

Ms. Pohl
Creative Writing
2016-2017 Course Syllabus and Expectations
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Course Overview

This course is designed to be offered as an elective for high school students. Students will explore a wide range of texts that cover specific themes, genres, or styles and study specific writing techniques that are used in those texts. To further build upon these skills, students will compose their own works while applying the techniques they've been reading and analyzing.

Creative written expression will be the focus of the course, and students will gain a wide range of tools to use in their personal fiction writing, as well as in their more formal academic writing. Skills and techniques used in their English courses will be emphasized and focused on as needed for the individual student and the writing assignment. Students will have the opportunity to learn countless techniques and apply them to short creative writing; additionally, students will compose multiple-draft pieces that will be published in various formats throughout the year.

Journaling will be a major component of this course, and students will also compose numerous papers with varying topics and purposes. Peer interaction will be an important element of this course, with class time being primarily structured as a reading and writing workshop. As a whole class, students will focus on skills and strategies, with opportunities allotted for individual exploration of styles or strategies as determined by students.

Required Supplies

- A 1" binder designated solely for this class
 - It should contain loose-leaf paper—college or wide ruled
 - 5 dividers (Handouts, Drafts, Zen, Lists, Writer's Block)
- A notebook—this will be where the majority of your ideas will be kept and is required in class everyday (spiral, composition, some other cool notebook...)
- Pencils
- A planner or agenda—the one the school provides is great!
- Another helpful supply that is **not** required: a flash drive (to be shared with other classes)
- A package of loose leaf paper OR Post-Its OR a \$5 donation for miscellaneous classroom supplies/new books for The Book Lion's Den Library (these supplies are **optional** and **only** if you can help supply our classroom ☺)

Texts

As a whole-class, we will examine excerpts from a wide range of texts. Individually, students will complete their own reading explorations, which they will share with their peers and analyze for specific techniques we're studying.

Homework Assignments/Late Work

- Homework will be posted on the board and on the website daily. Students are expected to copy down the homework in their agenda/planner.
 - **On the website: red = due dates, green = in-class work, and purple = miscellaneous (holidays, special schedules, etc.)**
- Incomplete/missing work will not be accepted. Students have the opportunity to take responsibility for their missing assignments by completing Form Q (Missing Assignment Route) and submitting the assignment late. Unexcused late assignments will have a final score *reduced by 10%* for each day it is late.
 - Form Q allows students to devise a plan with the teacher for completing/submitting the missing assignment. If students complete their "route" as planned, the assignment points *will only be reduced by 5%*.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** This is a Creative Writing course focusing on aspects of writing and reading. This course will have the workload of a regular English class—lots of independent reading and *lots* of drafting and revising. Please be ready to commit to the workload if you commit to the class.
 - **Additionally**, this course includes a presentation/publication component. You will be asked to share some of your work at different points throughout the year.

Attendance

Frequent absences hinder students' ability to be successful in class—students should make every effort to attend class every day. However, sometimes absences cannot be avoided: the following policies are in place to help ensure student responsibility for their work during absences, as well as offer consistency for all student absences.

- If a student is absent the day an assignment is due, it needs to be turned in the day the student returns.
- If a student is absent the day an assignment is given, the student will have as many days as he/she is absent to turn it in (Ex. if a student is absent for two days when an assignment is given, the student will have two days beyond the due date to turn it in).
 - If a student has prior knowledge of a major assignment and misses days between the day the assignment was given and the due date, he/she is still expected to hand in the assignment *on time* unless other arrangements have been made.
 - Students and parents are always welcome to email me or talk to me in person if other special arrangements need to be made.

Classroom Expectations

- Be on time to class! Tardiness interferes with your learning and your peers' learning.
- Bring **all** materials to class, every day. Continual “can I go to my locker?” will be reflected in the participation portion of your grade.
- Water and tea are the **only** drinks allowed. **No snacks.**
- Cell phones need to be silent and out of sight at all times. Music will be allowed occasionally during independent work-time, otherwise they need to stay out of sight.
- This classroom will be a place where students feel safe, comfortable, and free to be themselves. I will not tolerate behavior that is hurtful or inappropriate. We will have many activities and discussions where all students are expected to participate—they should feel comfortable doing so without fear of judgment from their peers or teacher.

Extra Help

Email is the best way to get in touch: epohl@northlandprep.org

I will be at school from 7:45-3:45 each day. I am willing to meet with students during these times, or before/after these times with prior arrangements. If students need help with an assignment, they should come see me **before** that assignment is due.

Grading

Final grades for each semester will be compromised of both quarter grades, 40% each, plus the final exam worth 20%. Within each quarter grade, students' grades will be broken up **approximately** in the following way in a whole point system:

- Portfolio Assignments-----40%
 - These are the largest assignments, and will occur at least once per quarter. These assignments will be complex, include multiple drafts, and will sometimes include a presentation component.
- Temple of Books-----35%
 - Students will complete an individual literature exploration throughout the year. See handout for more details.
- Writing/Reading Workshop-----25%
 - Students will complete individual, small group, and whole-class writing and reading workshops throughout the year. These will be student and teacher-directed. This category also includes small assignments, participation, and organization.

Parents and Students,

Thank you for reading through the syllabus and expectations for this course. Please once again note, *this elective course will be the workload of an English class in terms of reading and writing assignments*. Students should keep this copy in their binders for future reference, or refer to the copy on the website. **All materials need to be in class by Monday, August 15th**. Please fill out the following information and **return no later than Monday, August 15th**.

We have read through and discussed the syllabus and expectations and understand what is expected throughout the year.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE write legibly so that we can easily contact through email. If more than one person should be emailed (both parents, step-parents, other legal guardians, etc.), please fill in the information with that person's name, relationship to student, and email.

Primary Email: _____

Other Emails:
