

## **Creative Writing**

Mrs. Lyons      Room 007  
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**Course Description:** The Creative Writing course is a multi-genre introduction to the craft of creative writing. In the context of a variety of genres, students will examine literary conventions as well as the writing techniques and tools essential to effective writing and editing. Writing genres include essays, short stories, poems, and plays. Curriculum and instruction are aligned to the PA state core curriculum content standards. Because reading is a large part of writing, we will also read and respond to a variety of poetry and fiction.

### **Weekly Schedule:**

- Monday-Thursday: We will free-write, draft, peer edit, etc.
- Most Fridays: On these days, you will read for 25-30 minutes and write a response to what you read, specifically focusing on the author's craft. In order to develop good writing skills, it is critical to be a *reader* and to consider *how others write*.

### **Unit 1: Who Am I? Reflective Writing**

- Self-portrait: myself as a writer.
- Memoir writing: A defining moment.

### **Unit 2: Poetry**

- Ballads
- Riddles
- Poetry movements: studying and modeling modern movements.
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### **Unit 3: Descriptive Writing**

- Photo Writing
- Immersion writing

### **Unit 4: Fiction Writing**

- Short stories
- One act plays
- Screenwriting

### **Unit 5: Nonfiction Writing**

- Essays
- Speeches
- Debates

**Final Exam:** One NEW piece of your choice.

### **Supplies**

Each student is required to bring a writing utensil, their Chromebook and charger, as well as an organizer (folder, binder, etc.) designated for this class.

### **What is Graded in This Course**

Your overall grade will be determined by your ability to perform in all aspects of the classroom. Most activities in this class will be graded. While I do my best to set you up for success, the grade you earn is ultimately up to you. I update PowerSchool several times per week. It is *your* responsibility to check PowerSchool and to know your grade. All missing grades will be entered as "zero" until the assignment is submitted and a missing work form has been completed on Google Classroom.

## Student Requirements and Responsibilities

1. **Be on time for class and be in your assigned seat at the start of class.** There is a lot of important information provided at the start of class. Beyond three unexcused tardies, the consequence will be a detention.
2. **Be prepared for class.** This means that you have all your materials with you, including your Chromebook and charging cord. I will supply extension cords if you have a low battery. Being prepared also means you have read any homework assignments and also you have thought about the assignment.
3. **Participate in a positive manner**—disrespect shown to the teacher, substitute, or others in the room will not be tolerated.
4. **Do not be distracted by your cell phone.** It is against school policy to have a cell phone in class. Phones are to be placed in bags and left there for class. Your parents will be notified if your phone becomes a distraction to you and your learning. Students have the opportunity to earn **bonus points** each marking period by putting their cell phones in the cell phone pockets at the front of the classroom.
5. **Students should wear headphones/earbuds ONLY when instructed to by the teacher.** Refusal to take out headphones will result in an after-school detention. Your parents/guardians will be notified if your headphones are a distraction to you and your learning.
6. **Be a good digital citizen.** Chromebooks will be used every day. Upon taking your seat please log on to the Google Classroom. do not deviate from the prescribed web pages.

### Excused absence due to illness or extenuating circumstances (as per district policy)

Make-up work for EXCUSED absences is to be completed in a timely manner. This is considered to be one day per day of absence to a maximum of three absences. Assignments collected on days your absences were UNEXCUSED will be worth zero points.

If you miss a major assignment, such as an essay, test, or quiz, you must schedule a time to make it up in my classroom within one week. If **you** do not make the effort to do so, the assignment will be worth “zero” and you will not be able to make it up.

### Assignments not Submitted on Time

Assignments and related attachments will be posted to Google Classroom and on the Daily Slides.

Assignments are due on or before the date and time posted to Google Classroom Classroom.

- If you were present when the assignment was posted and when the assignment was due, but you turned it in “late”, you may still get credit for it, but the most that late work will be worth is 92%.
- Late work will be accepted at 92% for ten school days.
- Late work submitted after ten days, but prior to five days before the end of the quarter will be worth 70% of full credit. After that, it’s worth zero points.

Turning in a blank document on Google Classroom will result in the student earning a zero on the assignment and that assignment will not be able to re-do the assignment.

I understand you may sometimes not understand *one or two* questions on a homework assignment. I still expect you to “Submit” your assignment by the time and date I posted to Classroom. At the beginning of the class period, I will give everyone the opportunity to ask questions about the assignment. If you wish to modify *one or two* responses, you may “Unsubmit” the assignment to make corrections and then

“re-submit” it. I will randomly check your editing history to ensure you made a genuine effort to complete the majority (98% or more) of the questions on time. If your editing history shows that you had less than 98% of the questions completed at the time it was due and used class time to scramble and get them done, then you will lose points.

- ★ Assignments turned in on time will be graded promptly. Assignments turned in “late” will be graded *any time during those nine weeks*. Note: This may affect your athletic eligibility.
- ★ No late work will be accepted five school days prior to the end of the quarter.

### **Work Expectation:**

Creative Writing is a class designated and designed for juniors and seniors. It is expected that all students will capitalize the first word of each sentence, use end punctuation, and proper spacing between words and sentences. On digital assignments, students will make corrections based on grammar and spelling checks, which are automated by Google. Handwritten work will be legible. Consistent failure to do so will result in the work being returned for the student to make the appropriate corrections. Late points will apply.

**Revision:** If a student is unsatisfied with a grade received on a piece of writing, they may revise that paper within the grading period in which it was assigned. Due dates for each revision will be given for each individual revision. This policy excludes late assignments.

### **Need to Know:**

If anything is affecting your ability to complete your school work, please let me know. Unless you give the school counseling office permission to share personal information, we do not know if there is something serious happening in your life. Anything you choose to share with me will be handled in a professional manner.

**Academic Integrity:** If a student is found cheating he/she will receive a zero for that assignment and will be subject to disciplinary actions. Cheating includes, but is not limited to the following: copying another student’s work, allowing a student to copy his/her work, plagiarizing from a website, not citing the appropriate source, and venturing to another website when using the Chromebook for an assessment/assignment (this includes the use of AI). **(Please see the IHS Plagiarism Contract)**

**Exceptionality Adaptations:** I have learning disabilities so I know what it is like to struggle in school. If there is ever a time that you are struggling please come to me as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made. We will work together to find a common solution that will ease your struggles. Please do not wait until too much damage has been done or until the end of the marking period to ask for help. Remember, your teachers are here to help you.