

Creative Writing: 1 Semester – Grades 11/12

Desired Student Outcomes and Performance Goals

By the end of the semester-long Creative Writing course, students will:

- Produce at least one piece of writing in multiple-drafts, from pre-writing to submission for publication.
- Read examples of published works
- Experiment with multiple revisions of creative works
- Demonstrate real gains in writing improvement between drafts.
- Explore various stylistic elements and poetic techniques
- Explore various stylistic elements of short fiction.
- Practice writing short fiction from at least two different narrative perspectives
- Experiment with dialogue, characterization, and setting
- Develop short fiction that contains all the basic plot elements
- Practice writing poetry in both formal and informal structures
- Develop poetry that contains basic poetic elements
- Produce a series of poems

Course Content and Materials:

Students may elect this course in either the spring or fall semester.

Students will explore readings and examples of each genre of literature including literary classics and contemporary works, and representing a multicultural array. They will engage in daily opportunities for writing, as modeled through an on-going process from the pre-writing stages of brainstorming, through revision, editing, and on to publication. Students will have weekly structured writing time for works in progress. Students will be given opportunities to experiment with various stylistic elements and forms in a supportive community of writers. Students will be provided with opportunities to employ technology in the writing process. The teacher will structure class to include weekly revision workshops with peers and instructor, written and oral feedback from peers and instructor, and opportunities to submit for publication in the school forum, and other venues. All students will be required to perform their work in front of an audience.

Materials:

Perrine's Sound and Sense

The Heath Introduction to Poetry

The Best American Short Stories

Students will read both formal and informal poetry written by a wide variety of poets, explore the techniques of writing poetry, and draft a complete portfolio of their own poetry, including at least 5 poems. Students will perform their poetry in front of their classmates in a poetry slam.

Part 1: Short Fiction

Literary Terminology: point of view, reliable and unreliable narration, setting, plot, direct and indirect characterization, dialogue, rising action, falling action, climax, denouement, flashback, interior monologue, exploded moments, thought-shots, concrete detail, descriptive detail.

- Students will read assorted short fiction pieces.
- Students will explore the parts of the short story, and write at least two of their own short stories in different variations, and through several drafts.
- Students will select one of their short stories to include in their final project portfolio

Part 2: Poetry

Literary Terminology: Rhyme, meter, rhythm, line-break, stanza, imagery, metaphor, simile, alliteration, assonance, consonance, onomatopoeia, voice, speaker, tone, mood. sonnet, villanelle, sestina, ode, ballad, haiku, parody, metric feet and rhythm patterns, names for groups of lines (couplet, quatrain, etc.).

- Students will study a variety of informal poems. They will write at least one critical literary essay analyzing the use of poetic devices.
- Students will write at least 2 close-text analyses of poems.
- Students will write their own free verse poetry – selecting the five best for inclusion into their final project poetry portfolio.
- Students will study a variety of formal poems. They will write at least one critical literary essay analyzing the use of poetic form.
- Students will write their own formal poetry – students will write a poem for each of the poetic forms studied. They will select the five best for inclusion into their final project poetry portfolio.