



Dallas High School Home of the Dragons



Creative Writing

2013 - 2014

Instructor: Aaron Fawcett

Telephone: (503) 623-8336 X 905

Email: aaron.fawcett@dsd2.org

Office Hours: Tues-Friday 3:00-3:30, and additional times by arrangement.

Prerequisite: Grade 10-12

Course Description: I have heard it said that “creative” cannot be taught, it can only be encouraged. Okay. I’m fine with that. If for nothing else, allow yourself to believe that for the next eighteen weeks you are a writer in the midst of a final push towards a deadline. What I am going to do is assume you are interested in getting better and encourage you to do so. I hope to provide opportunities so that you may discover and/or develop some talent already present within you. Anyone can write, but it will take some work to write well.

Text: No text. Various short stories and essays to model and teach.

Course Outline: First Semester

UNIT	UNIT TOPIC	ACTIVITIES (Standards listed below the tables)
Unit 1:	The Basics: Stories vs. Essays; Necessary ingredients to succeed such as plot understanding and developing character; economy of word choice	--Mock Interview and article --Journaling/Everyday writing --Blogging with purpose (in our blog journal, not online)
Unit 2:	Poetry and its forms and use of language. Figurative Language Form and Structure Rhythm and Meter Economy of Word Choice	--Descriptive poetry --Narrative poetry ASSESSMENT: One original poem of 25 lines showing understanding of taught concepts
Unit 3:	Short Story Plot structure; theme; hero structure; character; dialogue; formatting all of the above mentioned; editing; feedbacking	--Various writing pieces generated in journals ASSESSMENT: Short work of fiction between 5-7 pages

Unit 4:	Play and Screenwriting --Creating character through dialogue --Creating theme and story structure through dialogue and setting	Assessment: Short 5-7 minute play or film script
Unit 5:	Presentation of Final Project	One developed and finished work from above forms --Must show editing process/rewrites --Must show first and final drafts with comments about the journey

Standards to Be Assessed:

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Anchor Standard 5: With some guidance writer uses the writing process and can demonstrate clear improvement through editing and revising.
 2. Content Standard 2: Use correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, paragraph structure, sentence construction, and other writing conventions.
- 11-12.W.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
- a. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
 - b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
 - c. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).
 - d. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
3. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.

Career Related Learning Standards: Career-related learning standards (CRLS) are fundamental skills essential for success in employment, college, family, and community life. We have integrated the Personal Management standard from the CRLS into all courses at DHS. **This**

standard will be assessed and communicated independent of the academic grade. It is included below and mainly includes behaviors that will be assessed in this course.

- **Personal Management Standard:** Exhibit appropriate work ethic and behaviors in school, community and workplace.
 - Students will identify tasks that need to be done and initiate action to complete the tasks.
 - Students will plan, organize and complete projects and assigned tasks on time, meeting agreed upon standards of quality.
 - Students will take responsibility for decisions and actions and anticipate consequences of decisions and actions.
 - Students will maintain regular attendance and be on time daily.
 - Students will maintain appropriate interactions with colleagues.

Grading and Assessment:

Student's final grade for each course will be broken down into two categories:

- 1) **Academic:** based on assessments, tests, projects and performances that measure learning.
- 2) **Personal Management:** based on homework completion and other behaviors measuring the CRLS personal management standard.

The Final grade is calculated as follows: 75% of the course grade will be based on the **Academic** grade and **25%** on the **Personal Management** grade.

- Any items included in the Academic grade (PA) may be retaken and the higher grade recorded. Teachers may extend the retake time period, but as a rule all retakes need to be done within **2 weeks** of the initial assessment.
- Students will complete extra preparation before retaking an assessment.
- Personal management work turned in late may be reduced by up to 50% credit.
- Retakes are not allowed on Personal Management assignments.
- Students must schedule performance retakes at their teacher's convenience. (Speech, drama, labs.)

Academic Integrity: We expect students to express academic integrity by doing their own work and properly documenting information gathered from other sources. Students who violate the principles of academic integrity will be subject to disciplinary consequences (see Insubordination section of the on-line student agenda).

Extra Credit: Extra credit is not offered, however students may be given additional opportunities to show mastery.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices: Mobile phones are not to be in use or in open view within classrooms, restrooms, locker rooms, or during lockdown situations. Misuse of mobile phone or electronic device will lead to the following consequences:

- 1st offense - confiscated device is delivered to the main office and returned to the student at the end of the school day.
- 2nd offense - confiscated device is delivered to the main office where parent/guardian will be contacted to reclaim possession.
- 3rd offense – discipline referral for “insubordination”, parent contact, and student will no longer be allowed to have the device at school without administrator permission

Personal Communication Devices Board Policy:

<http://policy.osba.org/dallas/j/jfceb%20r%20g1.pdf>

College Course: Please be reminded that this is an entry-level college freshman course. As such, students should be prepared to put in the necessary work and study time required of such a course. For those pursuing a career in the health services field, this year can put them an appreciable jump ahead of their peers enrolling also in this field of study.

Tardies and Unexcused Absences: Points will be given towards the Personal Management grade at the end of each grading period (9 weeks/18 weeks) for daily attendance and punctuality. Points will be deducted for each tardy and each unexcused absence in that 9-week grading period. Overly disruptive behavior may also result in loss of attendance points.