



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

Spring 2021 (January 20th – May 7th)

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

January 20 – Day 1 – Welcome

Watch Day 1 Video Lesson

Assignment: Discussion Post (Due: January 22, Day 2)

January 22 – Day 2 – Semester Project Introduction

Watch Day 2 Video Lesson

Assignment: Ideas for Semester Project (Due: January 25, Day 3)

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

Week 2 – Identify Foundations of Fiction 1

January 25 – Day 3 – Characters and Conflict

Watch Day 3 Video Lesson

Optional Assignment: Conflict Short Fiction (Due: January 29, Day 5)

January 27 – Day 4 – Plot (3-Act Structure)

Watch Day 4 Video Lesson

January 29 – Day 5 – Fiction Identify Assignment #1

Watch Day 5 Video Lesson

Assignment: Identify Character, Conflict, and Plot Worksheet (Due: February 1, Day 6)

Week 3 – Apply Foundations of Fiction 1

February 1 – Day 6 – Your Turn: Character, Conflict, Plot

Watch Day 6 Video Lesson

Assignment: Apply Character, Conflict, and Plot Worksheet (Due: February 5, Day 8)

February 3 – Day 7 – Writing Advice

Read Day 7 Text Lesson

February 5 – Day 8 – Assignment Due

Watch Day 8 Video Lesson

Assignment: Draft #1 of Semester Project (Due: March 15, Day 24)

Week 4 – Nonfiction: Personal Narrative

February 8 – Day 9 – Personal Narrative

Watch Day 9 Video Lesson

Assignment: Personal Narrative (Due: February 15, Day 12)

February 10 – Day 10 – Voice and Tone

Read Day 7 Text Lesson

February 12 – Day 11 – [nothing]

Continue working on Nonfiction Assignment and Semester Project

Week 5 – Identify Properties of Poetry 1

February 15 – Day 12 – Sound Devices and Figurative Language

Watch Day 12 Video Lesson

Optional Assignment: Sound Device Poem(s) (Due: February 19, Day 14)

February 17 – Day 13 – Example Poems

Watch Day 13 Video Lesson

February 19 – Day 14 – Poetry Identify Assignment #1

Read Day 14 Text Lesson

Assignment: Identify Sound Devices and Figurative Language Worksheet
(Due: February 22, Day 15)

Week 6 – Apply Properties of Poetry 1

February 22 – Day 15 – Your Turn: Sound Devices and Figurative Language

Watch Day 15 Video Lesson

Assignment: 2 poems [≥ 16 lines] with figurative language and sound devices
(Due: February 26, Day 17)

February 24 – Day 16 – Writing Advice

Read Day 16 Text Lesson

February 26 – Day 17 – Assignment Due

Watch Day 17 Video Lesson

Week 7 – Nonfiction: Opinion Piece

March 1 – Day 18 – Opinion Piece

Watch Day 18 Video Lesson

Assignment: Opinion Piece (Due: March 8, Day 21)

March 3 – Day 19 – Academic Writing vs Creative Writing

Read Day 19 Text Lesson

March 5 – Day 20 – [nothing]

Continue working on Nonfiction Assignment and Semester Project

Week 8 – SPRING BREAK

March 8 – Day 21 [nothing]

March 10 – Day 22 [nothing]

March 12 – Day 23 [nothing]

Finalize Draft #1 of Semester Project

Week 9 – Identify Foundations of Fiction 2

March 15 – Day 24 – Setting and Point of View

Watch Day 24 Video Lesson

Optional Assignment: Setting Short Fiction (Due: March 19, Day 26)

DUE: DRAFT #1 OF SEMESTER PROJECT BY 11:59 PM (CST) ON MARCH 15

March 17 – Day 25 – Setting Examples

Watch Day 25 Video Lesson

March 19 – Day 26 – Fiction Identify Assignment #2

Read Day 26 Text Lesson

Assignment: Identify Point of View and Setting Worksheet (Due: March 22, Day 27)

Week 10 – Apply Foundations of Fiction 2

March 22 – Day 27 – Your Turn: Setting and Point of View

Watch Day 27 Video Lesson

Assignment: Apply Point of View and Setting Worksheet (Due: March 26, Day 29)

March 24 – Day 28 – Writing Advice

Read Day 28 Text Lesson

March 26 – Day 29 – Assignment Due

Watch Day 29 Video Lesson

Assignment: Draft #2 of Semester Project (Due: April 12, Day 36)

Week 11 – Identify Properties of Poetry 2

March 29 – Day 30 – Meter and Free Verse

Watch Day 30 Video Lesson

Optional Assignment: Metered Poem(s) (Due: April 2, Day 32)

March 31 – Day 31 – Example Poems

Watch Day 31 Video Lesson

April 2 – Day 32 – Poetry Identify Assignment #2 [Good Friday]

Read Day 32 Text Lesson

Assignment: Identify Meter (Scanning) Worksheet (Due: April 5, Day 33)

Week 12 – Apply Properties of Poetry 2

April 5 – Day 33 – Your Turn: Meter and Free Verse

Watch Day 33 Video Lesson

Assignment: 1 metered and 1 free verse poem [≥ 16 lines] (Due: April 9, Day 35)

April 7 – Day 34 – Writing Advice

Read Day 34 Text Lesson

April 9 – Day 35 – Assignment Due

Watch Day 35 Video Lesson

Week 13 – Peer Review

April 12 – Day 36 – Peer Review

Watch Day 36 Video Lesson

Assignment: Peer Review of Semester Project Draft #2 (Due: April 19, Day 39)

DUE: DRAFT #2 OF SEMESTER PROJECT BY 11:59 PM (CST) ON APRIL 12

April 14 – Day 37 – [nothing]

Work on Peer Review

April 16 – Day 38 – [nothing]

Continue working on Peer Review

Week 14 – Identify and Apply Properties of Poetry 3

April 19 – Day 39 – Special Forms

Watch Day 39 Video Lesson

Assignment: A Sonnet or Villanelle (Due: April 26, Day 42)

April 21 – Day 40 – Example Poems

Watch Day 40 Video Lesson

April 23 – Day 41 – [nothing]

Continue working on sonnet or villanelle

Week 15 – Finalize Semester Project

April 26 – Day 42 – Finalize Semester Project

Watch Day 42 Video Lesson

Assignment: Final Draft of Semester Project (Due: April 30, Day 44)

April 28 – Day 43 – [nothing; finalize Semester Project]

April 30 – Day 44 – Semester Project Due

Read Day 44 Text Lesson

DUE: FINAL DRAFT OF SEMESTER PROJECT BY 11:59 PM (CST) ON APRIL 30

Week 16 – Final Week

May 3 – Day 45 – Discussion

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: May 5, Day 46)

May 5 – Day 46 – Discussion

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: May 7, Day 47)

May 7 – Day 47 – Final Class – Semester Projects Returned

Watch Day 47 Video Lesson