



INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING

Instructor: Ms. Alba

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Office Hours: Tuesday or Thursday 3-4:00 p.m. & by appointment

Class Website: www.msalbasclass.com

Twitter Feed: @AlbasClassGGHS

Remind: Text @argonautor to 81010

Google Class: tqmtuh

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the art of creative writing and publishing. Class participants will write and revise pieces in a number of genres including personal essays, short stories, poetry, plays, and we will also be dabbling in emerging alternative genres. The central focus of the class will be on various processes for creating, using mentor texts as inspiration and models, and learning from providing and listening to feedback. Most important, however, will be learning to engage in a supportive creative community that empowers individual curiosity, and artistic risk taking.

Objectives

1. Students will become familiar with the concepts of creative writing, particularly the elements of poetry, fiction, and drama.
2. Students will employ the concepts of literature to analyze the mentor texts of selected authors to craft original stories, poems, and plays.
3. Students will use Lerman method for critical response to facilitate the revision process and evaluate the quality of their own manuscripts and the manuscripts of others.
4. Students will learn to revise manuscripts based upon the critical evaluations received in writing workshops.

Texts, Materials, and Technology

Composition Book, Glue Stick, Writing Utensils, AERIES & Google Class Account

Homework & Assignments

NOTEBOOKS, which include both class and homework, will be collected every three weeks. (See interactive Notebook Rubric and Guidelines for details.) *All assignments are to be turned in the day they are due.*

Make-ups are permitted for tests, quizzes, homework, etc. following an excused absence. Students are solely responsible for informing themselves about work missed during absences. Worksheets and assignments will be listed on the weekly class calendar. Worksheets may be picked up at the assignment basket.

Late work will be reduced 10% for each day it is late. Excessive late assignments are cause for a conference with your parents/guardians. I am regularly available to students that are having difficulties with the materials.

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on the average accumulated from workshop exercises and feedback activities, journal completion, end of unit portfolios and presentation of final project in a public reading. The value of each of these components at the outcome of the semester is as follows:

- 30% End of Unit Portfolios (Summative)
- 30% Final Project & Reading (Summative)
- 30% Journal (Formative)
- 10% Workshop Exercises & Feedback Activities (Formative)

Grading Scale

The purpose of this class is for students to begin using writing as a powerful creative and expressive tool. For this reason, the emphasis of grading will be for course participants to set up goals and reflect on the skills and techniques they want to experiment with. To meet this end and so that everyone can write as freely as possible, grades are based on students maintaining an active creative writing process. At the end of this process each student will be using peer feedback and self-evaluating the work produced based on the following set of criteria.

Students will have opportunities to revise assignments to demonstrate a possible higher level of mastery. If a higher level of mastery is demonstrated, it will replace the lower score for that assignment or assessment.

5.0 = PUBLISHABLE Letter grade translates to an A and reveals that the author believes that the piece is worthy of being submitted for publication and exceeds assignment requirements through outstanding efforts in creativity, sophisticated style, and complex use of technique.

4.0 = COMPLETE Letter grade translates to a B and reveals that the author believes that the piece demonstrates effort to meet the general assignment requirements with no major errors. The author, however, believes that the piece has room for improvement and could use revisions in the areas of style and technique.

3.0 = WORK IN PROGRESS Letter grade translates to a C and reveals basic assignment skills and effort, but there are major errors regarding basic of composition and mechanics including: spelling, grammar, and conventions which create obstacles for the reader to engage in the piece.

2.0 = INCOMPLETE DRAFT Letter grade translates to a D and reveals partial knowledge and some basic skills and requirements, but the piece is incomplete, shows little effort and major errors regarding basic of composition and mechanics including: spelling, grammar, and conventions which create obstacles for the reader to engage in the piece.

Interactive Journal Guidelines

Your Interactive Journal will be your property and the key to success in my class. It will contain notes, handouts, and valuable information concerning class material. It will also contain your thoughts, creativity, and personality – so take care of it! **Your journal must come to class every day!**

Your Interactive Student Notebook must contain the following aspects:

1. A **COVER** with your basic information - your name, the course name, your class period, and my name.
2. A **TABLE OF CONTENTS** identifying the material contained in the notebook in chronological order and the page number in your notebook.
3. All materials that are contained in your notebook must be complete and have a title, **including the date**. This is primarily aimed at class materials, such as starters, notes and diagrams, as well as writing exercises and readings.