

Course: Creative Writing

Spring 2017

Teacher:	Molly Vasich (room 004)
Email:	molly.vasich@mpls.k12.mn.us
Office Hours:	After school or by appointment

Course Description: Creative Writing is a semester long, writing intensive course. Students will study writing devices and literary terms through writing and reading.

Required Materials:

- pencils and pens (blue or black)
- highlighters
- a notebook
- a folder or binder for keeping class materials

Curriculum & Assessments

Unit Descriptions	Unit 1: Short Story- Jan. 31-Feb. 24th Unit 2: Poetry- February 27th- March 30th Unit 3: Digital Storytelling- April 10-May 12th Unit 3: Zine Writing- May 15th-June 14th
Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Selected short stories by Junot Diaz, Jhumpa Lahiri, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and other authors ● Selected poems: Kelly Norman Ellis ● Short films by varied filmmakers ● Writing prompts from Anne Lamott, Natalie Goldberg, and other writers ● Text Selected for Reading Circles (Quarter 4)
Summative Assessments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Polished Original Writing (revised, final drafts) in each unit. ● Shared Inquiry Discussions ● Showcasing Final Pieces (1 x unit)
Formative Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Weekly reading and concept quizzes ● Bloody Thursday writing ● Daily warm up writing prompts ● Designing an original writing prompt (units 2, 3, 4) ● Participation in weekly writing workshops ● Draft writing share-out (2 x unit)

Further Description of Assessments:

Weekly reading and concept quizzes

Each week (typically on Fridays), students will take a quiz on the assigned reading and the concepts (stylistic techniques & devices, literary elements, etc) covered during the week.

Bloody Thursday writing- 30 points

On Thursdays, students will spend the full period writing in response to a series of prompts. Students will not be allowed to use their cell phones. Ms. Vasich or appointed students will play DJ and provide music to write to. You will receive 30 participation points (CREDIT/NO CREDIT). To receive credit, students must keep writing for the full class period without interruption (aka no cell phone use or conversation).

Daily warm up writing prompts- Monday-Wednesday- 5 points

On Monday-Wednesday, Ms. Vasich will post a writing prompt on the overhead. Upon arrival, begin responding to prompt. You will receive 5 points (CREDIT/NO CREDIT) based on the following criteria:

- working on prompt by the time the bell rings
- hole to hole response to prompt in notebook
- not using cell phone during this time
- sharing your writing if your name gets called (popsicle sticks)

Designing an original writing prompt (units 2, 3, 4)- 20 points

In Units 2, 3, and 4, you will be responsible for designing a warm up writing prompt. You need to share (via email/google doc) this writing prompt with Ms. Vasich 24 hours before your assigned date. You will receive 20 points (CREDIT/NO CREDIT) based on the following criteria:

- Writing prompt is unique and thoughtful.
- Writing prompt inspires student writing and thinking.
- Writing prompt contains proper grammar, spelling, etc.
- Writing prompt is shared with Ms. Vasich via google docs/email at least 24 hours before assigned date.

Participation in weekly writing workshops- 20 points

Once a week, students will have an extended period of time to work on their writing. Students will be assessed on their contributions to peer writing workshops (common critiques), revising their own writing, and crafting new pieces of writing in response to extended prompts. These weekly assessments are the building blocks of their final writing portfolios. You will receive 20 points (CREDIT/NO CREDIT) based on the following criteria:

- stays attentive and on task through full workshop time
- provides peers with thoughtful, careful, and critical feedback on their writing.
- spends time revising own writing according to feedback.

Read Arouns (1 or more per unit)- 30 points

At least once each unit, students will read aloud their original writing to the class. In order to ensure that Ms. Vasich has time to make copies, please share the selected writing with Ms. Vasich 24 hours before your assigned date. After you are finished reading, your classmates will provide you with feedback in oral and written form. You will receive 30 points based on the following criteria:

- Student reads writing audibly, with emotion in front of the class.
- Writing is shared with Ms. Vasich via google docs/email at least 24 hours before assigned date.

