

Course Title: Creative Writing

Board Approval Date: August 2017

Credit (Secondary): .5

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Summary with Big Ideas:

The creative writing elective course is aligned to components found within the PA Core Academic Standards for ELA, specifically 1.4 Writing.

In creative writing, students will prepare to share their writing with an audience. They will participate in rigorous workshops with the goal of identifying existing strengths and areas of improvement in their own and others' writing, developing skills as both writers and editors. The most important goal of the course is to provide them with the tools and encouragement to produce successful additional drafts of their work. Units will also include readings on craft as well as example texts. Writing exercises will be periodically assigned. All genres are welcome: fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, drama, screenwriting, and more.

Grade Level Modules (Units):

**Suggested Timeline
of Weeks or # of Class Periods/Lessons**

1. Introduction to Creative Writing & the Workshop process	5 class periods
2. Workshop Cycle #1	27.5 blocks
3. Writing Exercises	9 class periods
4. Craft based lessons	15 class periods
5. Reading as Writers	7 class periods
6. Note – due to the nature of a typical creative writing course, these different “Units” will be layered together. Most classes will consist of two of the above units, for example a workshop and a writing exercise.	

Learning Activities/Modes of Formative and Summative Assessment:

1. Writing Exercises
2. Rubric-based participation in writing workshops
3. Portfolio
4. 1 major submission (10 pages prose, 3-5 poems, etc.)
5. 1 major revision of submission
6. Participation in class discussions and regular readings

Primary Instructional Resources:

“First Drafts” by Anne Lamotte
“What Writers Do When They Write” by George Saunders
“The Day Lady Died” by Frank O’Hara
“The President’s Dead” by Okkervil River
“This is Just to Say” and “The Red Wheelbarrow” by William Carlos Williams
“Telescope” by Louise Gluck
“Good Bones” by Maggie Smith
Excerpts from David Foster Wallace
Excerpt from *On Writing* by Stephen King
Excerpt from *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway
“The Harvest” by Amy Hempel
“In the Cemetery Where Al Jolsen is Buried” by Amy Hempel
Excerpt from *The Eye of the World* by Robert Jordan
Excerpt from “22 Strays” by Mark Richard
“Make Good Art” by Neil Gaiman
“The Rocket Man” by Ray Bradbury
Excerpt from *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy
“Super Frog Saves Tokyo” by Haruki Murakami