**Creative Writing**

Fall 2013

Guidelines & Syllabus

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**Course Overview:** Creative writing involves the study of a writer’s craft, looking at various forms and genres of writing, composition of many different types of writing, and editing, polishing, and improving drafts through peer review. This course is intended for students who enjoy writing and is not intended to be a remedial writing course.

**What I Offer You:**

* Respect, the right to dignity, and the opportunity to learn
* Knowledge of writing techniques, forms, and guidance in your own exploration of writing and what that means for you
* Maximum effort to support your success in and out of class.
* Availability before, during, and after school for students with questions or students that need extra help.
* A comfortable, safe learning environment

**What I Expect of You:**

* Respect and the right to dignity
* Support ALL of your classmates’ learning
* Work your hardest and stay organized
* Carry yourself and behave as a young adult
* Ask questions!
* Think, Imagine, Explore, and Learn!

**Rules:**

* Come to class on time.
* Drinks will be allowed in class as long as they have a lid. Food is not allowed unless needed for medical reasons.
* Stay on task for the entire class period. Talking should not occur unless given permission. Personal conversations are to be had elsewhere.
* Follow the dress code.
* **Cell phone use of any kind is not allowed.**
* Under no circumstances should a student use profanity, rasict, homophobic, or other derogatory language. As you may be allowed to use this type of language elsewhere, it is not acceptable in a learning environment.
* Always treat Ms. Harker and your classmates with respect and dignity. Teasing, picking on students, and distracting students who are working is not allowed and will not be tolerated.

**Consequences:**

* Verbal warning
* Phone call to parent or guardian
* Call to administration
* Written referral

Please note that these are generally the order of the consequences when there is unacceptable behavior. However, the teacher reserves the right to change/reorder consequences when necessary.

**Procedures:**

* During the first 10 minutes of class, no one is to be let out of class.
* If you need to use the restroom, simply ask. I try to be as flexible as possible with restroom needs. If it is apparent that you are abusing restroom privileges, you will no longer be allowed to use the restroom during class.
* If you need to use the pencil sharpener, blow your nose, or get out of your seat for any other reason, you should simply raise your hand and ask.
* If the class ever goes to the library/computer lab, you will be expected to get there without “getting lost.” Please treat the library and librarians with respect.

**Course Work:**

This course will be divided into five units. Each unit will explore various genres, forms, and styles of writing.

* Unit One: Essay
* Unit Two: Short Fiction
* Unit Three: Poetry
* Unit Four: Theatre
* Unit Five: Film

Students will be required to write EVERY DAY in class. Students will be required to share some work with the class, accept critiques and complements regarding their writings, and give critiques and complements to other students. Additionally, there will be some required reading that goes along with the course in order to teach writer’s craft.

**Grading:**

Homework/Classwork/Class Participation – 20%

Daybook and Minor Assessments– 30%

Polished Drafts, Projects, Major Assessments– 50%

**Exam/Portfolio:**

Students will turn in a culminating writing portfolio at the end of the semester which will count as 50% of the final exam grade. Requirements for the writing portfolio will be distributed to students during the first three weeks of school. **In order to have a successful portfolio, students MUST stay organized and keep all writing done throughout the semester.**

**Late Work:**

Homework:

* Homework that is collected and reviewed by teacher (e.g short writing, pre-writing for an essay, etc.) will be accepted up to two days late for excused absences only.

Classwork/Tests/Quizzes:

* Students present in class when class work is assigned and do not complete it will receive a zero.
* Students with excused absences obtain it when they return to class and complete it in the allotted make-up period.
* UNEXCUSED absences will be able to make up class work; however, they will only receive may only earn up to 70% of the grade

Papers:

* If a student is absent the day a paper is due, the paper will be expected the day the student returns. Students who anticipate being absent for two or more consecutive days should communicate with me so that they are informed of assignments.

***\*\*The student will be responsible for scheduling make up times with me. Failure to do so will result in a zero on the assignment.***

**Paper Guidelines:**

Papers will be collected at the BEGINNING of class. Any papers that are turned in after that will receive a ten point deduction for each day it is late. **Papers will only be accepted as printed hard copies, unless extenuating circumstances are present.** Students should follow the guidelines below for all papers submitted.

* Double spaced
* One-inch margins
* Times New Roman 11 or 12 pt. font
* Name, date, and class period at the top, left-hand corner.
* Stapled – no paperclips, binder clips, or folders please!
* If a “Writer’s Memo” is required for the paper, it must be stapled to the FRONT of the paper; otherwise, the paper will not be accepted.

**Plagiarism:** DO NOT PLAGARIZE! As this is a Creative Writing course, this should go unsaid. The goal of this course is to write original work. Using the work of another author/student/person will only hinder and diminish your growth as a writer. Cases of plagiarism will be handled on a case by case basis. If a student is caught plagiarizing, his/her parent and guidance counselor will be contacted. Additionally, the student will have to redo the assignment for only 70% of the earned grade. Failure to redo the assignment will result in a zero.

**Materials Needed:**

* Flash Drive
* Pens/Pencils
* Marble Composition Book (Daybook)
* 4 differently colored highlighters
* Scissors
* Glue stick

I look forward to having a wonderful semester with you!