

Chicago through Documentary Film (Mornings; Bator)

This interim will look at Chicago through five critically acclaimed documentary films. We will explore the history behind the Chicago 1968 Democratic National Conventions, the riots they spawned, and the trials afterward through *Chicago 10*. After that we will explore the history of Chicago's punk music scene — the very scene that exposed Nirvana/Foo Fighters' Dave Grohl to the genre and began his musical career — in *You Weren't There*. We will then move on to *Hoop Dreams*, one of the most lauded documentaries about the city, which follows two young boys and their efforts to play in the NBA. The fourth film, *The Interrupters*, looks at local efforts to stop gun violence in the city. While the last film, *Louder than a Bomb*, focuses on the annual slam poetry contest held in Chicago. Stories of triumph, sorrow, violence, and love emerge from these five films that will make us think differently about the metropolis, which shapes our lives every day.

Playwriting (Monday all day; Tue-Fri Mornings; Kelly)

This interim course will offer students several opportunities to engage with the process of playwriting:

- Students will learn about the current methods of contemporary American playwrights and organizations who develop plays prior to production and publication. Specifically, we will discuss the impact of organizations such as the New Play Exchange, the Playwrights Center, and Chicago Dramatists on the next generation of theatre-makers. Possible field trips include: Chicago Dramatists and the Wirtz Center at Northwestern University.
- Students will join Ms. Kelly at a workshop of her play *I Carry Your Heart*, winner of the inaugural Hope on Stage Playwriting Competition. The workshop will take place in Chicago at DePaul University with professional Chicago actors and directors from New York and LA. Students will observe and debrief the workshop process.
- Students will participate in generative writing exercises with the goal of completing their own original play. Time permitting, they will workshop their plays and receive feedback to help them rewrite. Based on student interest, these plays may go on to be performed as part of the after-school drama program at Beacon, or to be submitted to local and national high school playwriting competitions.

Creative Writing Workshop (Mornings; Awan)

Mark Twain once said, "Writing is easy. All you have to do is cross out the wrong words." Explore and develop your creative writing talents by experimenting with different styles of writing. You will get the opportunity to focus on both poetry and prose. With poetry, you will be looking at a variety of forms, styles and structures and will get the chance to write your own poems. We will also look at prose writing and focus on how to write an effective novel opening. You will also get the chance to share your work with each other.

Science Olympiad Build Events Interim (Mornings; Terry)

During this interim, students will spend time designing and building the first prototype for the Science Olympiad challenges that require pre-built submissions. Build events include: Robot Arm, Electric Vehicle, Helicopters, Hovercraft, Optics, and Towers. Students do not need to be part of these specific Science Olympiad events to participate, but should be interested and willing to help create one or more of these challenges *following the guidelines laid out by the 2016-17 Science Olympiad Rule book*. Guest speakers and/or volunteer coaches will be scheduled to come advise and help with these challenges.

- *Electric Vehicle (C)* - Teams must design, build and test one vehicle that uses electrical energy as its sole means of propulsion to travel as quickly as possible and stop close to a Target Point.
- *Helicopters (C)* - Prior to the tournament teams design, construct and test free flight rubber-powered helicopters to achieve maximum time aloft.
- *Hovercraft (B/C)* - Competitors may construct a self-propelled air-levitated vehicle with up to two battery-powered motors that turn one propeller each to levitate and move the vehicle down a track. Competitors must also be tested on their knowledge of classic mechanics and related topics
- *Optics (B/C)* - Teams must participate in an activity involving positioning mirrors to direct a laser beam towards a target. Teams must also be tested on their knowledge of geometric and physical optics.
- *Robot Arm (C)* - Prior to the competition, teams must design, build, document and test one robotic device to move scoreable items.
- *Towers (B/C)* - Prior to the competition, teams will design and build a Tower meeting requirements specified in the rules to achieve the highest structural efficiency.

Casino Week (Mornings; Levine)

Come learn the only foolproof strategy to prevent the house from winning. (Hint: It involves staying home and sitting on the couch.) Participants will explore the math behind some popular casino games, including craps, roulette, blackjack, and poker. We will use fundamentals of probability to analyze odds and payoffs, create simulations using Excel to help us predict expected outcomes, and invent our own casino games based on the principles we learn. Schedules permitting, we will learn from a University of Chicago behavioral scientist about the psychology of gambling, and chat with the director of table game analytics for a Las Vegas casino company.

Designing an Amazing Life (Mornings; Bell)

Take an opportunity to spend a week thinking about how to design a life (yours) that is amazing and productive. Based on a course at the Stanford Design School, in this class we will engage in design thinking and meet some professional designers who will help you to prototype ideas that might help you think about new and exciting ways to lead an amazing life that is meaningful and useful. You will produce a plan or concept at the end of the week that can serve as a guide or reference for your future use.

