



Essentials in Writing®

Where Students Learn to Write

Creative Writing Online Class

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Ms. Athena Lester

Prerequisites: Any high school student may register for this course; however, it is best suited for students who have completed Level 9, Level 10, or Level 11 of Essentials in Writing or other fundamental composition curriculum.

Contact Information

Email the instructor at scoring@essentialsinwriting.com or send a Canvas message. Send any and all questions you have and feel free to contact the instructor if you wish to discuss/desire help with your creative writing projects.

Course Policies

1. The Creative Writing Online Course will be conducted using Canvas by Instructure.

- **Instruction**

This course utilizes both short text-based instruction and short video lessons *posted on Canvas*. Students will be reminded when they need to view/read lessons, but students are encouraged to monitor their syllabus on their own so that they know when they are expected to read/watch a lesson.

- **Assignments**

This course requires file-submission assignments as well as participation in Discussion Posts. Students will be reminded of assignments, but students are encouraged to monitor their syllabus on their own so that they know when they are expected to turn in an assignment. All compositions must be submitted through Canvas and will receive feedback on Canvas. *Please do not email submissions; they will not be reviewed.*

Specific instructions about how Canvas works will be sent prior to the first day of class.

2. For ease of reviewing and receiving feedback, all compositions must:

- be double spaced
- be typed in 12-point Times New Roman, Verdana, or Arial font
- have one-inch margins on all sides
- include the following information, in this order, at the top-left corner of the first page:
 - student's full name
 - student's grade level
 - the assignment they are writing for
 - the due date of the assignment
- include page numbers in the event of a multi-page submission

Canvas will only accept the following file extensions for submissions: .doc, .docx, .rtf, .pdf

3. All creative compositions submitted to this course must be “rated” G – PG-13.

Any compositions that do not comply to this rule may not be reviewed and may receive an automatic 0.

4. Students who plagiarize will receive an automatic 0 on the assignment.

Do NOT plagiarize (i.e., copy the work of someone else and present it as your own). Plagiarism is a serious issue that could result in your suspension or expulsion from schools and universities. Turning in an assignment that you wrote for another class is also considered plagiarism.

Class Times

Students do not meet at regularly scheduled class times. However, video/text posts are made by the instructor every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to teach the material and explain assignments. Assignments are due once or twice a week.

Class Dates

Fall 2020 (September 8th – December 18th)

Course Description

A course in creative writing that provides instruction and practice in short fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. Course requirements include critically analyzing published works of creative writing, weekly participation in class discussions, critiquing the work of fellow classmates, and submitting original creative works.

Compositions

At least 5 poems, 2 works of creative nonfiction, and 1 fully developed short story (with 5 optional compositions)

Class Itinerary

This course requires online interaction between the student, their peers, and the teacher through Canvas. In an online classroom, students will view/read instruction, submit assignments, and interact with their classmates through discussion. Students will learn the foundational concepts of

fiction and apply them in a semester project: a five to ten-thousand-word original short story. Students will be required to turn in multiple drafts of their original short story throughout the semester for feedback and guidance. Additionally, students will write at least five original poems, compose two works of creative nonfiction, and identify creative writing concepts in published works of fiction and poetry. Extra credit assignments will give students additional writing opportunities. The instructor will be available through email and Canvas Monday-Friday.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 – Welcome and Semester Project Introduction

September 9 – Day 1 – Welcome

Watch Day 1 Video Lesson

Assignment: Discussion Post (Due: September 11, Day 2)

September 11 – Day 2 – Semester Project Introduction

Watch Day 2 Video Lesson

Assignment: Ideas for Semester Project (Due: September 14, Day 3)

Optional Assignment: Watch *Zootopia* film to prepare for discussion next week.

Week 2 – Identify Foundations of Fiction 1

September 14 – Day 3 – Characters and Conflict

Watch Day 3 Video Lesson

Optional Assignment: Conflict Short Fiction (Due: September 18, Day 5)

September 16 – Day 4 – Plot (3-Act Structure)

Watch Day 4 Video Lesson

September 18 – Day 5 – Fiction Identify Assignment #1

Watch Day 5 Video Lesson

Assignment: Identify Character, Conflict, and Plot Worksheet (Due: September 21, Day 6)

Week 3 – Apply Foundations of Fiction 1

September 21 – Day 6 – Your Turn: Character, Conflict, Plot

Watch Day 6 Video Lesson

Assignment: Apply Character, Conflict, and Plot Worksheet (Due: September 25, Day 8)

September 23 – Day 7 – Writing Advice

Read Day 7 Text Lesson

September 25 – Day 8 – Assignment Due

Watch Day 8 Video Lesson

Assignment: Draft #1 of Semester Project (Due: October 26, Day 21)

Week 4 – Nonfiction: Personal Narrative

September 28 – Day 9 – Personal Narrative

Watch Day 9 Video Lesson

Assignment: Personal Narrative (Due: October 5, Day 12)

September 30 – Day 10 – Voice and Tone

Read Day 7 Text Lesson

October 2 – Day 11 – [nothing]

