

# HIGH SCHOOL ELECTIVES

**CREATIVE WRITING** 1 year (T-Th)  
Grade Level: 11-12 Weight: 0.4  
**Prerequisite:** Instructor approval; submission of writing sample

This elective course is open to juniors and seniors interested in varied types of writing. The class is conducted as a writer's workshop wherein students share their writings and work towards a polished portfolio of their best work. Students actively write for the purposes of creating finished works including, but not limited to, poetry, short stories, essays, memoirs, and drama. Students study models of good writing and varied literary selections. Course can be offered as independent study.

**CRIME AND JUSTICE** 1 year (T-Th)  
Grade Level: 12 Weight 0.4  
**Prerequisite:** Instructor approval

This course is designed for seniors who are considering majoring in sociology, behavioral science, social work, political science, or law enforcement. Students discuss crime and justice from a Catholic perspective. Topics include: Catholic Social Doctrine, drug and alcohol abuse, racial profiling, prison reform, prison ministry, the history of crime and punishment in the modern age, mercy and forgiveness, victim's rights, crime scene investigation, interrogation techniques and crime trends and statistics. The class meets two class periods per week. The course utilizes community experts on various topics and includes several field trips.

**HISTORY SEMINAR** 1 semester  
Grade Level: 12 Weight: 1.0  
**Prerequisite:** Instructor approval dependent upon enrollment

This course is open to seniors from both Saint Thomas and Visitation who have an interest in history and are looking for a college level experience. The seminar will explore topics of interest throughout world history (e.g., ancient Rome, imperialism in Africa, World War II, etc.) from a wide variety of perspectives. Students will be asked to participate in discussions and interactive simulations based on readings and research, write papers, and create a documentary film. Tests will not be a part of student evaluation. Development of college skills is a core component of the class.

**MENTORSHIP PROGRAM** ½ year  
Grade Level: 12 Weight: N/A

This program allows senior students to develop professional interests and explore career requirements under the supervision of teachers. Participants will develop goals and outline objectives with the mentor teacher, work 5-8 hours per week to accomplish those goals, keep a portfolio and journal, and write a final paper on the experience. **Students must have approval of the mentor teacher and the Dean of Academics. Course is Pass/Fail.**

**PSYCHOLOGY** 1 year  
Grade Level: 11-12 Weight: 1.0

This course is an in-depth study of the processes involved in the operation of the human mind and emotions. The areas of study include the development of cognitive processes, theories of personalities and human development, sensation and perception, emotions and motivation, and psychological disorders.