

Creative Writing Syllabus - in Courier Font

Spring 2020 - Room F105

Mr. Malanga/CCA

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Class phone: 858-350-0253, ext. 4175

Level of Difficulty - Moderate

Estimated Homework Each Day - Up to 30 minutes

Creative Writing is an elective course which meets requirements for high school graduation and UC/CSU subject area "g". See attached SDUHSD course description.

The standard grading scale applies:

A = 100 - 90%, B = 89.9 - 80%, C = 79.9 - 70%, D = 69.9 - 60%

There is no guarantee that you will receive an A in this class. Your grade is based on the completion of all assignments and on the quality and progress of your attempted work. A variety of assignments during the semester will allow you to explore different modes of creative writing, but for our purposes and time restraints, we will focus on these traditional three:

- a) poetry
- b) short story
- c) screenplay

The first quarter of the semester will be spent on solidifying the concepts of creating a character and on employing concrete nouns. Assignments will come in the form of poetry and short stories. You will have the opportunity of reading your poetry in front of the class.

During the second quarter of the semester, you will partner with another writer in the class to produce an original 25-page

screenplay. You will present your screenplay to the class in the form of a pitch.

Note: All assignments must be typed and printed. Do not send me work via email. Use size 12. Use Times New Roman font for poetry and short stories. Use Courier font for screenwriting. While there is no longer any set format for poetry and short stories, there is a standardized format for screenwriting, which we will employ.

A significant part of your grade will be your Daily Pages. At the start of each class, you will have ten minutes to self-start and write a one-page journal entry on anything that flows through your thoughts. You will not be graded on content but on length. This is stream-of-consciousness writing, beneficial for all writers. Label each new Daily Page entry with its subsequent number (e.g. Day Two of actual class will be Entry #2). Every two weeks, I will count your entries for a grade in Aeries (each entry equals one point). You will self-start each class day with this ten-minute Daily Page, so in a sense, we begin class at 1:40. You are required to have the exact number of Daily Page entries as there are school days - even if you are absent.

Homework and Grading Policies:

- a. Late homework will only be accepted with an excused absence.
- b. You have as many days as you were absent to make up any missing work.
- c. All written work must be typed or written in black or blue ink. No pencil.
- d. Save all your work.
- e. This is not a weighted class. That means that you will be graded on how many points you earn.
- f. Classroom participation, cooperation, and a great attitude may raise your grade, but that is not a guarantee.
- g. Check my website daily for assignments.

A Note on Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

"To plagiarize" according to *The American Heritage Dictionary* is

1. to steal and use the ideas or writing of another as one's own
2. to appropriate passages or ideas from another and use them as one's own

And according to CCA's website, "honest behavior is an expectation for all students in the San Dieguito Union High School District. The purpose of this policy is to create and maintain an ethical academic atmosphere." Plagiarism and cheating, therefore, will not be tolerated. In addition, an original writer who intentionally shares his work for another to copy is also engaging in plagiarism. Violation of the Academic honesty policy may result in the following:

- a. loss of credit for the assignment or test with no makeup permitted
- b. parent/guardian will be contacted
- c. referral to the assistant principal
- d. suspension from school
- e. removal from any leadership position

As of now, you are writers. Writers write, and writers re-write. I have a B.A. in Creative Writing, and I am really looking forward to reading what you write and what you rewrite.

Signing below indicates that you have read the syllabus and that you understand the classroom policies for Creative Writing. Sign this consent and hand it in to me. Worth 5 points in Aeries.

Student's Name:

Student's Signature and Date:

Parent's Name:

Parent's Signature and Date:
