

Creative Writing Syllabus

Contact Info:

Ms. Grace

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Course Description

Creative Writing is designed for students to create original forms of descriptive writing, poetry, drama, and fiction. In this class, we will discuss and put into practice a variety of writing techniques. The student's goal is to grow intellectually as a writer and a reader and to determine which aspect of creative writing most appeals to them. They will be assessed through projects, quizzes, tests, class discussions, and writing assignments. Computers and word processing are used for composition. Writings are presented both orally and in written form.

Course Objectives

The students will be able to:

- Create and edit original sentences.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of a well-written narrative.
- Identify the steps in creating characters for a story.
- Identify, analyze, and create a well-developed plot.
- Explain the parts of speech and their basic functions in a sentence.
- Develop original pieces of work utilizing various strategies.
- Evaluate the usefulness, or lack thereof, of a source (both Internet and non-Internet).
- Understand poetry language in music. (Rhythm, lineation, meter, etc.)
- Recognize patterns and variations in poetry.
- Organize a portfolio of original works.

Class expectations

1. Be Respectful
 - a. Listen attentively
 - b. Follow all directions promptly
 - c. Ask for assistance in an appropriate manner
 - d. Use an appropriate voice level
2. Be Responsible
 - a. Participate in class appropriately
 - b. Continue working until the assigned task is finished, and then review work
 - c. Turn in homework on time
3. Be YOUR Best
 - a. Remain in your seat
 - b. Complete homework with 100% accuracy and honesty
 - c. Read a book or work on other homework when finished with the assignment

Supply list

- Writing utensils
- Spiral Notebook
- Folder OR 1" binder
- Sticky notes

Grades

Students' success depends upon completion of all assignments and mastery of skills that are taught. Grades will be earned through participation, homework assignments, journals, quizzes, tests, and a comprehensive final each semester. Grades are taken **only** to gauge student learning. Because grades are not taken daily, students need to constantly demonstrate their full potential on given assignments to maintain a passing grade in the class. The grades are recorded in the STI program online; you are able to check on your child's grade at any time with a username and password. Grade Reports will be issued to students every 2 ½ weeks and upon the completion of each quarter.

Homework

Homework is given so that students have the opportunity to demonstrate their learning in class. Students will be given class time to complete the assignments, but what is not completed during class time will be assigned to finish that evening to turn in the following day. Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class and will be considered late if not turned in when collected. Homework may consist of essays, projects, presentations, and reading. Extra credit is not given to individual students. If extra credit is offered, it will be offered to the entire class.

Late Work

Given that this class is structured to build on everything that we do, late work will not receive full credit. It is the student's responsibility to come to class prepared so that we can build on the assignment and move forward. Each day that the assignment is late, it will be docked 20%. Once the assignment is two days late, it will not be accepted for credit.

Cheating/Plagiarism

The district policy for cheating is defined as "knowingly using inappropriate means to aid in the performance of a test/quiz/or assignment" page fourteen. The test/quiz/ or assignment will receive a grade of zero and will be reported to the principal. Plagiarism is defined by Merriam-Webster as "the act of using another's production without crediting the source." Plagiarism is not acceptable and will not be tolerated and will result in a score of zero on the assignment and having the assignment turned in to the principal as well.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is mandatory and could affect the final grade. Advance arrangements for unavoidable absences should be made. Students are responsible to meet all course requirements regardless of absences.

Per the attendance policy stated in the student handbook, a secondary student may accumulate no more than five (5) unexcused absences per semester per class. A letter will be mailed home when a student accumulates two unexcused absences for the semester and subsequent letters will be mailed home after the fourth and fifth unexcused absences. When a student accumulates six (6) unexcused absences for the semester, a letter will be mailed home notifying the student and parent that the student will lose academic credit for the class in which they have six (6) unexcused absences or more.

The student is responsible for obtaining the missed assignments, notes, and information; they may come in before or after school to speak with me about making up the missing work. All assigned work while absent shall be submitted **within two days** upon returning to school. Any work not turned in within two days will receive a zero and cannot be made up.

Students are required to be in their assigned seat when the bell rings to avoid a tardy. To be excused from a tardy, a note needs to be presented upon entering the classroom.

Cell Phone Policy

With the increased use of cell phones and the distractions to the learning environment as well as safety

issues that go along with that use, it is important that students be vigilant when it comes to monitoring their cell phone use. Cell phones need to be put away and not used during class and tutoring. Students may use cell phones during passing time, but only in the halls (this privilege can be revoked at any time during the year by the principal). If needed, a student can come to the office and ask for permission to use his/her phone. Audio or image recording, whether through picture or video, without the prior consent of the individuals being recorded is prohibited.

Virtual Learning

Assignments: All assignments will be assigned and collected using Google Classroom. Students will have experience logging in and already be added to the classroom before this time. To login to classroom, students will need their school Gmail address. It is your responsibility to ensure you have submitted an assignment properly. ALWAYS check to ensure the document you wanted to be attached is what you intended to submit. I will make sure students have ample time to meet due dates.

Virtual Teaching: I may upload videos, links, lectures, or other educational opportunities. Students will need to download these, watch and learn from them before doing assignments. All assignments and collection will be done through Google Classroom. Other websites may be used for learning. These may be downloaded for later use.

Late Work: Late work will not be accepted. If there is a technology problem, I will need to be contacted prior to the due date. Contacting me after it is due because of a problem will result in a zero.

Teacher Contact: Please use the school email address to contact me. I will check it daily. However, if I miss your email, in most cases you will hear from me the next day. I will not check my email or handle school communication on the weekends. If you had a tech problem, emailed me prior to the deadline and I missed it-we will work on that the next school day. If you have questions or need help, please contact me!!! We will work something out-email, video conferencing, live messaging, etc... Let me know what you need from me.

Reading Assignments: Free PDF's or uploaded documents will be available for students online. I will provide links to reading assignments. Students may need to download the readings. Once that is done, they will be able to access those without internet access to be able to read them at any time.

Contact Information

At any point, if you have a question concerning your child, please contact me. The fastest way to contact me is through email. My email address is kgrace@concordia.k12.mo.us. This is the fastest and most effective mode of communication.

Please complete and return the following form by the end of the first week of class.

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the expectations of the Creative Writing course.

Printed Student Name

Signature of Student

Date

Printed Name of parent or guardian

Signature of parent or guardian

Date

Parent or guardian email address

Phone number