

Creative Writing

2009-10

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Weiss
Room: 235

Course Description: This semester advanced course is designed to provide the student an opportunity to explore a variety of types of imaginative writing. Although students will acquire and practice skills in writing short fiction, poems, plays and creative nonfiction, each student will choose a form to specialize in.

Instruction Philosophy: Creative literature is an essential element in society. This class will work towards helping students understand how they can appreciate the forms of creative literature and how they enhance society. Students will learn to use creative writing to express their personal views and opinions on society. This class will be conducted in a writing workshop format. Therefore students must be able to work independently as well as in small groups. Each student will be expected to work at his/her best ability utilizing class time given to read and write. Sharing of work with classmates and/or a larger audience is a key component of this course.

Course Goals:

- 1 Develop and apply skills and strategies to comprehend, analyze and evaluate fiction, poetry and drama from a variety of cultures and times.
- 2 Develop and apply skills and strategies to comprehend, analyze and evaluate creative nonfiction.
- 3 Apply a writing process in composing text.
- 4 Compose well-developed text using standard English conventions.
- 5 Write effectively in various creative forms.
- 6 Use appropriate vocabulary when discussing writing.
- 7 Use language as an instrument of thought.
- 8 Think reflectively, critically, and creatively.
- 9 Analyze writing in order to deepen understanding of writing concepts.
- 10 Generate and evaluate ideas, processes, and products.
- 11 Explore alternatives and make and justify decisions.
- 12 Express personal viewpoints in unique ways.

Benchmark Objectives:

Mastery of all objectives is required with a minimum of 80%

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Given a piece of short fiction, the student will use details from the text to analyze the author's development of character, plot, setting, point of view, and development of theme.Given a piece of nonfiction, the student will analyze and evaluate the author's use of information and logic to express his or her ideas through word choice, detail selection, and/or figurative language.The student will compose a well-developed piece of short fiction using standard English conventions: spelling, mechanics, usage and grammar.The student will compose a well-developed piece of creative-nonfiction using standard English conventions: spelling, mechanics, usage and grammar.The student will compose well-developed creative compositions utilizing elements of style and form (plot, characterization, mood, theme, symbolism, figurative language, vivid language, etc...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Given a piece of poetry, the student will analyze and evaluate the author's use of figurative language, imagery and/or sound devices.Given a piece of drama, the student will use details from the text to analyze the author's development of character, plot, setting, point of view, and development of theme.The student will compose well-developed pieces of poetry using appropriate conventions: spelling, mechanics, usage and grammar.The student will compose a well-developed one act play using appropriate English conventions: spelling, mechanics, usage and grammar.The student will compose well-developed creative compositions utilizing elements of style and form (plot, characterization, mood, theme, symbolism, figurative language, vivid language, etc...)

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Major Course Assignments and Projects:

Project #1: Journal

Students will write daily in a journal. The purpose of the journal is to help students explore their creativity in a non restrictive format. Journals will be graded weekly.

Project #2: Short Fiction

Students will use the writing process to compose a short piece of prose fiction. This may take a variety of forms such as: short story, children's story, fictionalized journal entry, etc...

Project #3: Creative nonfiction

Students will write a piece of creative nonfiction. Creative nonfiction uses elements of creative writing (figurative language, descriptive language, plot development etc...) to compose nonfiction forms. These may take a variety of forms including essays, articles, biographies, autobiographies etc...

Project #4: Poetry

Students will explore composing a variety of types of poems. A total of five poems will be written.

Project #5 One Act play

Students will the dramatic form to write a short one act play.

Project #6 Publishing

Students will submit at least one piece of writing for publication. Submission may be to writing contest, newspaper or other approved publishing source.

Project #8: Reading Comprehension

Students will be expected to read **three** short stories, **ten** poems, **three** creative nonfiction pieces and **two** one act plays before the end of the semester. Students will keep a reading log and journal about each selection read. Pages read may also be used on each student's communication arts reading log.

Project #9: Literary Elements/text features

Students will study a variety literary elements and text features to help increase understanding of a variety of creative writing techniques and forms. Types of writing to be read will include short stories, plays, poems, and essays.

Project #10: Research Element

Students will use research skills to explore the writing styles and techniques of historical and popular writings.

Required/Recommended Readings:

See project #8

Assessment Plan:

		Semester grading	
Quarter grading		First Quarter	50%
Compositions	40%	Second Quarter	50%
Daily Work (class participation and discussions, journaling, reading and writing workshop, and/or group discussions)	15%		
Tests/quizzes	10%		
Homework/presentations (active Reading strategies, reading assignments Speeches/presentations etc...	15%		
Final	20%		

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Classroom Expectations:

1. Be in your seat and quiet when the bell sounds (if not, then you are tardy); stay there unless given permission to move.
2. Be sure not to move desks.
3. Be attentive.
4. Be quiet when the teacher or another student is speaking or when a performance is taking place.
5. Be sure to raise your hand when you wish to speak.
6. Be honest—your grade will be based on YOUR work, not work copied or completed from or by another student and/or source.
7. Be informed—pay close attention to lectures, assignments directions, and due dates.
8. Be inquisitive!—always ask me to clarify if you do not understand an assignment or explanation.
9. Be sure to ask me or someone in the class about assignments missed due to an absence.
10. Be selective when you use your pass port. (Pass ports will be limited to emergencies)
11. Be sure to place all materials and resources (textbooks, dictionaries, etc...) neatly back on the shelves.
12. Be sure to throw away all trash at the end of the hour. (Don't leave trash on floor, on/in desk.)
13. Be sure to leave when I dismiss you—not when the bell rings.
14. Class time should not be used to do homework from another class, sell candy / fundraising merchandise or groom/beautify yourself. (These behaviors should take place before the tardy bell.)
15. **No food, candy, or drinks allowed in class.**

Supplies and Materials needed:

1. 1 pocket folder (to keep handouts and pieces of writing)
2. 2 one subject note books
3. A blue or black ink pen
4. An ink pen other than blue or black for editing and proofreading
5. A flash drive or some type of data storage device
6. A box of facial tissue(optional)

Homework Policy and Grading Scale: Please refer to the Student Handbook for the Homework Policy. The grading scale is as follows:

A.....100-95	C.....76-73
A-.....94-90	C-.....72-73
B+.....89-87	D+.....69-67
B.....86-83	D.....66-63
C+.....79-77	F.....59-0

Extra Help:

Mondays and Tuesdays after school until 3:30 PM

Time and Place to be reached by Parent:

Planning period: 6th

School Phone # 431-2616 ext. 4163

School Email jweiss@centralr3.org

Please sign and return by _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____

Student _____