

New Courses for LGA 2017/2018

Forensic Science

Forensic Science is laboratory-based introduction to the analysis of crime scenes, by the collecting and analyzing physical evidence. This course integrates core scientific disciplines, which are used in modern forensic investigations. The multidisciplinary approach includes investigations in DNA, genetics, anatomy, biology, chemistry, botany, and entomology. Ethical, legal and social concerns surrounding forensic science will be studied and discussed. Through these investigations, students will also enhance their knowledge in the fields of earth science, mathematics, medicine, technology and sociology. This course introduces students interested in both science and law to the study and experience of Forensic Science. Relying on their previously mastered skills in mathematics, biology, chemistry and criminal law, as well as new knowledge and skills from the field of Forensic Science, students will apply their knowledge to analyze a variety of elements of crime scenes. This includes, but is not limited to fingerprints, DNA, projectiles and trajectories, hair, fibers, toxicology, blood spatter patterns, ballistics, chromatography, entomology, soil samples and impressions left by shoes, tires and other objects. Process skills utilized include comparative analysis, critical thinking, deductive reasoning, interviewing, observation, organization, problem-solving, research, evidence collection, writing, lab safety, technical reading, and communication.

Broadcast Journalism Advanced

Advanced Broadcast Journalism/Television Production builds upon the previous Broadcast Journalism course by allowing students to take more ownership of their product, learn more advanced editing techniques, and help facilitate in instructing and managing their own group of beginning Broadcast Journalism students. The course provides instruction about news reporting and editing for both on air video broadcast and print media, while also bringing in the business and communication skills needed to facilitate an effective group, meet deadlines, direct and produce video footage, and edit the written pieces of writing, clearing any bias and grammatical issues from each piece. Students refine their analytical reading, expository writing and oral communication skills and are provided with experiences that may form the basis for a future college major in communications, journalism, or business. Students facilitate their groups to ensure each student can handle their given assignment, and direct/produce the segment that their group is responsible for. They are the final judge for each segment, and will be working on effectively managing their team to create and maintain peer relationships while producing the needed news for the school. Reporting, writing news copy, sound, and digital video editing and presentation design are among the topics covered. In addition, the historical and contemporary practices of broadcast journalism in society, with emphasis on methods, writing, announcing and ethics are studied. The importance of researching information and fact finding are stressed throughout the course. Much of the course is project-based, as students apply their knowledge producing regular news segments to be broadcast for the school and to outside audiences. This course builds on the foundational concepts that are taught in Broadcast Journalism.

Philosophy

As our students prepare for college and adulthood, they are told they need to think critically, but they are not given very many opportunities to do so formally. Philosophy, as a discipline, is entirely based on critical thinking. The philosophical method emphasizes a strong base in formal logic, as well as clarity, concision and sharp analytical skills. These are skills, which are invaluable to navigating the endless complexities and quandaries of the real world. Studying philosophy will give students the opportunity to ask big questions, to doubt everything, and to come away thinking that they don't know anything. The kind of questions students will consider are those that have occupied great thinkers for thousands of years: What is knowledge? What does it mean to exist? What makes someone a good person? Some of these questions are of great importance to the basic endeavor of figuring out how to live one's life, and yet students usually have little chance to consider them in a formal and systematic manner. This course, by introducing students to philosophy, hopes to change that, and to give them the tools to figure out how to live.

Creative Writing

The overall purpose of the course is to study the components of fiction, such as dialogue, plot, character development, world building, and point of view through short stories, poetry, novel selections, and creative nonfiction. Students will analyze these features as different authors use them across a variety of genres. After thorough analysis (written and oral), students will work to develop a portfolio of authentic literary works of their own where they purposefully use each of these elements. Students will use these elements throughout their portfolios and will also submit multiple drafts, revise, and edit work in order to ready pieces from their portfolio for submission. Creative Writing teaches students strategies and practice in the art of writing poetry, short stories, creative nonfiction, plays, and review. Students will explore the genres of fiction (science fiction, western, horror, romance, mystery, fantasy), graphic novels (aka comic books or manga), play writing, screenwriting, creative nonfiction, reviews (books, films, video games), and new media writing including blogging, tweeting, and hypertexting. The learning process and outcomes will emphasize the conventions of each genre, the writing process, and revision. We will use the writing workshop model for revision and critic. Through large and small groups, students discuss the importance of word choice, tone, diction, review, voice, and style. Students will use the writing process (pre writing, drafting, peer editing, editing, proofreading, and publishing). Students will participate in close reading, writing exercises, mechanics, and grammar. Students will read works by published others to use as models. Students will develop a portfolio of their own short stories, creative non-fiction, plays, and poems. Students will analyze their writing with metacognitive writing.