



Cal Aero Preserve Academy
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CREATIVE WRITING SYLLABUS 2015-16 (This is subject to change)

Welcome to Cal Aero's first Creative Writing course! This is my first year Teaching at Cal Aero and I am truly excited to be a part of such an impassioned team and community. We are continuing our implementation of the Common Core Standards, which are designed to better prepare students for study, subject, and life skills to carry through as they become lifelong learners.

COLLECTIVE OBJECTIVE

My goals for this trimester are to deepen the roots of understanding within each student of the possibilities offered within literature and literary thought, both in the interpretation as well as the creative aspect. My ultimate objective for each student is to impart the application of knowledge—particularly while reading and discussing a variety of American, English, and World Literature—that will transcend beyond simply comprehending the texts to a level of deeper understanding. Ideally, my hope is that as the weeks progress, each student may readily apply the texts to not only the world around them, but perhaps begin to realize each text's place in shaping the manner in which they perceive the world and the deeper impact of literature on their own creative expression. That being said, I operate with a fully open door-policy; if at any time you or the student feel there is some means of more effectively communicating the needs of the course, I encourage an open discussion, either through phone or email, whichever you prefer.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Students will be required to participate each day they are in class; there will be an adherence to a weekly routine centering on assisting each student to grow and cultivate lifelong learning skills. Students will participate in class discussions, daily journals, writing projects, author/movement reports/reflective literary analyses, and the culmination of their own original works, which will be read to the class and discussed.

REQUIRED MATERIAL

Students are expected to be on time and prepared each day, with their 3 ring binder (with appropriate dividers), their writing notebooks (Composition books are perfect, but not required), their research materials, class supplies (paper, pen, highlighter—any color that does not cover the writing is fine), and any assignment due on the date.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

I adhere to the disciplinary protocol as outlined by both Chino Unified School District, and Cal Aero Preserve Academy.

ASSIGNMENTS/GRADES/POLICIES

Students are expected to keep daily in-class journals and to participate in the daily assignments/writing exercises. Homework will be assigned each Monday and is due on Friday at the beginning of the period. Students are expected to read outside of school, for at least 30 minutes/day as well as to prepare research on a genre of literature or author/poet as we study various forms of original written expression

ASSIGNMENTS/GRADES/POLICIES (CONT'D)

Grades will be earned in a traditional value scale of 10% per letter grade, D through A: A (90-100+); B (80-89); C (70-79); D (60-69); and F (0-59)

And Work Habits as well as Effort/Behavior are as follows:

O (Outstanding); S (Satisfactory); N (Needs Improvement); and U (Unsatisfactory)

Deadlines are to be taken very seriously as they are a rudimentary aspect of succeeding in creative writing in later levels. Late work will be accepted with the understanding that students will lose 10% per day the assignment is late, which is the same as one letter grade. (This of course, is not including extreme circumstances). If you are absent (and it's excused through the school attendance) on a due date, then the assignment will be due on your first day back. (A note on late work: Please remember that even 50% is much better than an incomplete/0%--if you take the time to do the assignment, turn it in!!!)

Finally, academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism in any capacity) directly contradicts the entire purpose of education, and it will not be tolerated. If a student plagiarizes (copies without giving due recognition to an original source) they will receive a 0% on the assignment, regardless of the amount plagiarized, or the importance of the assignment, and due recommendation for further disciplinary actions will be made. Simply, don't do it; it's a horrible habit to get into and the sooner you take pride in your own work, the more success you will have here, in high school, and beyond.

All grades will be posted online.

THE TRIMESTER AT A GLANCE

We will be focusing on 3 units of study, each roughly 4 to 5 weeks in length. Each will end in an assessment designed for various learning styles, with both a short (2-3 page) research report on either a genre of literature we are studying, or an individual author/poet whose work influenced the student's. Tentatively, it shall go as follows: Month 1: Poetry; Month 2: The Short Story; Month 3: Drama. The student will be responsible for an original work in the genre as well as the previously mentioned author study/summary. All assignments I will model for students as they are assigned.

I look forward to working with each of you.

M. Nieblas



Please fill this page out, sign, and return.

Student Information and PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION

As said in the syllabus, I want to establish the best means of communication to ensure that all of your child's needs are being met as well as to learn a bit more about your child.

Student's Name: _____ Period: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name(s): _____

Language spoken in the home (circle): ENGLISH SPANISH OTHER: _____

Parent/Guardian's Phone number(s) _____

Parent/Guardian's email: _____

Preferred means of communication (circle): Phone Email

Please do not hesitate to let me know if there is any additional information that you feel I should know to better assist your child in his/her education.

Student Information (I'd like to get to know more about each of my students' preferences)

Favorite:

Class/Subject _____ Why? _____

Book _____ Why? _____

Film _____ Why? _____

Music _____ Why? _____

Place to visit _____ Why? _____

Sport _____ Why? _____

Out-of-school activity _____ Why? _____

My child and I have both read the syllabus and are clear on the expectations and responsibilities of the class.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____