

Creative Writing 564 *Secondary 5*

Course Description

Creative Writing, primarily student-driven, is a course designed to promote effective writing and communication skills. The student will gain knowledge of the fundamental elements of writing fiction and non-fiction, for a purpose, and will apply this understanding to his/her own written creations. Course content will be varied and will include, but not limited to: poetry; short story; memoir; journals; story-telling; spoken word; etc.

The course will also focus on effective writing techniques such as revision, editing, organization and constructive critique. Furthermore, we will be looking the various ways one may structure narratives.

Because reading is a large part of writing, we will read a variety of works, including student writing. Through reading and writing activities, the student will generate ideas for his/her writing and produce a portfolio of best writings.

General Objectives:

Creative Writing is designed to nourish and develop the student's creative expression and enhance sensitivity to language and precision in writing. Emphasis will be placed on writing as a process. Finally, the student will create original work in a variety of writing styles and for a social purpose.

Class time will be divided into discussions, readings, writing exercises, revision of one's work and effective editing of participants' work. Active participation in class is essential.

Finally, the objective of this course is to help the student develop his/her talents and own writing style, and create an original portfolio.

Instructional Materials

The Writer's Craft, Sue Harper and Patricia Westerhof, Nelson Education
Selected readings and exercises provided by the teacher.

The following competencies are equally weighted and will be taken into account in the progress and evaluation of the student:

Competency 1: Uses language to communicate and to learn

- Establishes a repertoire of resources for communicating and learning in specific contexts
- Participates in the social practices of the classroom and community in specific contexts
- Interacts with peers and teacher in specific contexts

Competency 2: Reads and listens to written, spoken and media texts

- Integrates reading profile, stance and strategies to make sense of a text in a specific context.
- Talks about own response to a text within a classroom community.

- Interprets the relationship(s) between reader, text and context in light of own responses.

Competency 3: Produces texts for personal and social purposes

- Extends repertoire of resources for producing texts
- Constructs a relationship between writer/producer, text and context.
- Adapts a process to produce texts in specific contexts.

Evaluation:

An overall grade will be placed on the final portfolio. The portfolio will include free-write exercises, pre-writes, drafts and revisions, as well as polished writings produced throughout the year. Evaluation will be composed of class work, homework, assignments, participation in class discussion and activities, and, formal and informal presentations.

Several stages of a learning activity, not just the final product, will be assessed. Students must do all work assigned and respect deadlines.

Material

A writer's journal, binder, loose-leaf and pens are necessary. Though students have access to the class dictionaries and thesaurus, a student may wish to bring his own to class. A memory stick (USB key) is highly recommended.