

Montclair High School

Course Syllabus

Department: English
Course: Creative Writing
Level: Honors
Credits: 2.5

Course Description:

This course is designed to help students develop skills of expression in writing in a variety of literary forms - personal essay, short story, poetry, and one act plays. Students will explore how pre-writing, mapping ideas using graphic organizers, free-writing, drafting, revising, editing, peer editing, and discussion help to build comprehension and analytical skills. Students will be immersed in reading and writing on a daily basis; reading short stories, poems, scenes from plays, and essays. The selected authors and readings will serve as exemplars in specific genres of writing. Students will engage in workshops on their writing projects, learning to give and receive positive, constructive criticism. Students will also work collaboratively create and publish their writing as podcasts and blogs.

Standards:

- NJSLA.W2
- NJSLA.W3
- NJSLA.W4
- NJSLA.W5
- NJSLA.W6
- NJSLA.W10
- NJSLA.SL1
- NJSLA.SL4
- NJSLA.SL5
- NJSLA.L3
- NJSLA.L5
- RL.11-12.2
- RL.11-12.3
- RL.11-12.5

Anchor Text(s):

Text Title	Publisher/Author	Year/Edition	ISBN	Text Distribution
<i>Imaginative Writing</i>	Addison Wesley Longman Inc./ Janet Burroway	2003	0321081919	textbook

Supplementary Materials:

Selected short stories, essays, poems, scripts, and plays
Films
Podcasts
Blogs by authors
Blogs on writing

Units of Study:

Short Story
Narrative Essay
Poetry
Visual/Performance Writing (Scripts, Plays, Digital Essays)

Proficiencies:

By the end of this course, students will:

- Compose a variety of written responses for different purposes and audiences.
- Use a variety of technologies as a tool for learning.
- Recognize the act and importance of listening.
- Organize, prepare, and present a spoken presentation clearly and expressively.
- Collaborate by sharing ideas, examples, and insights productively and respectfully in informal conversation/discussion.
- Recognize that reading has many purposes and demonstrate an ability to choose an approach appropriate to the text and purpose.
- Experience and respond to print and non-print media through active engagement with appropriate methods of analysis, interpretation, and evaluation.

Evaluation & Assessment:

- Marking period grades for this course will be determined as follows:
 - 45% - **Tests/Quizzes/Seminars** (Socratic seminars, written assessments such as multiple choice, short answer responses, reading checks, note checks, written assessments (multiple choice, short answer responses, etc.)
 - 40% - **Projects/Essays/Research** (group projects, presentations, high stakes writing like essays, reports, speeches, research papers, etc.)
 - 15% - **Homework/Classwork** (dialectical notes, annotations of text, reading, Q&A, journaling, discussions, pair/group work, reading, reflection, note taking, etc.)
- Rubrics / criteria for evaluation will be provided for each writing assignment and project.
- Writing portfolios are used in the classroom. Students are to file and store their work in the portfolio for review and assessment, which will periodically be conducted by both the student and the teacher.
- The final grade for the course will consist of each marking period (45% each) average and the final exam (10%) grade.