

Third Trimester 11th Grade English Electives

An Introduction to Journalism

While the fiction writer can create his or her own scenarios, the journalist faces the constant challenge of making the truth compelling. In this course, we will begin to meet this challenge.

We will begin with an overview of the topic, exploring the history of journalism, the role of the media in today's society, and the vital issue of journalistic ethics. After this, we will turn to our primary focus: the craft of journalistic writing. To this end, we will spend most of our time writing, sharing, and editing stories culled from the daily life of LREI. Because different types of stories call for different approaches, each student will spend two weeks assigned to a specific "desk": news, sports, features, or arts. Each section will be responsible for developing, reporting, writing, and editing its own stories, with occasional input from the students in other sections and the teacher.

Poetry Writing Workshop

Poetry can be dangerous. It can be funny, lyrical, personal, and political. It can play with language; it can take risks. What are the limits of poetry? Where do our impulses to write poetry come from and how do we harness these impulses? In this poetry writing workshop, we will practice the craft of poetry through our own writing and through the reading of published works. The class will be conducted workshop style: students will regularly share and respond to each other's writing. Students will explore various writing techniques through numerous short exercises, which will provide material to be crafted into more polished poems. Emphasis will be placed on revision and the writing process, as well as experimentation and risk taking with language, form, voice, and imagery.

Oh, Boy!: Exploring Masculinity in Contemporary American Culture

Notions of masculinity permeate American culture, telling us what it means to "be a man." In this class, we will turn a critical eye to these notions, exploring the ways they are transmitted, the purposes they serve, and the implications they have. We will look closely at the stereotypes that surround boyhood and manhood, investigating the consequences of both conforming to and resisting these normative masculine ideals. By using a variety of sources, such as literature, non-fiction, plays, films, mass media, and current events, we will delve into the assumptions we, as individuals and as a culture, have about boys and men. The following are some of the key questions that will be discussed throughout this course: What does it mean to "be a man"? What are the stereotypes associated with masculinity? How are both men and women affected by these stereotypes? How do race, culture, education, socio-economic class, religion, etc., influence a person's understanding of masculinity? Potential texts and film include *Drown* by Junot Diaz, *Vernon God Little* by DBC Pierre, *The Laramie Project* by Moises Kaufman, *Raising Victor Vargas*, directed by Peter Sollett

Classic American Literature

This course focuses on classic American prose writing of the 20th century. The classical literature of any culture reflects the culture from which it springs in aesthetically powerful ways: its hopes, dreams, possibilities and myths, as well its deceptions, tensions, hypocrisies and contradictions. Classic American literature wrestles with the unprecedented range and contrasts, and the often violent intensity, of the American experience. In this class we will track the evolution of the American literary imagination in the twentieth century as it grapples with issues of race, class, gender, multiculturalism, industrialization, urbanization, and mass society. We will observe how American writers have reacted to and interpreted the tumultuous events of the "American Century," and, in effect, have written its cultural history. The syllabus will include a wide range of short stories by such authors as Ernest Hemingway, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Toni Cade Bambara, Willa Cather, Bernard Malamud, Tobias Wolf and others, as well as longer works including Sherwood Anderson's *Winesburg, Ohio*, Carson McCullers's *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, E.L. Doctorow's *The Book of Daniel*, and Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse Five*.

Third Trimester 11th Grade History Electives

American

The 1960s: Promise and Upheaval

Seldom has there been a decade in U.S. History that was marked by such political activism, sparked in this instance by the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, environmentalism and feminism and by such drama with the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Berlin Wall, the escalation of the conflict in Vietnam, the Freedom Riders and the March on Washington. There was tragedy with the assassinations of the Kennedys, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and the murders of other civil rights advocates and more violence with riots at home and confrontation in and over Vietnam. There was also creativity and exuberance with the counter culture, Woodstock, and challenge with Betty Friedan / The Feminine Mystique and the Sierra Club, committed to saving Planet Earth. How much of this can we address in one trimester?

Regional

Latin American & Caribbean Studies

An overview of the history, the literature and the cultures of both pre-Columbian and post-Columbian Latin American societies. Mostly, in this class, the students read both literary and historic accounts of the varied and different Latin American and Caribbean societies. Students also choose specific cultures and produce both a written and oral report highlighting both major historical and contemporary events.

Global

Contemporary Issues in Human Rights

This course will examine the developing law of international human rights, with an emphasis on international human rights agreements, international and regional human rights courts and tribunals, and international human rights organizations, both governmental and non- governmental. The course will examine the postwar emergence of civil and political human rights, the development of social and economic human rights, and the more recent articulation of collective and group human rights. It will also explore the normative justifications for enforcing human rights beyond the bounds of national sovereignty and the challenges to these justifications under the forces of globalization. For the course students will be expected to keep up with daily readings, maintain a grasp of current events, and complete a paper and presentation on a major human rights issue.

Gotham