

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Senior High School

English Department Electives (2015-2016)

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?” **(Grades 10-12, semester 2 course)**

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. Students will also have opportunities to hear from local published writers and participate in outside workshops. **(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 -11)**

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. Lopilato, 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. Lopilato for additional details. **(Grades 10-12)**

PINE TREE, YEARBOOK INTERNSHIP Using online publishing programs, students produce *The Pine Tree*, a yearbook for the school community. Students wishing to be on the yearbook staff should register for the course. The yearbook sponsor will then forward students a brief application to complete to help pair the student with the right job on the staff. *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, graphic design, advertising, and effectively managing section responsibilities and deadline-based production. **(Grades 9-12 with online application and permission of instructor)**

CHIPS Students interested in working on the literary arts magazine should sign up during registration for consideration. The course enables students to produce 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)**

Video Production A/B: This course introduces students to the principles of digital image creation. Students will work hands-on with video, sound, lighting, and AVID editing equipment to create content for television including music videos, news reports, commercials, and documentaries. Teamwork is emphasized whether working in the TV studio or out in the field. Guest lectures and field trips provide initial career information. **(Grades 9-12)**

Advanced Video Production A/B (Prerequisite: Video Production) Students will understand current trends in TV production, using industry-standard digital software such as the Avid DS System to create TV content for daily, 24-hour broadcasts over the airwaves or the Internet. Students will plan program clocks and write and develop media content to broadcast.

Media Management and Production A/B (Prerequisite: Advanced Video Production) Students enrolled in the Media Management and Production course will serve as station staff members for a school's television station. In addition to producing a daily live show within the school, the staff will be responsible for producing one half-hour program each month for air on cable television outside the school. Potential channels for airing include MCPS-TV or Montgomery Community Television. The course is primarily studio-based.

Production and Performance (Filmmaking) A/B: Students in this course will learn everything they need to do to nurture a short, scripted film to fruition. Students will explore all of the phases of preproduction and production, from idea development to sound and music design. Special emphasis, however, will be placed on the preparation phase where the bulk of creative and logistical decisions for a film are made. **(Grades 10-12)**

IB Film 1 A/B: Students in IB Film both study and create films in order to understand the "language of film" and explore assumptions about it. Since it is so familiar to us, film 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. IB Film students will begin to develop the skills necessary to achieve creative and critical independence in their knowledge, use, and enjoyment of film. **(Grade 11)**

IB Film 2 A/B: IB Film students will continue to develop an appreciation and understanding of the art of film making and 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 12)**

THEATER 1A/B Introductory Theater: This is an introductory class, which teaches a basic knowledge of theatre history, by performing scenes, created by the students themselves, that are based on the conventions of specific types of theatre. There are also other creative projects which teach the fundamentals of theatre. In theatre 1B, the focus turns toward acting, and bringing text to life onstage through interpretation and performance. **(Grades 9-12)**

THEATRE 2A/B Advanced Theater (Prerequisites: Theater 1A and 1B or permission of the teacher):

There are two areas of focus in the second year of theatre: One focus familiarizes students with well-known artists from the theatre world, including playwrights and acting theorists. The second area of focus is the production of original theatre pieces for public performance. Original pieces are written by the teacher and students, and are performed either once or twice a semester for an invited audience. It is not mandatory to write scenes, students may join the class for performance only. **(Grades 10-12)**

Stage Design (Prerequisite: Theatre 2A or 2B): Stage Design teaches the fundamentals of interpreting a script in order to create an appropriate environment onstage, while considering the needs of both the production, and the director's vision. Both Directing and Stage Design also have an added element of Dramaturgy, which examines time, place, social values, etc., in order to add more realism and depth to the design and the play itself. **(Grades 10-12)**

Advanced Acting (Prerequisite: Theatre 2A or 2B): This is a one semester course that is taught in conjunction with Theatre II, meaning that the Advanced Acting students share a class with the second year students. AA students continue to learn the acting process, and hone their performance techniques, while serving as leaders in the class for the Theatre II students, with whom they work. **(Grades 11-12)**

Directing (Prerequisite: Theatre 2A or 2B): This course teaches the fundamentals of directing a play for production. Areas of study include: choosing a script, deciding on approaches to performance, anticipating special needs from both an acting and technical standpoint, and others. Directing students also get hands on experience by directing original works produced in class, with actors from both Theatre 2 and Advanced Acting. The directing course, like Advanced Acting, shares a class with Theatre 2A or B. **(Grades 11-12)**

SAT PREP Students in this course learn strategies to prepare for the PSAT, SAT, and ACT. The course aims to improve students' knowledge of the test format and scoring, as well as their skills in vocabulary and grammar, reading comprehension, essay writing, and time management. Throughout the semester, students receive various opportunities to practice and assess their areas of strength and needs for improvement, and ultimately measure their scores with their desired colleges and universities in order to gain an accurate picture of their goals.

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.

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