

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Senior High School
English Department Electives (2011-2012)

CULTURE IN LITERATURE A AND B (formerly HUMANITIES A AND HUMANITIES B)

A study of western and nonwestern civilizations. The course is interdisciplinary, weaving together literature, art, architecture, history, music, philosophy, dance, creative writing, popular culture, and film study. Students are encouraged to view the development of civilization through creative experiences. They attend performances and visit area museums and galleries to enrich their study. Students undertake a special independent project each semester on an area of the humanities in which they are most interested. Culture in Literature A focuses on early through medieval civilizations with study of early nonwestern civilizations. Culture in Literature B focuses on Renaissance through 20th-century civilizations with continued study of later and contemporary nonwestern civilizations. Students may take Culture in Literature A and Culture in Literature B for English elective credit. Students are welcome to take one or both semesters. (available if sufficient enrollment) **(Grades 10 - 12)**

PHILOSOPHY The high school course in philosophy is intended to be an examination and exploration of the main issues in philosophy. Rather than focus on any one particular school, or ism, of philosophy the course examines critical issues of profound ideas. Students are expected to read and to think critically about such questions as:

What is Freedom? What is the nature of reality? What is truth? What are right actions? What is social justice?

What does it mean "to be?" In addition, students will read excerpts from philosophical writings and explore philosophical issues depicted in literature and film. Text used: *The Philosopher's Way*. **(Grades 11-12, semester 2 course)**

ADVANCED COMPOSITION: CREATIVE WRITING A and B (Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 9A and English 9B; for Advanced Composition B, successful completion of Advanced Composition A)

Students who would like to write creatively are given instruction and experience with different genres through exercises and a workshop format. Students have an opportunity to write poetry, narrative, nonfiction, and to pursue projects of individual interest. They receive individual feedback and have an opportunity provide feedback on their peers' writing, as well. **(Grades 10-12)**

JOURNALISM 1A AND 1B (Editing and Reporting; Advanced Newspaper and Production)

Students are introduced to different types of journalism; they have many opportunities to learn how to write a variety of articles and how to conduct effective interviews. They examine what makes an effective paper, may hear from leading journalists in panel discussions and on field trips, and even have opportunities to write for local newspapers and to develop press releases about special programs at school. There is also an online version of the newspaper, and issues are featured on the school's website. By semester's end, students will be writing for the online *Tattler Extra*. Students must take the first semester of the course in order to take the second semester. **(Grades 9 -12)**

JOURNALISM 2A AND 2B (Techniques of Advanced Journalism; Editing and Management) (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Journalism 1A and 1B) An excellent opportunity for students to continue to apply the skills they have acquired in Journalism 1 A and 1 B and to write for *The Tattler*. Students use desktop publishing and our computer lab to prepare articles for the paper. There is also an online version of the newspaper, and issues are featured on the school's website. By semester's end, students will be writing for the online *Tattler Extra*. Students must take the first semester of the course in order to take the second semester. **(Grades 10 -12)**

To serve as editors for *The Tattler*, students must apply and receive permission of the sponsor, Mr. Virden, and the English Resource Teacher. **Tattler Internship** is available to these students in grades 11 and 12 with permission of the instructor and the department. The editorial selection process, based on successful completion of Journalism 1A and 1B and Journalism 2A and 2B, includes writing an article for the paper. See Mr. Virden for additional details. **(Grades 11-12)**

CHIPS Students interested in working on the literary and creative arts magazine should sign up during registration for consideration. The course enables students to produce work from the magazine and to learn principles of the magazine layout, design, and production via desktop publishing. See Mrs. Charles for details. **(Grades 10-12 with permission of the instructor) (Grade 9, by special permission of the instructor)**

PINE TREE, YEARBOOK INTERNSHIP Students should see Ms. Molnar **(Grades 9-12 and with permission of instructor)** applications can be obtained in room B305 or online. In this class, students learn and apply journalism, photojournalism, and publication design and layout skills to record the history of the school year. Using online publishing programs, students produce a yearbook for the school community. *The Pine Tree* staff strives to report fairly, objectively,

responsibly, and accurately on events and issues that concern the B-CC community. Students learn aspects of publishing, advertising, and effectively managing section responsibilities and deadline-based production.

To sign up for *Pine Tree, Yearbook Internship*, students should see Ms. Molnar for details and complete an online application by February 28, 2011. **(Grades 9-12 with online application and permission of instructor)**

TV PRODUCTION 1A AND 1B (Prerequisite for TV Production 1B: Successful completion of TV Production 1A)

Students are introduced to the many aspects of video and film production. Topics covered include basic and advanced camera operation, lighting and filters, studio and location filming, video editing, cinematography aesthetics, and writing for the screen. **(Grades 9-12)**

TV PRODUCTION 2A AND 2B may be available if there is sufficient enrollment. **VIDEO PRODUCTION A AND B** may be offered with sufficient enrollment. Permission of the instructor is required. **(Grades 11-12)** Students from the TV and Video Production classes will produce *Wake-Up, B-CC*.