Continue working on Nonfiction Assignment and Semester Project

Week 5 – Identify Properties of Poetry 1

October 5 – Day 12 – Sound Devices and Figurative Language

Watch Day 12 Video Lesson

Optional Assignment: Sound Device Poem(s) (Due: October 9, Day 14)

October 7 – Day 13 – Example Poems

Watch Day 13 Video Lesson

October 9 – Day 14 – Poetry Identify Assignment #1

Read Day 14 Text Lesson

Assignment: Identify Sound Devices and Figurative Language Worksheet (Due: October 12, Day 15)

Week 6 – Apply Properties of Poetry 1

October 12 – Day 15 – Your Turn: Sound Devices and Figurative Language

Watch Day 15 Video Lesson

Assignment: 2 poems [\geq 16 lines] with figurative language and sound devices (Due: October 16, Day 17)

October 14 – Day 16 – Writing Advice

Read Day 16 Text Lesson

October 16 – Day 17 – Assignment Due

Watch Day 17 Video Lesson

Week 7 – Nonfiction: Opinion Piece [FALL BREAK]

October 19 – Day 18 – Opinion Piece

Watch Day 18 Video Lesson

Assignment: Opinion Piece (Due: October 23, Day 20)

October 21 – Day 19 – [nothing]

October 23 – Day 20 – [nothing]

Finalize Draft #1 of Semester Project

Week 8 – Identify Foundations of Fiction 2

October 26 – Day 21 – Setting and Point of View

Watch Day 21 Video Lesson

Optional Assignment: Setting Short Fiction (Due: October 30, Day 23)

DUE: DRAFT #1 OF SEMESTER PROJECT BY 11:59 PM (CST) ON OCTOBER 26

October 28 – Day 22 – Setting Examples

Watch Day 22 Video Lesson

October 30 – Day 23 – Fiction Identify Assignment #2

Read Day 23 Text Lesson

Assignment: Identify Point of View and Setting Worksheet (Due: November 2, Day 24)

Week 9 – Apply Foundations of Fiction 2

November 2 – Day 24 – Your Turn: Setting and Point of View

Watch Day 24 Video Lesson

Assignment: Apply Point of View and Setting Worksheet (Due: November 6, Day 26)

November 4 – Day 25 – Writing Advice

Read Day 25 Text Lesson

November 6 – Day 26 – Assignment Due

Watch Day 26 Video Lesson

Assignment: Draft #2 of Semester Project (Due: November 23, Day 33)

Week 10 – Identify Properties of Poetry 2

November 9 – Day 27 – Meter and Free Verse

Watch Day 27 Video Lesson

Optional Assignment: Metered Poem(s) (Due: November 13, Day 29)

November 11 – Day 28 – Example Poems

Watch Day 28 Video Lesson

November 13 – Day 29 – Poetry Identify Assignment #2

Read Day 29 Text Lesson

Assignment: Identify Meter (Scanning) Worksheet (Due: November 16, Day 30)

Week 11 – Apply Properties of Poetry 2

November 16 – Day 30 – Your Turn: Meter and Free Verse

Watch Day 30 Video Lesson

Assignment: 1 metered and 1 free verse poem [≥ 16 lines] (Due: November 20, Day 32)

November 18 – Day 31 – Writing Advice

Read Day 31 Text Lesson

November 20 – Day 32 – Assignment Due

Watch Day 32 Video Lesson

Week 12 – Peer Review [THANKSGIVING BREAK]

November 23 – Day 33 – Peer Review

Watch Day 33 Video Lesson

Assignment: Peer Review of Semester Project Draft #2 (Due: November 30, Day 36)

DUE: DRAFT #2 OF SEMESTER PROJECT BY 11:59 PM (CST) ON NOVEMBER 23

November 25 – Day 34 – [nothing; Thanksgiving Break]

November 27 – Day 35 – [nothing; Thanksgiving Break]

Week 13 – Identify and Apply Properties of Poetry 3

November 30 – Day 36 – Special Forms

Watch Day 36 Video Lesson

Assignment: A Sonnet or Villanelle (Due: December 7, Day 39)

December 2 – Day 37 – Example Poems

Watch Day 37 Video Lesson

December 4 – Day 38 – [nothing]

Continue working on sonnet or villanelle

Week 14 – Finalize Semester Project

December 7 – Day 39 – Peer Review

Watch Day 39 Video Lesson

Assignment: Final Draft of Semester Project (Due: December 11, Day 41)

December 9 – Day 40 – [nothing; finalize Semester Project]

December 11 – Day 41 – Semester Project Due

Read Day 41 Text Lesson

DUE: FINAL DRAFT OF SEMESTER PROJECT BY 11:59 PM (CST) ON DECEMBER 11

Week 15 – Final Week

December 14 – Day 42 – Discussion

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: December 16, Day 43)

December 16 – Day 43 – Discussion

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: December 18, Day 44)

December 18 – Day 44 – Final Class – Semester Projects Returned

Watch Day 41 Video Lesson