**Creative Writing Syllabus 2023-24**

 Hello, and welcome to Creative Writing! I have to tell you up front that I think this is my favorite class I teach. This is only the second time I’ve ever taught it, but I’ve been writing on my own for years (academically and as extracurricular activities, too). I love stories - reading them, hearing them, and writing them, and I’m hoping to help you find happiness in them, too.

**I believe that creative writing can be healthy, rewarding, and even therapeutic**

But there is more to writing than simply putting words on a page once, and then being done with it. Your favorite books, movie scripts, poems, and short stories went through many, many revisions, so we’ll be working together on editing and critiquing, and eventually revising, as well. NO PIECE OF WRITING IS THE BEST IT CAN BE THE FIRST TIME IT’S WRITTEN. Do not expect it to be, and do not take it personally when someone points out how it can be better. Creative writing is a *process*, and we’ll be working together on it this whole semester.

**Writing is difficult, even for those who love it. Writing takes effort. This is not a class you can brush off and expect to be completely successful in.**

**I believe creative writing can change your life, and that it is a gift that will stay with you your whole life, if you let it. And you can open that gift over and over, whenever you want to.**

 OK, I’m done with the dramatics…for now. Here’s an overview of the semester, although things are always in flux, and can always change.

**Units**

*Creative Nonfiction*

* Flash nonfiction (short nonfiction)
* Memoir/Personal Narrative
* Travel/Nature/Cultural Criticism essay

*Fiction*

* Flash fiction (short fiction)
* 1st person POV story
* 3rd person POV story
* Genre story

*Poetry*

* Narrative poem
* Form poem (haiku, haibun, sonnet, limerick, song, etc.)
* Found poem/blackout poetry, etc.
* Freeverse
* Metrical poem (draft using stanzas, meter, etc.)
* Elegy/Ode

*Portfolio Revision*

* Choose 2 of the 3 major pieces you’ve written
* Revise (rather than edit)
* Submit 1 to an editor
* Final Revision(s)

**Required Materials**

Binder/Folder

Chromebook (Everyday! CHARGED!!)

Writing Utensil

**Grading Breakdown**

Major Pieces (Summatives) - 45%

Classwork (Formatives) - 35%

Do Nows/Participation - 20%

Folks, I’m really looking forward to this semester. Please don’t ever hesitate to reach out to me in person, or via email. Here we go!

Mr. Kester

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