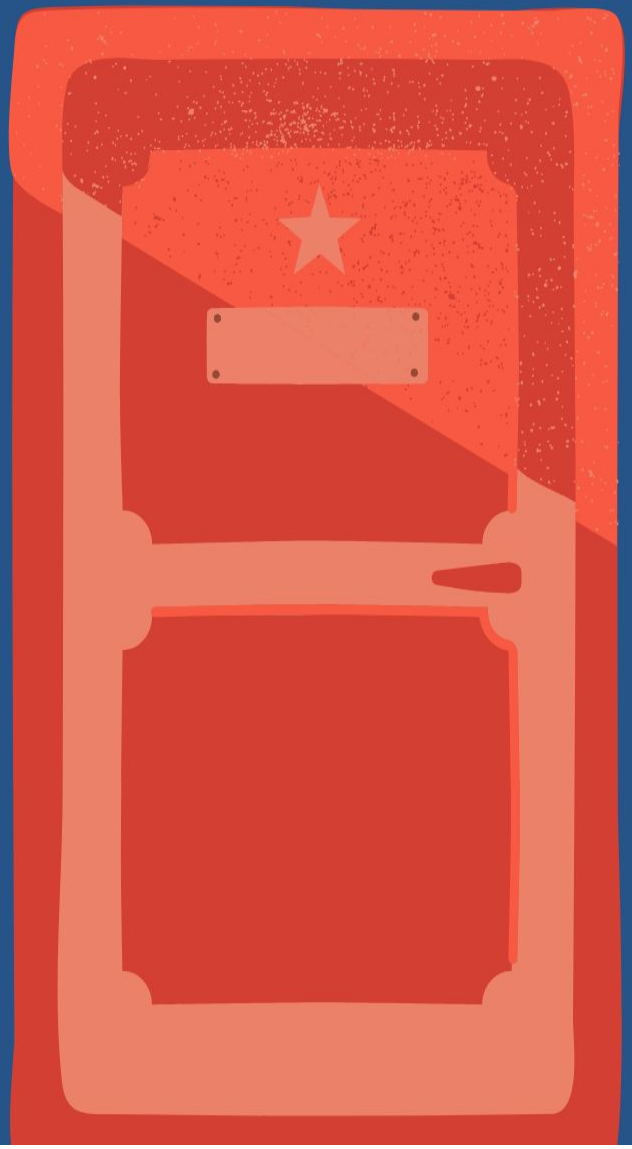
Advanced Acting Studio is an advanced-level acting class; prerequisite of taking either Acting for Stage or Acting for Screen before enrolling.

In this class, you'll:

- Experiment with character through **sense memory exercises, emotional recall, and substitution, as well as character analysis**.

- Research various **theatrical styles** in order to thoroughly understand the styles' core concepts and apply them to **scripted performances** to illustrate mastery.

- Develop, collaborate on, and create a **unified showcase for a live audience,** demonstrating methods and techniques explored throughout the semester.



You'll have a final performance for the public to watch you demonstrate what you've learned!



This class is for...

