

Creative Writing

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Class Overview

Welcome to the Creative Writing elective. In this class, we will:

- write consistently over a long period of time, experimenting with different styles and genres.
- work to develop unique plots, characters, and narrative voice as part of the creative process.
- practice mechanical writing and editing skills, such as spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
- read fiction and nonfiction mentor texts to learn about and discuss writing as a craft.
- synthesize skills to create a long-form, complete narrative as a final project.

Materials

- Fully charged laptop
- Pens or pencils
- Spiral notebook or binder with loose leaf paper
- Folder for handouts
- Journal (to be kept in the classroom)

Class Rules

For You:

- Be respectful.
- Be responsible.
- Be ready to learn.

For Your Writing:

- Be free, except...
- Keep it PG-13.
- Don't worry me.

Class Procedures

Expectations

The Creative Writing class has a high emphasis on independent work. Because many of the assignments are longer writing assignments, you will be given a significant amount of time to work on these assignments independently, at your own pace. This will require you to self-regulate and use your class time effectively. Neglecting to complete your work in class may result in your falling behind on longer projects.

Journals

Your journals are located at the front of the room. Every class, you are expected to come in and write something in your journal. You can free-write, use a prompt, or use it like a daily log. Journals will be graded periodically for completion.

National Novel Writing Month

During the month of November, you will join a community of millions of writers all over the country to write a completed first draft of a novel. Everyone in class will set a word count goal for the month (between 10,000 and 50,000 words) and work toward completing that goal.

Final Project

The fourth marking period will be dedicated to using all the skills you have learned to write an 8-20 page final project for the class. This project will be worth two major grades (rough draft and final draft).

Class Policies

Grading

This class follows the school-wide grading policy:

- Major Grades (tests, projects, presentation) – 45%
- Minor Grades (quizzes, writing assignments) – 20%
- Classwork (all in class activities) – 25%
- Homework (homework, small assignments) – 10%

All marking periods are worth 20% of your final grade. There will be one midterm and one final exam, each worth 10% of your final grade.

Attendance

If you are absent, whether excused or unexcused, you are responsible for making up any classwork or test/quizzes that were missed. You will have five (5) school days to make up absent work. After five school days, it will be marked as Missing in the grade book and be counted as late.

Work will be available on Google Classroom or in the Absent Work folder in the front of the classroom.

Please see the student handbook on tardiness and attendance. If you are absent more than ten (10) times during the school year, you may not receive credit for the class.

Classwork

All classwork must be completed in class the day it is assigned, during the time allotted for these assignments. If you are present, you are expected to participate fully in the day's assignment. If you are unable to finish the day's classwork for any reason (sent home, called to nurse/office, extracurricular, etc.) you are expected to finish your classwork that same evening. Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Late Work

All projects, essays, homework, and classwork are to be completed when they are assigned and handed in on time. Students who choose to submit work late will be subject to a penalty of two (2) points per calendar day. After ten (10) calendar days, the assignment will not be accepted. On Google Classroom, work will only be graded if it is marked “Turned In”. Any work that is submitted on Classroom after the due date will receive a late penalty, regardless of whether he work was completed on time.

Technology

Cell phones are prohibited in the classroom. All phones must be out of sight for the entire period unless you are given express permission for educational purposes. The first offense will result in a warning; after that, students will be asked to stow their phone in a designated spot in the classroom. If they refuse, they will be sent to the office.

Headphones are permitted during independent writing time only, and only when given express permission by the teacher. Music is not allowed during tests. No music is permitted during classwork or silent reading time.

Second Chance Opportunity

Second Chance is designed to allow students to retake or resubmit a **Major** Assignment where they did not demonstrate mastery.

- 1) Students have five (5) school days after a grade is posted to take advantage of Second Chance. Students are responsible for asking for/initiating Second Chance and making an appointment to retake the assessment.
- 2) Students must meet with the teacher for a conference and/or extra help to go over the assignment before completing it again.
- 3) Student scores will be averaged for the new grade (unless otherwise discussed).
- 4) The teacher decides whether or not a student is eligible for a retake. Second Chance Opportunity is always at teacher discretion.

Detention

Students will have three (3) school days to serve a teacher detention. Skipping a teacher detention will result in a referral and/or phone call home. Detentions may be assigned as a consequence for misbehavior, as a mandatory student/teacher conference, or as a mandatory extra help session. It is not always a punishment.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as your own. Plagiarism is a serious offense that will result in loss of credit. See the student handbook for details.

Examples of plagiarism include:

- copying a classmate’s homework or classwork on an individual assignment
- copying from another student’s test
- copying an answer from a website and handing it in as your own work
- copying ideas from a website or another student and submitting it as your own ideas

In this class, plagiarism and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If a student is found to have plagiarized an assignment, they will receive a zero on the assignment with no opportunity to redo or resubmit it. If two students submit identical or unacceptably similar assignments, both students will receive a zero on the assignment with no opportunity to redo or resubmit it.