

CREATIVE WRITING SYLLABUS

2021-2022

Ms. Ashley Jordan

Room B133

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Planning Block: 3rd

Remind Code: @jordcw (text to 81010)

Course Description: Creative writing will focus on fostering the creative process through the writing of stories, poetry, plays, essays, songs, etc. Students will gain experience with editing and publishing their work and the work of others.

Materials:

- large three-ring binder
- loose-leaf paper
- pens or pencils, editing supplies (colored pens, highlighters, etc.)

Classroom Rules:

All Tuscaloosa County Board of Education and Brookwood High School rules will be enforced in our classroom.

1. Respect yourself and all others.
2. Follow directions the FIRST time they are given.
3. Speak only when you have permission to do so.
4. Keep the area around your desk clean. Do not leave a mess!
5. Come to class on time with all materials, prepared to work for the entire class period.

Consequences:

Consequences depend on the nature and severity of the infraction. In most instances I will give a verbal warning, conference with a student in the hall, or call parents or guardians before sending a referral to the office.

Grading, Attendance, and Makeup Work:

Whether you will be attending class virtually or in-person, attendance is critical to your success. It is very important that you keep up with daily assignments such as journals and short writing assignments even if you have to be absent. It is also imperative that you devote a significant amount of class time to your larger writing projects each day. Because of the nature of this class, some large assignments may not be due for several days or weeks. Start these assignments as soon as you get them. This will allow you time to edit, revise, and turn-in your best work.

I use a points system in my class. The number of points each assignment is worth will be based on the length and difficulty of the assignment. Ensure that your work is turned in on time so that you will not receive a late penalty! Because of the nature of the assignments in this class, some grades will be worth more than others.

Personal Electronic Devices:

Students have the option to use electronic and technological devices at SPECIFIED times and ONLY when authorized by the teacher for an instructional purpose. Devices such as smart phones, Kindles, Nooks, laptops, and iPads are items that students may use at the designated time. Students may also use these devices to replace paperback/hard-cover novels required for purchase/use for reading assignments with permission from the teacher. The charging of devices is not allowed in my classroom. If a student is using a device inappropriately (not in accordance with classroom instruction or TCBOE policy), consequences will be enforced as stated in the Code of Conduct Handbook.

Course Content:

1. Starters/ Journals: At the beginning of each class, students will be responsible for recording and completing a starter activity. This is designed to inspire the creative process.
2. Composition: Students will write daily. Some writing assignments will be short and informal while others will be extensive and formal. Students will write timed, in-class assignments, collaborative assignments, poetry, stories, and personal essays.
3. Homework: Homework may be necessary if an assignment needs to be completed by a specific due date. Some homework assignments will involve observation, bringing an object to class, reflection, and editing.
4. Literature Circle: Each student will take part in a literature circle (a group of students reading the same book), whether attending virtually or in-person. Students will meet once a month (virtually or in-person) to discuss their insights on the book selected.
5. Portfolio and reflections: Each student is expected to keep a copy of returned work for their portfolio. A reflection of the portfolio will be due each nine weeks as an exam grade. This may take the form of a physical folder with printed assignments or a digital portfolio in schoology.
6. Literary Magazine Submissions: Each student will be expected to select three carefully edited pieces to submit to our school's literary magazine each 9 weeks. These pieces may come from in-class or out-of-class work.
7. Outside Reading: Great writers are great readers, too! All students will need to have something to read each day. A physical copy of a book is preferred.

Class Procedures:

1. Beginning class – Students are expected to be in their seats and on task when the bell rings. We start working IMMEDIATELY to maximize the learning potential for each class period.
2. Bell work-Students will have bell work to do at the beginning of each class. It is expected for every student to complete these assignments every day, whether graded or not. This work MUST be made up like all other work in the class when the student is absent.
3. Assignments- Students will be expected to complete projects, reading, and various writing assignments throughout the year.
4. Passes- It is important for students to be in the classroom at all times. In case of an emergency, students will receive a pass, and be required to sign out and in on the classroom attendance roster. Failure to accurately record sign out and sign in times on the roster will be treated as a disciplinary infraction.
5. Leaving the classroom – At the end of class, students are expected to continue working on their assignments until the bell rings. We will be cleaning the classroom at the end of each class. Students are NOT to pack up, stand up, or line up at the door before the bell rings. Upon leaving the classroom, make sure your desk area is clean. Do not leave a mess for someone else to clean up!
6. Going to other locations within the school – Students should remain quiet in the hallway and go straight to the other location (i.e. the library, lunchroom, gym, etc.). No trips to lockers or to the restroom will be permitted while we are in transit. We will always stay together as a class.
7. Emergencies and Drills – Students are NOT allowed to talk, horseplay, or misbehave during a drill or emergency. **Students must also stay with their class.** It is very important that teachers and school personnel are able to hear and give directions in an emergency, so any student who is talking, horse playing, or otherwise misbehaving during a drill or emergency will receive a referral to the office.