

Creative Writing

Course Expectations

Mrs. Donovan

mdonovan@edencsd.org

Course Description:

The topic of “creative” writing involves two concepts:

A. Self expression (a memory, an idea, an emotion, an opinion, etc.)

B. Communicating to a reader

******To do both, you must take great care to know *exactly* what you want to say, what form you want to say it in, how to create clear, effective sentences, how to select the best word for each occasion, and how to create explicit, memorable images to bring your ideas to life. Further, strong writers also embrace constructive criticism and work hard to revise and polish their writing pieces.

*******In short, you must realize that good writing is a craft, a skill, and you must be disciplined to learn and develop that craft.*******

Students will participate in a variety of graded and ungraded writing activities, experimenting with characterization, point of view, dialogue, setting, plot elements, and poetry. In addition, students will be expected to provide insightful criticism orally and in writing on their own work and on the work of others. Editing and revising will be strongly influenced by both teacher and peer feedback. Giving feedback and making meaningful revisions are a graded part of the course. Students will be expected to understand and *utilize* literary terms and techniques related to literature and the writing process. Finally, students will create an original short story as a final project.

Materials:

Students are required to bring their charged Chromebooks, writing journal provided by the instructor, a folder, loose-leaf paper, and a writing utensil to class. Students are also expected to be able to access their Google Docs account. In addition, students are required to have the assigned text, *Writing Fiction*, and assignments daily.

Grading:

Grades will be comprised of major writing assignments, journals, homework, peer editing, and class participation. The final short story project will be written in lieu of an exam. Various stages of the final project will be graded and averaged into the second quarter grade.

Make-up Policy:

****Any work missed due to an absence is expected the day of return.** In addition, on the date of a return from an absence, the student is expected to find out what work was missed and have assignments ready for the next class meeting.

Late Assignments:

Short assignments will be accepted one day late with a penalty of 50% and will not be accepted after that. If a draft is not done on the date due, there will be a loss of points for draft

completion *and* on the final essay grade, since draft due dates are also editing/revising days, and you will be unable to participate in class on that day. Long assignments will be accepted for up to 3 school days for a loss of 10% per day. They will not be accepted after three days.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit assignments will be offered at the discretion of the instructor only to those students who have completed *all* coursework within the specified time limits.

Senior Exemptions:

There is no exemption from the final project, the short story.

Parent Portal:

Grades will be posted on the Parent Portal as the school year's quarters dictate. It is expected that parents will contact the instructor if there are any concerns regarding student grades. Please contact the guidance office if needed regarding usage of the Parent Portal.

Classroom Rules:

- Since the class requires participation and feedback, an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect will be fostered at all times. Therefore, be respectful and considerate to all (which mostly involves being a very good listener).
- Be ready and willing to participate (which involves sharing your work and commenting thoughtfully on others' work).
- Come to class on time, prepared, and with a positive attitude.
- Show respect for school and personal property.
- Follow the rules of the school and classroom with both the instructor and any substitute teacher.
- No texting or phone use during class. If I see a phone in class, it will be confiscated until the end of the day.
- Do not plagiarize in any form.
- Please follow all CDC safety guidelines.

Creative Writing—Mrs. Donovan

I have read and understand the above set of course expectations.

Student signature: _____

Parent signature: _____

Parent email address: _____

Parent phone number: _____