**School of the Arts**

**CRAFT OF WRITING (10th Grade)**

2019-2020

Instructor: Ms. Marcy Gamzon

School phone: 242-7682 x8039

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email address:  [mlgamz@aol.com](https://mail.rcsdk12.org/OWA/redir.aspx?C=brc-DtC8M0aFZfGewj4-FqdzSDkemtEIruwF8PhCr61GTCpesDG7RbF16FwemA2LpiJRZRB6RiQ.&URL=mailto%3amlgamz%40aol.com) or [marcy.gamzon@rcsdk12.org](https://mail.rcsdk12.org/OWA/redir.aspx?C=brc-DtC8M0aFZfGewj4-FqdzSDkemtEIruwF8PhCr61GTCpesDG7RbF16FwemA2LpiJRZRB6RiQ.&URL=mailto%3amarcy.gamzon%40rcsdk12.org)

Rm. A239  Per. 7/8 B/D 40 Weeks,

Course blog: [craftofwriting2015.blogspot.com](file:///C:\Users\user\Desktop\Creative%20Writing%20rubric_files\craftofwriting2015.blogspot.com)

**Course Description:**

This course emphasizes understanding the characteristics and techniques in the literary genres of fiction, poetry and dramatic writing. This course will continue to build on students’ reading and writing skills begun in Grammar & Style, Writing for Publication and Self Discovery & Performance Word and Text (9th grade). Readings of works by major writers will be read and examined as inspiration and models of fine writing. Students will keep a portfolio of their writing progress, a writing journal, and participate in writing workshops.

**Course Objectives:**

* To understand and explore the characteristics of effective writing
* To learn successful writing techniques for fiction, poetry, and script writing
* To explore and develop each writer’s own authentic voice
* To practice the writing process (from brainstorming through publication)
* To communicate effectively in writers’ workshops
* To read a variety of different authors as models, inspiration, and for a better understanding of what makes ‘good’ writing ‘good’

**Course Requirements:**

* Participate in class assignments and projects
* Read, read, read; write, write, write!
* Engage in the complete writing process
* Keep a folder for handouts/work in progress/writing exercises
* Keep a writer’s **portfolio** of all work in progress and completed/revised work
* Keep a **journal** or writing notebook for writing assignments and practices
* Adhere to standard written English language conventions and grammar
* Communicate regularly with the teacher and peers through conference and workshop
* Participate in writing contests or send writing to publishers
* Attend school events and author’s nights (extra credit available\*)
* Respect and follow the rules and procedures of the school and classroom

**Course Evaluation:**

50% Portfolio (graded each quarter), journal, major writing projects

35%Classwork and participation, writing practices, workshops

15% Tests/quizzes

**Requirements:**

1. Students need to bring class folder, and journal/reading log  **to class every day.**

2. A reading log (notebook) and journal is encouraged for this course. This log and journal will be checked periodically over the course. The journal must be brought to class every day for writing exercises.

3. Portfolios will be provided for the student by the teacher. They will be collected each semester. Students should save and label all drafts of their work.

4. Students may also find it useful to keep a jumpdrive to save their work in the computer labs. Students will have access to word processors in writing labs but may also find it useful to have access to word processors at home if possible.

5. **All texts that are currently assigned must be brought to class every day** and returned to the library in a timely fashion. Students are responsible for keeping their texts in good condition. Lost or damaged books will result in library fines.

6. Students are expected to follow the rules of the classroom and the school, to respect all other students, participate in their own learning, and behave in a mature fashion. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in academic failure, administrative intervention and/or discipline, detention, or the need for additional parent/teacher/guidance conferences.

7. **Students are expected to keep up with the reading and writing requirements for this class**. All work must be turned in by the scheduled deadline.

8. I am available for individual conferences to discuss progress and writing at most times. Parents wishing to reach me may do so by contacting my email through the district website (marcy.gamzon@rcsdk12.org)

**Attendance Policy:**

Your attendance to this class is mandatory. Absent students should consult the class blog for material missed. Tardy students will lose participation credit. Students who miss an entire class period without a written excuse will be marked illegally absent. All absent students must make-up missed work within 10 days of their return to school. **IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT ME REGARDING MISSING WORK**. If a student’s attendance falls below 85% in any marking period he or she may receive an “F”.