PRODUCTION AND PERFORMANCE A AND B Students will explore all the phases of preproduction and production, from the idea development to sound and music design. Special emphasis, however, will be placed on the relationship between the director and the actor so student directors can play a more active role in engaging their casts in the emotional events of the script, helping them harness innate impulses and feeling. By the end of the course, students will be better able to apply professional standards of expression and control to their projects. Students will understand the practical and artistic considerations of producing the script-based projects for the theater and cinema, such as script writing, auditioning and casting, script analysis, the researching, and staging. Emphasis, however, will be placed on performance: the techniques, terminology, protocol, and procedures specific to working with actors. Students will apply their knowledge in ten minute production projects that require them to work and problem solve with actors and crew members to achieve desired results. **(Grades 10-12; course fulfills Fine Arts credit)**

THEATER 1A: EXPLORING THE ELEMENTS OF PERFORMANCE

Students are introduced to the many aspects of performing before a live audience. Students will complete practical projects that help them sharpen their ability to emphasize believable action sharpen concentration, improve voice and diction, realize authentic emotional responses, and develop full characters. **(Grades 9-12)**

THEATER 1B: THE PLAY AND THE PLAYER (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Theater 1A) Students will apply the performance skills sharpened in Theater 1 to scripted scenarios. To prepare for scene work, students will explore the guiding principles and techniques used by various playwrights when crafting scripts, how these developed alongside the performance and technical aspects of theater, and how to use the script as a guide for acting choices. **(Grades 9-12)**

IB THEATRE 1A AND 1B (Prerequisites: Theater 1A and 1B or permission of the teacher) Students will study theatre in the making, in performance, and in the world through play-writing, play-reading, scene performance, improvisational theatre, and design. Aside from the IB Theatre Assessments, students will write plays, read plays, perform scenes, learn improvisation games, design sets, create costumes, and see and review plays. IB Theatre is for students who enjoy English and wish to explore the creation of and performance of the English language. In semesters one and two, there is no final exam for IB Theatre. **(Grade 11)**

IB THEATRE 2A AND 2B will be offered in 2012-2013. **(Grade 12)**

Theater Internship A/B (by permission of teacher) Internships can be based at B-CC or at area theaters, including Round House Theater, Arena Stage, and the Shakespeare Theater. **(Grade 12)**

IB FILM STUDIES 1A AND 1B Students in IB Film both watch and create films in order to understand the “language of film” and explore assumptions about it. Since film is so familiar to us, it is often labeled “entertainment.” We often assume that it is easier to understand than literature (which is often regarded as “serious” or as “art”). In fact, film really is entertaining, and it really is complex. It employs two channels-sound and image- and it is culturally ambiguous, blurring distinctions between art, entertainment, and mass communication. It poses major problems for- but it offers new possibilities to – traditional categories of cultural criticism.

IB Film encourages students to develop the skills necessary to achieve and critical independence in their knowledge, experience and enjoyment of film. Through the IB Film course students will develop an appreciation and understanding of the art of film making its history, the ability to plan stories and ideas for their own film productions, film production skills, critical evaluation of their own and others film productions, and an awareness of international film-making. **(Grade 11)**

IB FILM STUDIES 2A AND 2B IB Film 2 will build upon the skills of film production and “film language” analysis that you developed during your first year of study, although we will apply them to the study of the institutional and cultural history of film. In studying everything from the invention of moving picture technologies in the late 19th century to the ever-rising dominance of the Hollywood blockbuster at the end of the 20th century, we will take into account not only the major figure who influenced their development both technologically and aesthetically, but also the cultural influences, politics, and economic factors that helped shape them. We will consider the development of motion pictures as a narrative form, cultural commodity, political object, art form, and avenue of escapist entertainment.

In addition, you will continue to hone your own screenwriting, film analysis, and production skills as you prepare for and complete your internally and externally assessed IB Film coursework. **(Grade 12)**

SAT PREP Students in this course do extensive vocabulary and math skills development and practice with the PSAT, SAT 1, and SAT 2. The course includes units on advanced reading comprehension, SAT test-taking skills, and reading speed. Instruction in preparing for the ACT is included in this class. **(Grades 10-11, semester 1 or semester 2; Grade 12, semester 1 only)**

Additional support for students is available through the Student Resource Center Program and through the AP/IB Seminar classes.

IB Theory of Knowledge 1 and 2 and IB Extended Essay/Guided Research are offered through the English Department, but are open only to students enrolled in the full IB diploma program in grades 11 and 12.

