Course Title: Creative Writing 1

Course #: 1249

Course Description: Creative Writing 1 is a semester elective course where students will explore the craft of creative writing, including nonfiction, short story, drama and poetry. Students will develop observation, analytical and writing skills, as well as their knowledge and ability to use common literary devices. The students will read literary works critically in order to aid them in their own writing process. Students will learn to use their imagination, senses, memories, the textbook readings and the world around them in order to become inspired. The focus will be on helping the students develop a unique, personal voice and style within their writing.

UC/CSU Approval: “g” approved

Grade Level: 10-12

Estimated Homework Per Week: 1-2 hours

Prerequisite: Completion of most recent English class with a C or better

Recommended Prerequisite Skills: Students should have a love of storytelling. While they may not have written a lot previously to taking the class, they should be able to identify what makes a good story and how to keep an audience entertained.

Course Grade Categories:
- Creative Writing Pieces - 70%
- Formative Assessments - 30% (includes homework, classwork, participation in class discussions, rough drafts of major assessments, etc.)

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:
Unit 1: Developing Craft and Technique - Students will learn about voice, tone, and style in terms of being a creative writer. They will read works by other authors and analyze voice, tone and style while also learning how to develop their own craft and technique. Students will practice their new skills with small creative writing pieces where they will focus on particular skills like point of view and description.

Major Assessments:
- Voice/Tone/Style creative piece (Microfiction/Flash Fiction, 1-5 pgs)
- Perspective/Imagery creative piece (Microfiction/Flash Fiction, 1-5 pgs)
Unit 2: Creative Non-fiction - Students will learn about the structure and development of literary non-fiction memoirs. Students will read and analyze a variety of memoir by other authors and analyze voice, tone, style and structure. Students will practice writing different types of non-fiction/memoir pieces: biographical sketch, memoir, and travel narrative.

Major Assessment:
- Biographical Sketch, Memoir, OR Travel Narrative (approx. 10+ pgs)

Unit 3: Short Story/Fiction - Students will learn about the structure and development of fictional short stories. Students will read and analyze a variety of short stories by other authors and analyze voice, tone, style and structure. Students will look at the differences between short stories and flash fiction. Students will practice writing flash fiction/microfiction and short stories.

Major Assessments:
- Flash Fiction/Microfiction (1-5 pgs)
- Short Story (approx. 10+ pgs)

Unit 4: Drama - Students will learn about the structure and development of one-act plays. Students will read and analyze a variety of dramatic pieces by other authors and analyze voice, tone, style and structure. Students will practice writing skits and one-act plays.

Major Assessments:
- One-Act Play - stage or screenplay format

Unit 5: Poetry - Students will learn about the structure and development of poetry. Students will read and analyze a variety of poetry from different poets and analyze voice, tone, style, form and structure. Students will practice writing poetry in a variety of forms and styles.

Major Assessments (NOTE - this will be due on the day of the final):
- Poetry Portfolio