**Creative Writing 20**

Course Outline

Ms. Gerrard

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Welcome to Creative Writing 20. This course provides opportunities for students to refine their creative writing skills and abilities beyond those developed in the required ELA courses. This course encourages students to see creative writing as a unique way of thinking, and as a means of constructing and conveying meaning. Students are encouraged to explore and develop their ideas, to experiment with a variety of different writing styles and genres, and to revise selected pieces to the point that they are polished and ready for publication.

It is important for you to understand the objectives of this course, my expectations of you, and how you will be evaluated. Evaluation in this course is continuous, meaning everything you do in this class counts.

This course is divided into **five** units. Please be aware that unit lengths are approximate and may change. My objectives in this class are for students to:

* Develop abilities to write creatively and expressively
* Practice the behaviours of committed creative writers
* Develop knowledge of creative writing and appropriate vocabulary for discussing creative writing
* Recognize writing as an active, constructive process
* Practice the behaviours of effective, strategic readers
* Recognize the contribution of literature to cultures and societies
* Recognize that talk is an important tool for communicating, thinking, and learning
* Practice the behaviour of effective speakers
* Speak fluently and confidently in a variety of situations for a variety of purposes and audiences
* Recognize listening as an active, constructive, process
* Practice the behaviours of effective listeners
* Listen effectively in a variety of situations for a variety of purposes

**UNITS OF STUDY:**

Poetry/Songwriting

Fiction

Plays/Screenwriting

Non-Fiction

Final Creative Writing Unit

**Structure**

Class will follow a predictable routine:

1. Read

2. Write

3. Study (formal lesson)

4. Create (practice)

5. Share

We will set coffee house dates to share pieces of our work. Coffee and treats welcome on those dates!

**Student Assignments & Evaluation:**

1. Notebook Work & Conferring: 35%

* Students need to purchase a notebook and bring it to class daily. I take it in regularly and will be reading all of your entries, so please keep that in mind. Entries may be assessed in one of two ways: either by a rubric or by conferring.

2. Polished Writings: 35%

* Students will be writing numerous original poetry, short stories, plays, and non-fiction pieces throughout the course. Students choose select pieces from these genres and they work on revising them until they are polished pieces of work. These are then marked formally.

3. Readings & Book Talks: 10%

* We will be scheduling regular coffee houses to read our writings to the class. Oral sharing is an important part of creative writing as it provides you with an opportunity to share your work with an audience, receive feedback about the work, and listen to what your peers have created. In addition to readings we will also be booktalking novels that we are reading as “Readers are better writers” (Kittle).

4. Final Project – 20%

* Students will work on creating a final piece or piece(s) of writing(s) that is/are polished. The piece(s) may be a long piece from one genre or several short/medium pieces from multiple genres.

**Due Dates:**

Due dates for all work will be announced and/or posted on the whiteboard in classroom. It is the student’s responsibility to ask questions and seek help if needed. It is expected that assignments will be handed in on time, unless extenuating circumstances apply. Work that is late will be recorded as NHI (Not Handed In) in PowerSchool. Students will be expected to work at noon until the work is done. Parents and administration will be notified of late and missing assignments, as required, and if students choose not to complete an assignment by an agreed upon final deadline a permanent zero may be given.

**PowerPoints, Films, & Videos:**

* From time to time I show the class YouTube videos, documentaries, and films that relate to the course material being taught. At times, some of these videos may be graphic in nature or contain mature content. Students will be given information as to what they are about to see, and will be given the option to close their eyes or leave the room if they feel strongly that they do not want to view the material.