Creative Writing

Course Syllabus 2021-2022

Mrs. Koser (room 104)

Course Description

This semester-long course introduces students to the creative writing process. Students will experiment with writing in a variety of genres to create original works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and even plays. Mentor texts will model writing moves for students and provide enjoyable reading experiences. The course will culminate in a portfolio project that will count for a significant portion of the student’s final grade.

Expectations

* **Students will be expected to participate in all activities.** Writing time is reserved for writing, not sleeping, doing work for other classes, or playing games on an iPad. If there is writing time, you must fill it with writing.
* **Students will be respectful of others’ work.** Sharing writing and getting feedback is a necessary part of the writing process. Students may—and should—give constructive feedback to classmates. However, students may not be disrespectful or mocking toward another student’s work.
* **Students will not have much homework for this class.** The vast majority of work will be completed in class. Homework will only be necessary if a student needs more time to complete a task or do make-up work.

Grading

Grades for this class are unweighted and there are no tests. There is, however, a substantial semester project that will count as a significant portion of the final grade. The final project will be done entirely in class, but students must use their class time wisely to keep up with project requirements.

Supplies

Students will need a 1-inch three-ring binder and a minimum of 10 plastic insert sheets for their final portfolio. If students cannot afford these materials, please communicate with me at least two weeks before the final project due date. A folder or binder to keep track of daily assignments will also be necessary.

Cheating

Using someone else’s wording, following a structure too closely, or using information without citing where it came from are all on the plagiarism spectrum. Any form of cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment and an office referral.

Absences and Make-up Work

If you are absent from my class for any reason, you must make up the work for the day. It is the student’s responsibility to ask for make-up work after an absence. Students who have planned absences (for a family vacation, hunting trip, or educational opportunity) must fill out the appropriate paperwork in advance. Work provided before a planned absence will be due the day of the student’s return.

Denial of Credit Due to Absences

The school’s absence policy states the following:

Any student who accrues non-professional absences in excess of four (4) days in a nine-week grading period will be subject to receive zeroes on assignments for every additional day of nonprofessional absence for the remainder of the 9 weeks for each class that this takes place. Each new nine weeks every student will begin with a clean slate with regard to period attendance. Denial of credits can be appealed in writing only to the building principal.

Please see the student handbook for clarification on unexcused absences.

Course Progression

1. Start Small: Short Writing Assignments

* Acrostic poem
* Prewriting practice
* Twisted fairy tale
* Adventure series
* Borrowed prompts
* Famous first lines
* Talk mad, talk soft, talk fast

1. Dream Big: Novel Project

* Monomyth hero cycle
* Plot planning methods
* Character creation and development
* Opening scene strategies
* Settings that support character and mood
* Tension and suspense
* Writing resolutions

1. Plan Well: Writing Development

* Sensory language
* Clichés
* Pure dialogue
* Verb tense choices
* Visual plans
* Lists, lists, lists!
* Internal conflict

1. Final Project Assembly

* Bringing it all together
* Book cover design
* Labeling writing moves
* Labeling plot elements