
CREATIVE WRITING 1 AND 2 COURSE SYLLABUS

Link to my video: [Mrs. Russo's Video](#)

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop and use writing and language skills for creative expression in a variety of literary forms. Studying and modeling a variety of genres will be emphasized.

Content may include, but is not limited to, the following:

-Examine example writing (or peers) for:

Text craft and structure, including line length and placement
Effects of figurative, denotative, and connotative language
Power and impact of appropriate voice and/or tone
Story structure, sentence structure, and grammatical choices
Development of personal style

-Writing for varied purposes in varied genres, including:

Personal and dramatic narratives
Various poetic forms
Screenplays and Multimedia productions
Multi-genre and creative non-fiction selections
Digital Writing platforms

-Effective listening, speaking, and viewing strategies with an emphasis on the use of evidence to support or refute a claim in multimedia presentations, class discussions, and extended text discussions

-Collaboration amongst peers, especially regarding peer reviews of multiple drafts

Required Materials:

-School provided laptop

-Willingness to revise, and give and receive constructive feedback regarding your writing.

Instructor Contact and Availability

Instructor Name: Amanda Russo

Email: Amanda.Russo@ocps.net

Remind Code: @43c973

Office Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays until 3:00 p.m. Tutoring available until 3:30 if you arrive prior to 3 p.m.

Teacher Responsibilities

- 1.) **Be Respectful** - You do not need to “earn” my respect - You already have it.
- 2.) **Be Responsible** - Your lessons and assignments should prepare you for the exams related to this course, and for life outside of this course. Lessons and assignments are crafted with that in mind. Feedback should be given in a timely manner and should be actionable - meaning you should be able to fix what you did wrong in some way.
- 3.) **Be Appropriate** - While I like to joke around, and an off-topic conversation is not new to my classroom, all conversations and jokes will be school appropriate and timely. This means there are certain topics that are off-limits and will be respectfully declined. This also includes not wasting your time when I need to be teaching you or you need to be learning, or using my phone for non-academic reasons during class, etc. I expect you to be on task - I should be too.
- 4.) **Be Involved** - Mostly this means within my classroom. I am involved in you, your success, and your grade. But I also love to be involved with you in your other endeavors. I am interested in you as a person beyond the student. In the school play? Playing a game Friday night? I'll try to attend or at least wish you luck. Let me celebrate your successes with you!
- 5.) **Be Honest** - If I don't know something, I will tell you. I will also try to find out for you. Honesty does not mean complete openness - refer to “Be Appropriate.”

Student Responsibilities

1. **Be Respectful**
2. **Be Responsible**
3. **Be Appropriate**
4. **Be Involved**
5. **Be Honest**

How do these apply to you?

Grading Policies

Late Grades - Within the 48 hour grace period, late grades are docked 10%. After an assignment closes, there will be an opportunity to make it up - for half credit. It is important to do work on time, not for the grade penalties, but because our work builds on itself and it is easy to fall behind.

Grading Categories - Grades may fall within the following categories, but are graded on a TOTAL POINTS system:

-Classwork (5-30 pts)

-Homework (5-15 pts)

-Tests (100 pts)

-Participation (1-5 pts)

-Quizzes (50 pts)

-Labs (100 pts)

LaunchEd@Home Specific Policies:

Daily Attendance - Daily attendance will be taken via the web conference at the beginning of class. Students are expected to sign in on time as if they are attending class in person and complete the bellwork with the other students.

Due Dates - Due dates are set for a physical schedule, meaning things are “due” at the end of class on the day it is due. There is a 48 hour grace period where students may submit work. Generally speaking, if work is submitted the same day it is due, I do not reduce points. If it is submitted the following day, it is docked 10%. Once assignments close, there will be an opportunity to make it up later in the quarter for *half credit*.

Office Hours - My office hours remain the same whether the student is LaunchEd@Home or face-to-face. I may respond to an email or Remind message after hours, especially if it is a quick question that can be answered without looking something up, changing something on Canvas, etc.

Web Conferencing - It is expected that students have their video activated during web conferencing and that they are dressed appropriately for school as if they were attending face-to-face. Recording by students is not permitted. Students need to attend class digitally, as lectures will not be recorded. However, any notes, presentations, or other materials will be available online, and students daily may arrange an office hours video conference with me to review any material they need help with or missed for any reason.

Daily Procedure- At the beginning of our scheduled class, sign in to our Canvas Course, and access the conference for the day. Make sure your video is enabled and your display name is at least your first initial and last name for the first two weeks of class. If you have another name that you go by, let me know so I can adjust my personal roster. Complete the bellwork with your peers while I take attendance- first 5-10 minutes of class. If you have a question, use the “raise your hand” option in the conference, or type it into the chat and I will address it when I can.

During class discussion or lecture, be prepared to be called on as if you were sitting in class. Make sure your video is enabled, and I will unmute microphones when asking you a question. If you have a question, use the “raise your hand” option or type it into the chat. In the event of a microphone issue, you can use the chat function to answer questions and I will provide you with some time to do so.

During independent work, you may stop sharing video but must keep the conference active unless told otherwise as I may draw the class back to the main group discussion or to share. If I do so, I will give students a few minutes warning that it is going to happen so students at home can reactivate their video.

Group Work - All group work whether fact-to-face students or LaunchEd@Home students will be completed using shared Google documents and Google Hangouts for chat functionality.

Content - All chat conversations, video conversations, shared screens, presentations, etc, should be focused and school appropriate. Students at home are held to the same standards of civility and engagement as students on campus. Remember that everything you do on a school computer or using your school accounts (like google, even in google hangouts) is subject to observation and

monitoring by the school and district. These are not private accounts or private equipment and should be used solely for educational purposes.

In the Case of a Shutdown - these policies and procedures will count for ALL students.

Bonus: Thanks for reading! The answer to the bonus question is “Teal”