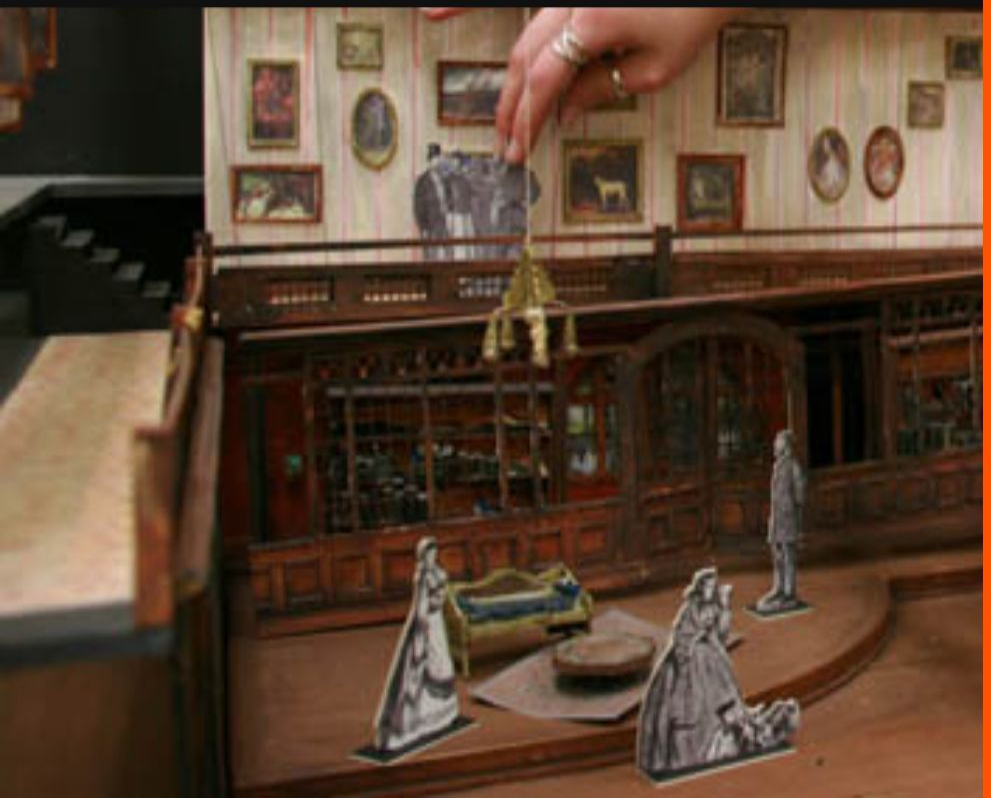
- Students who wish to **pursue acting outside of school or in a more focused manner.**
- Students who wish to be challenged with **dramatic analysis** and **complex character-building.**
- Students who have moved beyond the basic foundation of acting and want to **experiment with stylistic acting and acting techniques.**

THEATRE DESIGN & CRAFT

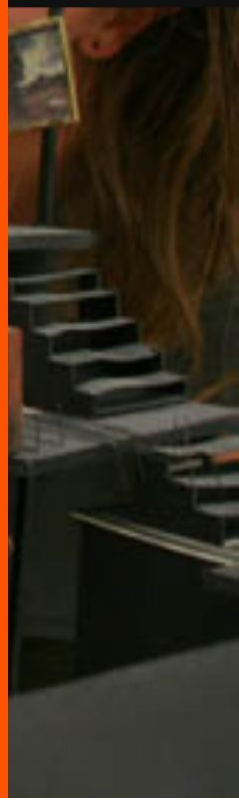
A FINE ARTS COURSE



IN THIS CLASS, YOU'LL...



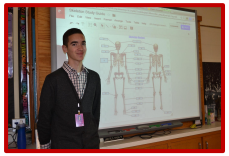
- Learn the **guiding principles of theatrical design**
- Create theatrical design **projects for real plays**
- **Record, edit**, and **create** theatrical **sound effects and cues**
- Design, find, and craft **costumes** for characters and plays
- Design, scale, and build 3D models for **sets** of real plays
- Construct real **props** for use in a theatrical production
- Solve **pratical design problems** for theatrical productions

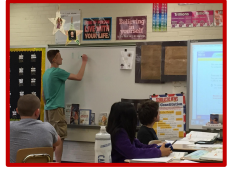
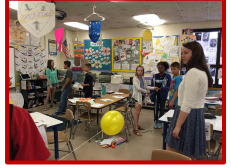


THIS CLASS IS FOR...

- Students who are **interested in theatre**, but do not want to perform onstage
- Students who are looking for a **creative outlet** and are open to **working with different mediums**
- Students who **enjoy hands-on application** of concepts and **solving practical problems**
- Students who want a change of pace from a typical "notes and books" class





2027-2028

INTRO TO TEACHING

- **Students interested in a possible career in education or otherwise working with children / adolescents**
- **Members of the Class of 2028 and Class of 2029 are eligible to take the course**
- **Students in the program are eligible to earn 6 hours of college credit for FREE in addition to 2 elective credits through DGS.**
- **Students get hands-on experience as a teacher intern in a local elementary or middle school.**
- **Application & letter of recommendation are due by December 4, 2026 (Class of 2028) or January 8, 2027 (Class of 2029).**
- **Have questions? Contact Mrs. Hardy (vhardy@csd99.org) and be sure to talk to your counselor about your interest in Intro to Teaching during your course selection appointment.**