

Creative Writing

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Hibbard

Location: Monday-Friday during 5th hour in Room 113

Planning Period: 7th hour; available to meet before and after school, by arrangement.

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INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

This is a course designed to teach you the basics of creative writing. It emphasizes such things as:

- Using descriptive language
- Development of voice
- Using both point-of-view and perspective
- Narration
- Character
- Story
- Writing: drama, fiction, poetry
- Revision

NEEDS AND RESOURCES

Required Background

To successfully complete this course with at least a 60% (D-), you must:

- Attend class
- Participate in class discussions and activities
- Complete and submit *all* work in a timely fashion and a satisfactory manner
- Give your best effort towards understanding and mastering the course material
- Follow all classroom rules (some to be negotiated)
- Follow all school rules (set in stone—no negotiation here)

Required Materials

To successfully complete this course, you will need:

- A willingness to take a chance and try something you may not have done before
- A notebook and writing materials
- A folder in which to store materials
- A flash drive may be helpful, though it is not required

Online Resources

- Given in class as they become necessary.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE FOR THE FIRST TWO WEEKS

Week	Material Covered In Class	Homework
1	Introductory material Begin unit on descriptive language, Sean Tan's <i>The Arrival</i> , and telling a story Continue discussion of storytelling and <i>The Arrival</i> Using descriptive language; sensory details In-class work on vivid language	Describe your favorite place
2	Significant details, figures of speech Begin voice in writing Author's voice and personae; in-class work on awareness of voice	"Eavesdrop" on conversations, paying attention to how each person speaks. Write down your observations Write a brief (1 page) conversation between two people. Try to make each person's voice distinct.

Subsequent assignments will be announced in class.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

General Rules:

In short, you are expected to be here every day that school is in session and to behave yourself in a manner appropriate to a high school student. If you even remotely *think* that I won't be happy with something that you are doing, odds are that you are correct. What it comes down to is this:

- Come to class with all needed materials and be in your seat *before* the bell rings.
- Take care of the things in the classroom. You have been trusted enough to have the use of your books, your desk, and other materials. Do your best to live up to that trust.
- When other people are speaking, please do not interrupt them.
- All handbook rules apply at all times, along with their consequences.

Grading Policies:

Grades are generally assigned only to completed work, and all assignments are due at the time designated in class. Assignments missed because of an excused absence are due **one school day for each day absent from the time you return to school**, not one school day from when you come speak to me about what you missed. At the end of that time, missing work receives **no credit**, though I reserve the right to accept the work for reduced credit under **extremely** unusual (and documented) circumstances. (See also the "Make-up Work" section of the Student Handbook.)

With respect to your grades, I also require that any conversations about grades, etc. take place no sooner than one calendar day **after** the submission or return of a piece of writing. Grades are

obviously both a source of stress and a source of concern for students and parents. Waiting a day to discuss the basis for a grade allows for emotions to cool, clearer heads to prevail, and leads to a much more productive discussion (as well as a chance for me to read the work in question, if it has just been submitted).

Grading Scale:

All assignments in this course are worth a set number of points (typically between 100-500 points, depending on the nature of the assignment). Your semester exam/project will be worth 20% of your final Creative Writing grade, with each quarter being worth 40% of the final grade.

Your grade, then, becomes a simple matter of adding up the points you have earned, dividing by the total points possible, and seeing the resulting percentage falls on the following scale:

High School Grading Scale

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:

Presenting another's information or work without attributing the source (or giving the impression that the material is your own) is plagiarism/academic dishonesty. While the scale may be different, this is akin to stealing (commercially, this gets very expensive: see *Apple, Inc. v. Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.* for an idea of how messy this can be), and cannot be tolerated.

Should you present another's work as your own in any form (whether in whole or in part, purposely or accidentally) or collaborate on an assignment where permission to do so is not expressly given, you have committed academic dishonesty/plagiarism. The consequences for committing either can be rather severe: expect to fail the assignment on the spot. Subsequent instances may result in further disciplinary action.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I reserve the right to change or modify any part of this syllabus according to the needs of the class, the needs of the instructor, any administrative requirements, or any unforeseen changes in the calendar. Such changes may or may not be announced in class, depending upon the nature of the change being made.

We have read and understand the policies and information laid out in this syllabus. We further acknowledge that the student will be bound by the information presented here, regardless of whether or not we agree with said information.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____