The Two Chinas Debate (Mornings; Corrigan)

Students will discuss and debate the role of American policy regarding Taiwan from the Chinese Civil War to the present day. By analyzing political history, major theories of international relations, and the structure of policy argumentation, students will be asked to develop and defend their own opinions on what American policy towards the region should be. Content will be presented via a combination of lecture, multimedia and role playing game.

The Alternate Universes of Quentin Tarantino (Afternoons, Ferguson)

Quentin Tarantino's films introduce us to some bizarre, dangerous, wicked, evil, and hilarious alternate universes. In this interim course we will view and discuss five Tarantino films – *Reservoir Dogs*, *Pulp Fiction*, *Kill Bill, Vol 1*, *Inglourious Basterds*, *Django Unchained* -- and explore questions like: What can *Reservoir Dogs* teach us about the evolution of co-operation? Is Beatrix's revenge in *Kill Bill* both justified and self-destructive? Can we agree completely on what has happened and disagree on whether it was a miracle? How is *Pulp Fiction's* Vincent doomed because of his messy bathroom habits? What does *Inglourious Basterds* teach us about World War II and Nazi Germany? This will be an engaging, and disturbing, voyage into Tarantino's vortex of the absurd.

Please note that since all of these films are rated R parent approval is required for a student's participation in this course.

ART MAKING!! ART SEEING!! (Afternoons; Lazarus)

The tentative schedule will be:

Monday - a trip to the Art Institute and the Cultural Center.

Tuesday and Thursday - ceramic class at The Pot Shop in Evanston. cost: \$80.00

Wednesday - a visit to the Block Gallery at Northwestern

Friday - paint or draw around Evanston

Please note there is an \$80 cost associated with this course.

Introduction to Biotechnology Interim Fall 2016 (Afternoons; Grossman)

In 1919, Hungarian agricultural engineer Karl Ereky foresaw a time when biology could be used for turning raw materials into useful products. He coined the term *biotechnology* to describe that merging of biology and technology. Ereky's vision has now been realized by thousands of companies and research institutions. The growing list of biotechnology products includes medicines, medical devices, and diagnostics, as well as more-resilient crops, biofuels, biomaterials, and pollution controls. The field of biotechnology is diverse and in this interim we will aim to broaden our understanding of how biotechnology can help improve our lives and the health of our planet.

In this course students will:

- Explain the scope, concepts, and terminology of biotechnology
- Investigate and explain current events and advances in biotechnology
- Perform techniques involving the manipulation of DNA
- Laboratories include: aseptic technique, pipetting and measurement, DNA extraction and restriction digestion, gel electrophoresis, and PCR.

Day 1:

history of biotechnology & areas of biotechnology

Lab: aseptic technique & pipetting

Day 2:

DNA, genes, and gene Expression

Lab: DNA extraction

Day 3:

recombinant DNA technology

Lab: Restriction digestion

Day 4:

animal cell culture, transgenic animals and gene therapy

Lab: Gel Electrophoresis & PCR

Day 5:

Student presentations

History of the NBA (Afternoons; Small)

This interim course will explore the fascinating history of one of the most exciting and dramatic professional sports leagues: The National Basketball Association. Our investigation of the league's history will take us up the peaks of various golden eras, dynasties, and superstars, as well as down into the valleys of various scandals, controversies, draft busts, and conspiracy theories. The only thing we will assume for certain going in is that Michael Jordan is the single greatest basketball player ever—everything else is up for grabs. We will read and watch a wide variety of materials as we discuss professional basketball with the depth and rigor it deserves. This course is open to hardcore fans and newcomers alike.

Engineering/Tech Week (Afternoons; Hoagland)

We will do several hands-on projects using the Arduino microcontroller. The week will also include at least one guest speaker and one field trip in the Evanston or Chicago Area. We will discuss engineering career options and engineering design concepts.

Manual Dexterity (Afternoons; Rudnick)

In this class we will see and attempt five different visual and physical art forms that require nimble fingers and a steady hand. We will learn one form per day, including origami, puppetry, magic, balloon twisting, and juggling. We will have local experts come in to teach us, and at least one day go visit Magic Inc., Chicago's oldest magic shop!

Public Art (Afternoons; Mosher)

For this interim class we will focus on the murals, statues and fountains that grace our urban spaces. Each student will be invited to think deeply about the works they see, and then produce a scale version of a work of their own. We'll talk about how artists choose their sites and how a piece of public art interacts with the environment. Our group will travel into the city by public transportation, as well as walk/bike the Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park. When we're not out and about, we'll be in the studio working on individual pieces. At the end of the week, we'll have an informal exhibition to share our work with the Beacon community.