Shared Inquiry Discussions- 15 points

Once a week, we will have a discussion on an assigned text(s). Sometimes, students will lead the discussion. Students will be assessed on their ability to form and articulate interpretations of the stories based on textual evidence. Further, students will demonstrate their understanding of literary devices and techniques that we explored throughout the semester. Discussion leaders will develop the discussion questions, and maintain a respectful and positive discussion environment.

Creative Writing Grade Scale

Grade Scale	Percentage Range	Definitions
A	100-93	Exemplary Work – The student is working at the highest level with consistent, high quality work. The student participates actively in class. The student is a leader and assists others in the class.
A-	92-90	
B+	89-87	Proficient/Thorough Work – The student is doing very good, above average work. The student consistently participates in class. The student engages positively with others in the class.
B	86-83	
B-	82-80	

C+	79-77	Satisfactory/Acceptable Work – The student is work at grade level and does good work. The student participates in class. The student works well with others in the class.
C	76-73	
C-	72-70	
D+	69-67	Minimal Passing Work – The student is doing minimal work in class or is missing a lot of work. The student contributes minimally to class activities. The student engages minimally with other students.
D	66-63	
D-	62-60	
F	59-0	Unacceptable Work – The student is not working to grade level or is not doing the work at all. The student does not contribute well to class activities. The student does not engage positively with other students.
Grade Criteria		
Gradebook Category	Weight	Description
Formative Assessments	30%	Peer Writing Workshops
		Writing Warm Up Prompts: Participation & Design
		Bloody Thursday Participation
		Draft Writing Share Out (2 x unit)
		Reading & Concept Quizzes
Summative Assessments	70%	Weekly Shared Inquiry Discussions (SID)
		Polished Original Writing (Revised, Final Drafts)
		Oral Showcase Final Drafts Of Writing (1 x unit)
General Grading Procedures		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Missing work will be marked as “Missing” (M) in the gradebook until the assignment is completed and submitted.Assignments submitted late will be marked with a /L in gradebook.Assignments not done by the due date or failed assignments can be made up independently within 1 week of the assignment’s due date, however grade will receive no less than a 10% deduction.Assignments not completed and submitted within this first time frame (1 week) will change from M to “0” in the gradebook. After one week deadline has passed, these assignments cannot be made up unless student has communicated with teacher.Assigned work with an excused absence may be submitted 1 day late without penalty.Assignments submitted late will receive feedback at teacher discretion.Incomplete summative assessments will be entered into the gradebook as “0” until completed and submitted.Re-Dos and Revisions: There are no retakes for any summative assessments.There will be revision opportunities for select assignments if student submitted original assignment on time.Plagiarism is not tolerated. If any portion of your work is plagiarized, you will receive a zero on the assignment. You will not be given an opportunity to redo the assignment.Grading modifications may be made for students with IEPs or 504 plans.Grades will be updated at least every two weeks.		

Attendance and Absences: You are expected to be in class on time every day. If you are late or absent, you will miss class activities and essential information that will affect your grades. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed in class. You can find daily powerpoints, handouts, and assignments on the class website. **Please do not ask me during class time about what you missed.** You must view the website first, and then you can email me or see me after/before school with any follow up questions. I am not going to look for you.

Hall Passes: Students need a signed planner or pink hall pass to leave the room.

Phones & Electronics: See school policy in planner.

Tardies: See school tardy policy in planner.

Creative Writing
Student and Parent Information Sheet
Return by Wednesday, February 8th

I have read and understood the expectations of Creative Writing, Spring 2017.

Student Signature

Date

Student E-mail

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Parent involvement is very important to me. Please read the entire syllabus and discuss the responsibilities of the course with your student. I ask that you also include as much information as possible in the sections below:

Thank you,

Molly Vasich

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Phone (mobile): _____

Phone (home): _____

Phone (work): _____

E-mail: _____

Please circle the e-mail address or phone number at which it will be most convenient for me to contact you.

Please share any of your student's strengths or talents that you would like me to be aware of (*continue on back if necessary*).