

Russell Henry
B102
E-mail: henryr@ltisdschools.org
Phone: 512-533-6126

Lake Travis High School
Creative Writing Syllabus
2017

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Creative writing is an intensive writing course where students will create original stories, essays, poems, and other forms of prose while expressing their ideas about contemporary issues, topics, and themes. **STUDENTS MUST BE WILLING** to participate in class discussions to help generate and share ideas with their peers. Students will be required to read some of their work in front of class as part of the workshop format. The primary focus of this class is to spark creativity and a desire to express oneself through the written word and also to learn techniques and styles not only from the instructor, but also from each other.

NOTE:

Assignments and timeline may be adjusted at the instructor's discretion. The syllabus is a guide only and not meant to be inflexible.

The creative writing student will be able to do the following:

- **Use the writing process to produce original pieces of work**
- **Create journals/writing practice as a source of material**
- **Apply sensory observation and use concrete imagery**
- **Actively seek realism or achieve suspension of belief**
- **Apply literary devices to written work**
- **Incorporate structure in writing through plotting and narrative elements**
- **Use various points of view**
- **Analyze literary example**

WEEK 1 & 2:

The writing process: prewrite, write, revise
Fast start paragraphs / Fast start stories
Begin writing in journals

WEEK 3 & 4:

Details and imagery
Eradicating the vague
Word choice
Realism and suspension of disbelief/reality

WEEK 5 & 6:

Writing suspense and dialogue
Creating memorable characters

WEEK 7 & 8:

Symbolism
Story as symbolism

WEEK 9 & 10:

Narrative elements
Storylines, settings, theme, mood, tone

WEEK 11 & 12:

Poetry and lyrics

WEEK 13 & 14:

Sixties Project

WEEK 15 – 18:

Major film project

THE RULES OF CREATIVE WRITING

The foundation of learning is to trust your own mind. Trusting your own mind is essential for writing. Words come of the mind. Don't try to use these rules in any other of your classes, you could get hurt.

- 1. KEEP YOUR HANDS AND MIND MOVING**
- 2. LOSE CONTROL AND FORGET WHAT YOU THINK YOU KNOW**
- 3. BE SPECIFIC**
- 4. DON'T THINK TOO MUCH**
- 5. DON'T WORRY ABOUT PUNCTUATION, SPELLING AND GRAMMAR**
- 6. YOU ARE FREE TO WRITE THE WORST JUNK IN AMERICA**
- 7. GO FOR THE JUGULAR; USE YOUR ENERGY AND PASSION**
- 8. HAVE FUN**

Text and Resources:

There is no textbook for the creative writing class. The following books were used as guides to create the syllabus for this class:

For Writers Only, Sophy Burnham

Writing Down the Bones, Natalie Goldberg

Wild Mind: Living the Writer's Life, Natalie Goldberg

On Writers and Writing, John Gardner

All of the above books can be purchased at Book People, Borders or Barnes and Noble

Required Materials

Composition Notebook

Blue or black pen

#2 pencils

Looseleaf paper

Brain

Academic Dishonesty

Refer to the LTHS Honor Code