

## **Creative Writing**

### **Mrs. Hernandez**

#### **Course Scope:**

This one-year course will develop and improve both formal and informal writing skills with emphasis placed upon self-expression, creativity, and clear communication. Student will produce publishable, written material throughout the year and will maintain a portfolio reflecting growth as a writer. This course will fulfill either the third or fourth year credit of English or one elective credit required for graduation.

#### **Course Goals:**

1. To develop creative thinking and originality in various forms and genres of composition through the use of writing as a process.
2. To increase awareness and depth of observation and interpretation of ideas.
3. To manipulate basic rules of grammar, usage and mechanics for effect in creative writing.
4. To develop reasoning strategies that are communicated logically through writing.
5. To recognize literary techniques for application.
6. To evaluate personal writing through peer editing and published models.
7. To encourage economy of language.
8. To build vocabulary.
9. To develop an awareness of a variety of audiences.
10. To explore opportunities for publication.
11. To encourage the use of technology and multi-media.
12. To build a resource file from one's journal and the writings of professionals and peers.
13. To address issues of ethics and plagiarism.
14. To assemble a portfolio showcasing one's creative writing talents, abilities, and growth.

#### **Texts:**

There is no assigned textbook for this class. Because of this, you will need to be especially careful with any handouts given in class. You should also take copious notes. You must bring a three-ringed binder with extra paper and dividers to each class meeting. This is your Creative Writing notebook. You will also be reading additional books, etc. A list will be provided.

#### **Course Outline:**

1. Journals and Folders  
Writers journals – Must share four per quarter
2. Prose  
Fiction, non-fiction
3. Drama
4. Poetry
5. Language Manipulation

### **Course Information/Assignments/Evaluation:**

1. Most of the homework assigned will consist of writing, writing, and more writing. I strongly urge you not to leave these assignments until the last minute, as you will need time to revise your work. You will be sharing and discussing your work either with the class as a whole or with a peer response group, so it is extremely important that you complete your assignments on time. If you have nothing to discuss, you will be wasting the group's class time as well as your own.
2. You will usually be writing in your journal for the first 10-15 minutes of class. You must read at least three journal entries aloud each quarter. These journal topics are writing prompts that can be used for creative writing assignments.
3. Spelling, grammar, and neatness will be important considerations in all written work.
4. Final copies of major assignments must be typewritten.
5. A student is considered tardy when they are not in their seat when the tardy bell rings. I suggest that no student should be out of their seat for any reason after the one minute warning bell.
6. Students are to begin class with their composition books on their desk. Opening assignments will be written on the board each day. These opening exercises will count toward daily participation points.
7. Notebooks will consist of notes and the students' portfolio. A writer's portfolio is an important tool to evaluate writing progress.

### **Make-up Procedures:**

When a student is absent, the education experiences lost from class time are irretrievable and the instruction and interaction cannot be duplicated through makeup work (CCSD Regulation 5113). Make up work represents only a portion of the daily grade; for students with approved absences, the substance and grade value of make up work is subject to the teacher's discretion. Student with unapproved absences are entitled to make up work information, but will not receive any credit for participation work due to their truancy.

1. After any absence the student shall be required to initiate contact with school Instructors to obtain appropriate make-up work within three school days directly following the student's return.
2. Within three days the student must discuss the missing work before school, or after school. The student must complete and turn in the missing work within three days. The work should be clearly labeled ABSENT on the top of the page.

\* Any student exceeding 6 unapproved absences will lose his/her semester credit in this course.

## **Grading Policy:**

Assessments of students' progress will be continuous throughout each quarter. Students' grades will be based on the following point system:

Daily Participation: 25% (punctuality, preparedness to work and conduct)  
Homework/class work: 40%  
Tests/quizzes: 35%

There will be no late work accepted. A student may turn in an assignment early, or by the end of the day on the due date.

**Students are expected to write their name on all assignments. If a student neglects to write their name on an assignment no grade will be given for that assignment even if the assignment is identified by the student. It is the student's responsibility to remember to write their name on their assignment.**

Students' grades will be calculated with the following formula:  
$$\frac{\text{Number of points student earned}}{\text{Number of points possible in quarter}} = \text{student percentage/grade}$$

The following scale will be used to convert percentage grades into letter grades: A=90-100%, B= 80-89%, C= 70-79%, D= 60-69%, F= <60%.

Semester grades will be based on both quarter grades (40% each) and a semester exam worth 20%.

## **Classroom Behavior Expectations:**

Just a few simple rules:

1. NO FOOD OR DRINK MAY BE SOLD OR CONSUMED IN CLASS
2. NO HEADS DOWN IN CLASS
3. NO LEAVING THE ROOM WITHOUT A SIGNED PLANNER
4. NO HANGING OUT OR LINING UP BY THE DOOR BEFORE THE BELL RINGS
5. NO INTERRUPTING OTHER WHILE THEY ARE TALKING, ONLY APPROPRIATE SCHOOL LANGUAGE WILL BE USED IN THE CLASSROOM

If a student chooses to break one of more of the above rules, the following progressive discipline plan will be followed:

1. Verbal warning
2. Phone call to parent or guardian
3. Referral

Students are expected to come to class prepared. If they must borrow something from another student it should be done before class starts, not during a discussion, etc.

If a student is tardy they will sign in and the progressive tardy policy used on campus will apply to the student. The following is the progressive tardy policy:

- 1<sup>st</sup> tardy = Student/Teacher conference
- 2<sup>nd</sup> tardy = Phone call home
- 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy = tardy assignment
- 4<sup>th</sup> tardy = Phone call home
- 5<sup>th</sup> tardy = Required Parent Conference

Students will not be allowed to leave the classroom to use the restroom without a planner. The hall pass portion of the planner must be attached to the rest of the planner, and I will only sign the hall pass portion not a “home made” hall pass. If there is a pattern of use with the hall pass parents will be notified and students will be encouraged to use the restroom only during passing period.

Students should expect to work until one minute before the bell rings. They should not pack up until instructed to do so. They should not write on their desk or treat any school district property disrespectfully.

Students are expected to be focused and ready learn at all times. Students completing work for another class will have that work taken away, and I will return it to the teacher that assigned it.

Students should not be writing notes during class. I will confiscate all notes and after three notes are collected I will send home a copy of the notes to the parent/guardian.

### **Suggested Supplies and Miscellaneous:**

Students are encouraged to read “On Writing” by Stephen King or obtain a copy as this book will be discussed in class.

Students and Parents/Guardians can check academic standing on Parent Link. On my teacher Web site there are resources such as: in class work calendar, homework calendar, handouts, notes, PowerPoints, and forms. There will also be times when pictures will be included.

