

Ms. Leaphart, 2021-22
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Creative Writing

Writing is a way to understand what we've been through, a way to share our experiences, and a way to entertain. It's a lot of work to do it well, and it's also a whole lot of fun. In this class we'll explore the four main genres of Creative Writing: Poetry, Play/Screenwriting, Nonfiction and Fiction. We'll write in response to prompts, we'll imitate the writing of published authors, and we'll go out on a limb and do our own things.

Creative Writing class will also be a fantastic way to get to know other people as we will come together to create own community of storytellers and poets. We will hang out around a table, drink coffee/tea, and share our writing in exchange for supportive and thoughtful responses that help all of us become stronger writers. We will write in class every day!

Materials:

- **Dedicated Creative Writing Notebook and writing utensils:** You will write in a notebook every day to respond to prompts, brainstorm and annotate. I will be checking the notebooks to see that you are participating and to offer feedback.
- **Dedicated Creative Writing Folders (digital and physical) with four section dividers (Poetry, Drama, Nonfiction, Fiction):** KEEP EVERYTHING you write!
- **A sense of humor!**

Expectations in Creative Writing:

Above all else, **be respectful and be responsible.** I expect open-minded and kind behavior in class and on the page. We will create a group set of feedback norms that we will adhere to whenever responding to one another's writing.

Grades: Your grades will be based on your participation in class discussion, your effort to respond to prompts, your willingness to take risks in class activities and on the page, your thoughtfulness in responding to peers' writing, your completion of polished revisions for each genre of writing, and your ability to present and share your writing.

Participation (Group/collaborative writing activities & workshop comments): 15%

Daily Work (Writing prompts, Annotations, Peer Responses): 30%

Workshop Deadlines, Polished Pieces & Presentations/Submissions: 55%

Come to class prepared: In order to participate, you will need to bring your notebook and a writing utensil to class every day. You will need to have copies of assigned handouts, articles, and short stories as well as your comments on those readings in order to participate.

Homework: For each themed unit, you will be examining a set of models/examples and also responding to prompts that help you to develop/hone your writing skills. At the end of each unit, you will turn in your collection of pieces. For some you will also submit or “publish” a “Polished Piece” for a larger grade. This piece(s) is expected to be a revised, perfected version of something that we began in class and/or that fits the genre we’re studying; sometimes you’ll publish it by sharing it online, sometimes it will be through a reading/recording.

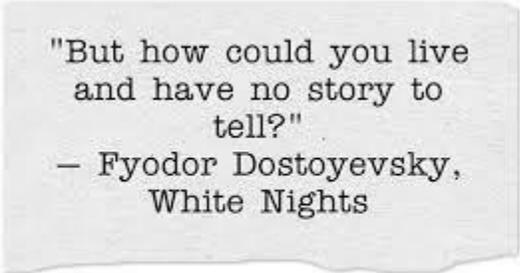
Once a quarter you will share a draft of something you’re working on with classmates or the entire class as part of a “workshop.” The workshops are designed to give you encouragement and feedback for improving your piece. To prepare, you will read and respond to your peers’ writing.

Absences: Attendance & participation are critical elements of this class. When possible, **report absences prior to the missed class;** Be responsible & contact me about missed work!

Late Work: I will post assignments for the week on Teams as well as in the room on a board at the beginning of each week. I expect students to come to class prepared to meet each day’s requirements, including homework, tests, etc. Late work is disrespectful of my time. Late homework will be penalized one letter grade per day *unless* you clear the tardiness with me in advance. Students turning in late work **MUST** send me a message through Teams to let me know that they’ve turned an assignment in late, otherwise I will not see or grade it.

Tardies: When the first bell rings you need to be ready to roll. Otherwise, you’re tardy.

Food and Drink: It is important to stay hydrated, so drinking water **from a container with a secure lid** is acceptable during class. Otherwise, **no food in the classroom** unless we’ve planned a class treat.



"But how could you live
and have no story to
tell?"
– Fyodor Dostoyevsky,
White Nights

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