

Plano Senior High School

Creative Writing Syllabus

Course Description – This course is intended to provide students with an opportunity to build and improve creative writing skills. Content includes self-reflection, creative discipline and mechanical improvement while writing and exploring poetry, prose and literary non-fiction. This is a writing class, which means that there will be writing assignments every day. Students will succeed in this class IF they are willing to write constantly, edit work, and cooperate with others in writing groups.

Course Content - The course will include self-reflection, appreciation of literature, confidence-building, utilizing and improving creative instincts, writing poetry, prose, and literary non-fiction. Emphasis will be given to self-improvement and the ability to access necessary tools to continue the writing process throughout their lives.

Course Structure –

1st six weeks focus-

Discovery of self: How do your life experiences affect your writing?
Where do ideas come from?
How to begin a piece of writing
Writing and inspiration practice
Required Writing: Memoir

2nd six weeks focus-

Discovery of the world around you: How do the world around you and the people in it affect your writing?
Different journalism modes of literary non-fiction
Developing Plot
Required Writing: Review (book, movie, OR restaurant)

3rd six weeks focus-

Discovery of Writing Style: Which type of writing style is your niche?
Putting it all together
Developing Dialogue
Developing Character
Required Writing: Short Story

Course Requirements –

- **FOLDER-** Perhaps the most important element of this class is the folder because it will become the portfolio! Needs to have pockets AND brads. Due during the first week of class!
- **Paper, writing utensils (blue or black ink ONLY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)**

Grading- The assessment for this course will consist of writing grades, presentation of writing and class activities to enhance writing. The majority of the grades will come from portfolio writings. Each six weeks, there are two major portfolio writings due that count as two major grades each. These writings will be taken through the complete writing process and will be presented by students. There will be a final portfolio assignment that will be a culmination of the entire semester. This project will count as four major grades and as 50% of the final exam as well. Journals will be compiled into one major grade, and other daily writings and assignments will count as daily grades. A daily participation grade will be given to all students. If a student is caught off-task, this daily grade will receive a five point deduction.

Late Work Policy-

- **Homework- NO late work will be accepted!**
- **Long Range/ Major assignments (portfolio)**
 - **Due on the assigned day**
 - **The student will receive a 30 point deduction in grade for an assignment turned in 1 day late.**
 - **The student will receive a zero for an assignment turned in 2 or more days late.**
 - **An assignment turned in on the due date, but after the student's class period, will receive a 10 point deduction.**

Classroom Rules – In addition to all school policies:

1. Students are expected to be in their seats ready to begin class when the tardy bell rings.
2. Students are expected to work only on this class during the class period in and out of the lab. If you are caught playing games on the computers or working on other assignments, you will lose that day's computer privilege and will need to write by hand. If this becomes a continuing problem, you will lose the computer privilege for the entire six weeks or semester. This will also result in a five point deduction of the daily participation grade.
3. Students are expected to respect others in the class and their ideas.

Classroom number: A-104A
Office number: A-104C
E-mail: mdobbs@pisd.edu
Tutorials: by appointment

Signature Form

Please read each policy sheet and information letter and sign the corresponding agreement of understanding below. Enter your contact information preferences in the space provided, and detach this page from the packet to return to your child's Creative Writing teacher. Thank you.

We have read and understand the terms and conditions of the PSHS Creative Writing course guidelines, PSHS late work policy, and PSHS plagiarism policy.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent contact preferences

PLEASE PRINT

Parent or Guardian Name _____

Student's Name _____

Phone _____ Alternate phone _____

Email _____

Emailing my child's grade information is approved _____

Parent Signature

If your child is enrolled in any special services or programs, such as ESL or At-Risk, or if you have any other information regarding your child that his or her teacher should know, please include that information here. Thank you.

