

Syllabus: Creative Writing – Summer

Course Description

Want to write a book but can't seem to find the time? Here is a fast-paced chance to release your inner novelist. Using the high-speed tactics of successful writers and national competitions, students will organize and write a novel. Class activities will provide a springboard for novice novelists and a sounding board for eager editors. Tips on publication and strategies for success will also be covered. Learn by doing, and come up with a novel response to the question, "What did you do over summer vacation?"

Attendance and Participation

Both attendance and participation are vital parts of this course; therefore, students are required to attend class sessions and participate actively in discussions. Students are expected to view archives of any missed classes, and are responsible for obtaining any notes or assignments.

Students will be given grades for both participation and attendance:

- Fifteen percent of the final grade will be attributed to *relevant class participation*. This includes raising one's hand, commenting regularly via microphone/webcam, and using the chat box regularly to contribute to the academic conversation.
- Five percent of the final grade will be attributed to *class attendance*. Being present, being on time, and readiness for class are all factors to be considered in the class attendance grade. *Excused* absences will not detrimentally impact attendance grades.

Grading rubrics are located in the Course Documents folder in each course page.

Assignments & Exams

Each student will complete a short novel (40,000 to 50,000 words) and give regular updates on writing progress. Students will read any assignments in the class text as needed. Students will participate in regular class discussion of the novels-in-progress.

There will be four evaluations. The student grade will be based on these four Writing Assignments referred to as "Novel News," plus class attendance and participation. The novels will not be graded or edited; the class objective is to complete the novel in rough form and to continue the revisions for publication after the class is completed. Evaluations will assess the student word count and plot development.

Homework times will vary, since students have differing writing styles. Students are expected to write six days a week in order to complete the novel as scheduled.

Due to the intensity of writing required for the completion of the novel, no exams will be given in this course.

Evaluation

The final grade is determined on the following basis:

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| ● Class Attendance | 5% |
| ● Relevant Class Participation | 15% |
| ● Writing Assignments | 80% |

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will apply for all assignments and final grades. 100% – 90% = A; 89% - 80% = B; 79% - 70% = C; 69% - 60% = D; 59% - 50% = E; 49% - 40% = F. All grades are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Late Work

If a student fails to submit any assessment by the due date, it is considered “late.”

- Assignments submitted 0-24 hours late will result in a 10% reduction.
- Assignments submitted 24-48 hours late will result in a 20% reduction.
- Assignments submitted 48-72 hours late will result in a 30% reduction.
- Assignments over 72 hours late will not be accepted and the student will receive a zero.
- Parent may request an extension from their child’s teacher *prior to the due date* or in the case of an emergency.

While we love grace and the opportunity to exercise it, we also desire to instill a sound sense of responsibility in our students, hence these expectations pertaining to late work.

Exam/Test Retakes

Any student may retake a failed assessment (except quizzes), but can score no higher than 70% on the retake. Retakes must be submitted within one week of the returned, failed test. If the retake is not submitted within one week, the original failing grade will stand.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating on any assignment is considered academic dishonesty. This includes plagiarism in any form. Cheating will be dealt with in the following manner:

- If a student is caught cheating, he will receive a zero on the assignment and will be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the school year.
- If the same student is caught cheating again, he will likely be expelled.
- No refunds will be granted for students who are expelled due to cheating.
- A Disciplinary Action Form will be submitted by the student’s teacher for any instance of academic dishonesty.

Textbooks

The book needed for the class can be purchased through Veritas Press. It is extremely important that the student has the correct version of the material.

- A Guide to Writing Your Novel (315000)

Course Calendar

See Course Assignment Sheet, located on course page, for class dates, breaks and all assignments and assessments. Class dates and breaks can also be found on the current academic year calendar.