

Course Name: English: Creative Writing

Duration: 1 Semester Full Year

Grade Level: 9th 10th 11th 12th (check all that apply)

Are there any prerequisites for the course?

English 9 & 10

WHAT this course is about:

This is a course designed to help you be a better writer! You'll be challenged as you craft original work in fiction, poetry, academic writing, and personal narratives. Everything you read and create in this course is selected and designed to get you thinking, trying new things, and stretching your skills to grow as communicators and contributors.

WHY take this course:

You'll gain confidence in yourself as a writer AND a reader; you'll develop a stronger understanding of the power of literature and how you can add to the great conversation that IS the written word, in all its forms. You'll gain tools to improve, streamline and increase your writing process. You will, ultimately, gain the ability and opportunity to present your work to the public, in several possible forms and formats.

By the end of the course, you'll gain a collection of your own original work, including a personal narrative (perfect for college and scholarship applications); a collection of poetry; several fiction and/or nonfiction short pieces; and an extensive personal journal to fuel more of your own creative work in the future.

WHAT you'll learn:

- How to find & use inspiration from your own experiences to guide and shape your writing
- How to find inspiration and guidance in the work of other writers
- The value, importance, and impact of literature in all its forms in shaping and improving our lives
- The "rules of the road" in terms of how to draft, craft and revise your own creative work.
- The elements and conventions of "traditional" and contemporary ("free verse")
- How to format your work for submission to contests, literary magazines and journals for potential publication
- How to establish, retain and protect your creative rights as an artist
- How to effectively employ literary techniques in your own writing, and how to spot them in the works of others (metaphor, personification, etc.)

WHAT you'll do:

- DAILY journal entries at the beginning of class—often prompt-driven, but some will be “free-writes”
- Creating a personal narrative (memoir) suitable for college, program, and scholarship applications
- Frequent short analysis writes (paragraphs, framed sentences, some small papers and/or in-class essays)
- Reading non-fiction (essays, articles), fiction, poetry and plays in-class for discussion
- Creating original poetry, personal narrative, and fiction
- Selecting and assembling the published work of others into a thematic anthology introduced with your analyses of the works as editor
- Revise and assemble a mini-collection of your own original work for formal presentation and reading in class
- Select and edit several of your own original pieces to submit to outside organizations (literary journals, contests, etc.)

WHERE this could take you:

If you’re interested in the humanities, literature and writing later in a college-level program, or if you’re a junior considering taking 12th grade AP Literature & Composition the following school year, this course is for you. This course is also a good starting point if you’re interested in technical writing, publishing, blogging or social media promotion.

OPTIONAL Course Outline (“scope and sequence”, sequence chart, etc.)

Semester One:

- **Quarter 1: Memoir/Personal Narrative**
 - Selected non-fiction/informational and memoir
 - Selected poetry
 - Exploring personal narrative by reading AND writing in the above genres
 - Reading to NOTICE and for “What Really Matters?”

Common Assessment #1: College Application/Personal Reflection Essay

- **Quarter 2: “Author’s Craft”**
 - Selected short fiction- including science fiction, mystery, etc.
 - Selected poetry
 - Major text: *Our Town* (play) by Thornton Wilder

Common Assessment #2: Analytical Essay- Identify a specific theme from one of a series of texts examined in class and write an analytical essay that examines a complex sequence of events and explains how specific individuals, ideas or events interact and develop over the course of the text, identifying techniques employed by the author to create complexity.

Semester Two:

- **Quarter 3: What makes a good story?**
 - Major text: *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare
 - Selected poetry: 17th century to present
 - Selected non-fiction: critical and scholarly articles
 - Return (again) to some of the short fiction read/studied in quarter 2

Common Assessment #3: Anthology Project- Assemble an online anthology of fiction, non-fiction and poetry, acting as editor, and answering a focused question or building around a theme.

- **Quarter 4: Portfolios and Publication**
 - Selected articles and essays
 - Selected poetry
 - Reference materials: submission and publication resources

Common Assessment #4: Portfolio- You will assemble an online portfolio of a selection of your own work, from any unit/assignments/activities covered in class.