

Creative Writing

Course Syllabus 2020-21



Instructor: Erin Laabs, laabser@mlc-wels.edu
Grade Level: 11-12
Course Length: 1 semester (2nd semester)
Credit: 0.5 credit
Prerequisites: B- or better in both semesters of the previous year's required English course

Description:

This course explores the craft, process, and practicality of imaginative writing. Students will review the characteristics of a variety of genres and learn how to become aware of their own experiences as material for story, poem, or play. The course will provide a selection of professional and student-written writing samples, exercises, prompts, and discussion opportunities to introduce techniques and reinforce skills. Instruction will focus on demonstrating ways of expressing creativity within a structure needed to communicate to an audience. Juniors and seniors who meet the prerequisite and whose career goals require polished writing skills should take this course.

Course Goals:

This course will:

- Improve students' reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and critical thinking skills.
- Focus on the writing process as a tool to improve writing.
- Implement critical analysis of professional and student work.
- Encourage students to use their God-given talents and abilities.
- Foster open minds that see opportunities to write creatively.
- Prepare students to be witnesses of Christ through their writing.
- Teach students how to read critically as writers – to understand other writers' crafts, purposes, and choices, toward the creation of the students' own original works.
- Offer students the opportunity for frequent and extensive writing, guided by the teacher and supported by their classmates.
- Expose students to a variety of genres, authors, and styles through reading, discussion, and analysis.
- Allow students to experiment with a variety of writing genres, including, but not limited to, the short story, poetry, personal essay, and drama.

Course Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the students will be able to:

- Write creatively in a clear and concise manner using the writing process.
- Compose paragraphs, essays, poems, stories, and dialogue with correct form and structure.
- Use published writing as a model for their work.
- Recognize and implement the different structures of fiction and nonfiction in their writing.
- Use spoken, written, and visual language to accomplish God's purposes.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the differences in literary genres and writing styles.
- Demonstrate an ability to imitate a variety of literary genres and writing styles.

Course Outline:

(Units may be used in a different order, and not all may be used.)

Unit One: Writer's Toolbox

Unit Two: Short Story

Unit Three: Flash Fiction

Unit Four: Poetry

Unit Five: Freewriting

Unit Six: Playwriting

Unit Seven: Final Portfolio

Course Materials:

No required textbook or software. Other needed course materials will be made available via the online Learning Management System (LMS).

Evaluation & Grading Scale:

Assignments: Students will receive a rubric for each composition when it is assigned. Besides indicating how the grade will be broken down, this rubric also indicates which facet(s) of the paper should be the student's primary focus. Therefore, students always remain aware of exactly what is being assessed and how.

All assignments must be turned in on time. If a composition is turned in late, you will lose 5% of the total possible score for each day it is late.

Students can make revisions to any composition within 48 hours of receiving the grade on the assignment. They must contact the instructor about their intention to make these revisions and email the instructor once the revisions are complete and turned in on Classroom. The new grade will be an average of the original grade and the revised grade.

Grading Scale:

98-100% = A+	83-86% = B	73-76% = C	63-66% = D
93-97% = A	80-82% = B-	70-72% = C-	60-62% = D-
90-92% = A-	77-79% = C+	67-69% = D+	0-59% = F
87-89% = B+			

Instructor Policies:

Expected of Students:

1. Check in on the course regularly, always keeping track of when assignments are due and where you should be in the writing process for that particular composition. Generally, students have been scheduled by their school to work on this course at a specific time each school day. Be faithful in using this time to work on this course. If you will be absent from class on a specific day, or if you miss class because of illness, be sure to let me know as soon as possible.

2. Expectations for this course are high, but reasonable. Everyone is very busy with their other courses, activities, and responsibilities, yet you are expected to complete all work on time. If you need an extension of time, please make the request via private email prior to the due date.
3. Communicate! If you have questions or concerns on a particular assignment or activity, please send me a private email right away. Good two-way communication is very important to having a successful experience!

ALHS Online Policies:

Current ALHS Online policies are listed in the *Handbook for ALHS Online Students and Parents*, available on the ALHSO.org website. This includes policies on non-discrimination, anti-harassment, student expectations, attendance, academic honesty, student discipline, student grades, course add/drop, etc.

Please note the policy on **class attendance** which states in part:

“Even if a student’s local school does not have school on a particular day (snow day, teacher’s conference, quarter break, choral fest, class trip, etc.) ALHS Online courses will continue to meet and students are expected to complete required work on time.”

Students also fall under the policies of the school where they attend as a full-time student. When applicable, these same local school policies will be applied to enrollment in this ALHSO course.