

Interdisciplinary Social Studies Courses

Criminal Mind & Everyday Hero

(Combo of Contemporary Issues and Journalistic Writing)

This course will probe into the psychology of individuals who are considered some of the most despicable people in history. Through the study of Forensic Psychology, the biology of the brain, genetic factors, the systemic nature of abuse, and Social Psychology, the class will analyze, research, and report on the most notorious evil doers in history. In addition, we will explore the healers and helpers in society, learning about what makes an individual want to help, either in the moment or as a life's mission. Students will have opportunities to engage in "real world" skills through research, effective interviewing, and connecting with individuals who devote their lives to helping others. The exploration of human behavior in its extremes will be an exciting and rich opportunity for students to delve into the psyche of human beings and what makes us tick. Students will be responsible to help develop the focus and scope of the coursework throughout the year.

VJA 30 for 30

(Combo of Contemporary Issues and Sports Literature)

Why does being a fan of a team stretch across generations? Why do people congregate around the television yelling, cheering and even sometimes crying over a bad play or a final score? What does our infatuation with athletes, scores, scandals and triumphs say about our society? America loves sports! VJA 30 for 30 is going to tell the behind the scenes story of American sports Using a wide variety of sources, students will conduct college level research to analyze and explain current economic, political, and social issues at the local, state, and national levels. Topics may include labor-management negotiations, franchise movements, controversy surrounding public financing of sports facilities, the use of PEDs, gambling, sports analytics, payment of college athletes, and the impact of mega events on the local economy.

Chi-Cology

(Combo of Chicago History and Ecology)

Do you love Chicago? Are you also interested in Ecology? Have we got the class for you! While using innovative ideas and learning, you will experience not only the great history that Chicago can give us, but how these ideas can tie into the ecological issues that the city has experienced. Bubbly Creek, Chicago River, Lake Michigan, architectural design, green city and Friends of the Parks are only the tip of the ecological iceberg of concepts we will discuss.