

## Senior Electives Second Semester 2016-17

### ENGLISH

#### **Dramatic Literature: Theatre in LA – *Mr. Lewis and Ms. Bierman***

This course is designed to explore the variety and vibrancy of live performance that Los Angeles has to offer. Classroom sessions preface and contextualize the performances via theatrical history, playwright information or style acclimation. Students attend performances together weekly, and the subsequent classroom sessions will include a debriefing about the show, covering aspects such as story conveyance, design aesthetics and effectiveness, acting/directing and much more. The course also involves guest artists and speakers, including but not limited to directors, designers and performers from the shows we have seen. Students will be evaluated based on regular writing assignments and a final presentation.

#### **Literature of Dissent: Gender in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – *Dr. O'Brien***

What does it mean to be male or female in the 21st century? And what are the limitations to that very question? How do inclusive notions of gender challenge the traditional masculine/feminine binary? What are the links between one's gender and such things as: pop culture (music, film, fashion and more), the media, politics and legislation, relationships, sexual orientation and one's sense of self and success? After learning about a few of the most prominent gender theories from the later 20th century through the present, we will then apply and/or question them through various "case study" lenses relating to the world around us.

In this course students will engage in a variety of discussion modes, activities, written pieces—often creative—and visually based projects. Course texts include selections from: *Millennial Masculinity*; *Difficult Men: From The Sopranos and The Wire to Mad Men and Breaking Bad*; *Gender & Popular Culture*; *Future Girl: Young Women in the 21st Century*; and *The Riddle of Gender* (as well as films and other performances). The class is largely student-driven, so bring your questions, curiosity, and voice.

#### **Imitation of Genius: Creative Writing – *Patrick Ferry***

Students in this class examine the universal principles that inform all good writing—essays, short stories, speeches, blogs, screenplays, etc.—and apply these principles to their own work. The class considers the writer's essential questions: What ideas do I want to convey? Who is my audience? What is the form that best suits my purpose?

Form and structure are paramount to this course. Examining models of effective writing, students recognize elements of form and emulate these elements in their own writing,

developing precision, economy, style, and voice, along with rhythm, tone, balance, and fluidity.

This fourth-year English class expects both student autonomy and collaboration, encouraging regular peer feedback on works in progress.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Topics in Computer Science – *Dr. Frewen***

In this course, students will continue to learn the fundamentals of the Java language along with more advanced programming topics, such as recursion and sorting algorithms. Students will also have the opportunity to use their programming skills in more open-ended projects, writing programs that to creatively solve problems based on their interests.