

Syllabus for Creative Writing

Instructor: Ms. Searcy

Overview

The course is designed to experience the creative writing process. There will be exercises in personal writing, dramatic writing, and literary writing. While studying the different genres of writing, the student is encouraged to formulate personal definitions of narrative and its demands upon individual talent; moreover, style, form, intention, and technique will be observed and applied. The aspects of the writing craft will be explored.

Reading Requirements

Selections range from the *Elements of Literature texts*, excerpts from other texts, periodicals, and literature related to the course and student interest. The novel and drama selections will include selections of student interest.

Reflective Writing Requirements

Journal pages—minimum 3 journal pages daily, total number of pages--150, additionally students will write reflections of completed work to submit with the selections for their writing portfolio.

Writing Requirements

Personal Essay, memoir, personal narrative, autobiographical essay, book, movie, music reviews, short story, poem, and script.

Grammar Skills

Reviewed as needed, with application to genre studied.

Literary Terms

Historical and literary terms from “allegorical—wit” will be identified, defined, applied, analyzed, criticized, and synthesized.

Writing Skills

Prewriting, generating ideas from thought and experience, borrowing ideas from other writers, keeping diaries and journals, knowing the purpose for writing, transitioning from broad topic to focus theme, learning to observe, developing thinking skills (comparison, analysis, inference), hooking the reader, sequential writing skills for logical placement of time and space, identifying the turning point, connecting ideas to larger themes, setting up a problem then solving it, crafting conclusions that summarize and tie up loose ends, writing so the reader hears the voice of an individual human speaking from the page, using an appropriate voice which is safe and accepted, looking for voice in advertising, print, and nonprint resources, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions.

Research Skills

Students will complete an annotated bibliography and incorporate research process, procedures, and models to compose a critical analysis of a selected work or a critique of a selected work.

Assessments

Will include, but is not limited to the following: journal, tests, quizzes, writing assignments, daily grades, participation points, exercises, reader responses, media share, open responses, poem recitation, literature reviews, and other activities which will enhance the progress of the student.

Materials needed

I expect you to stay organized and to keep up with what you need for class each day. To help you remain organized, you will need to have the following supplies for this class: an organizational binder or notebook with pocket folders (a notebook that can be turned in periodically) and a pen/pencil. The notebook should be in chronological order or divided into our units of study. All journal pages should be numbered chronologically.

If you come to class without a pen or a pencil, you may borrow one from silver holder on my desk and return it at the end of the period. If you do not have paper, you may get some from the supply tray on the bookcase by the door. A lack of preparation without supplies is unacceptable in life and school. Infrequently situations may arise that necessitate "borrowing;" however, this scenario should be the exception rather than the rule.

****High expectations set the standard for this course. Remain organized, and keep up on your reading and writing. I am here to help you, so if you should need assistance, please let me know. Do not hesitate to ask questions or request help.**

*****This syllabus is subject to change.**