**Long Range Curriculum:**

FALL SEMESTER:

Introduction to poetry; poetry elements; the writing process

Introduction to fiction; fiction elements

Introduction to drama/script writing; script elements

SPRING SEMESTER:

Introduction to nonfiction

Working with the craft of poetry; revising and crafting

Working with the craft of fiction; revising and crafting

Working with the craft of script writing; final assessment

**NOTE:** Creative writing stresses the importance of individualism and the freedom to create; however, writers must understand the balance between free expression and artistic merit. Excessive or gratuitous use of profanity, violence and lewd subject matter will not be acceptable.

Our creative writing curriculum meets the New York State Standards in English/Language Arts.

**Important Miscellaneous Information**

‘No Fear’ Writing Policy:

My goal is encouraging you to write. **All first drafts** that are turned in on time will receive a **minimum** of “C” credit provided that the work is up to a 10th grade standard. Late work, of course, may result in lower than “C” grades. As young writers, realize that you can take risks - write something original that stands out for its artistic truth and beauty. You cannot receive lower than a “C” for work turned in on time, so take a few risks, please!

Homework, Late Work, and Deadlines:

Homework is required and expected to be turned in on time. However, so you don’t have to waste your extenuating circumstances coming up with new and brilliant reasons as to why you didn’t get the work done, this is the standard rule: If a student is late with a homework assignment, that student will have *until* the *next* class period to turn in the missing work---no questions, no excuses, no problem. Late homework *will* receive a lower grade, but the student will still get credit *if* the work is turned in the following class. After this deadline, students may *not* gain credit for missing or late work.

Workshops:

The focus of our class is the full writing process, which includes revision and peer review. Periodically, throughout the year our class will hold writers’ workshops. Students will meet regularly with their workshop group. During workshops, students are free to bring in any piece of writing they are working on for peer review. This is a great opportunity for you to share your work with your peers and get their feedback. Students will gain participation credit for workshopping their writing AND for critiquing other students’ writing. In the first semester, our workshops are likely to be short, as I will select a couple of student pieces as classroom ‘models’. More information on this activity will be discussed in class.

Each class meeting before an announced workshop I will collect student writing for the workshop. If *I* collect the material, I will make copies for a workshop group. If you don’t turn the material in, it is *your responsibility* to bring enough copies to share with your workshop group. Again, you will gain credit for bringing in work to be shared, as well as providing feedback on the writing for your classmates.

Extra Credit:

Students can always write extra creative pieces for their portfolios. Alternatively, students interested in extra credit projects can see me for a variety of options. Realize, please, that extra credit is not a substitute for missing projects.

Portfolio:

Students are expected to keep a portfolio of their best written work. During this course, time will be set aside to work in class or the lab on your writing. Students will be expected to revise first drafts and keep track of each subsequent draft in your portfolio. The portfolio will be collected at least once per term. Procedure and rubrics for the portfolio will be discussed later in class.

Drafts and Revisions:

There is no such thing as ‘perfection’--no matter how good you are, there is always room for revision. You will be asked to work with your previous drafts at various times during the course. Do not lose these drafts or you will have to write the first draft of something new, then revise it for full credit. Procedure for labeling drafts will be discussed in class. Drafts and revisions will be collected in your portfolio.

Journal:

You will be required to keep a writing journal for ideas, writing practices, research, and notes during class. Bring your journal to class every day for full participation credit.

Reading:

All writers agree on one thing: If you want to be a successful writer, you’ve got be a reader! Students are required to keep up with the reading requirements for this class. Students should bring the assigned text to class *every day* and return the book in a timely fashion. If no book is assigned, I encourage you to bring a book of your choice to class. Often, students may be able to read during lab time. Also, we occasionally form reading groups for the books we are currently reading for class.

Absent from Exams:

A legally absent student is required to make up any exam within 5 days of their return to school. Exams will be available from the teacher. It is the student’s responsibility to contact me regarding a missed test. Failure to take the exam after five days of a return will result in a failing grade for that exam. Pop quizzes (unscheduled tests) cannot be made up. The absent student will not be penalized or rewarded for a missed pop quiz.

The Writing Lab & Internet Use:

Our class is scheduled to use the writing lab on a daily basis. While we will also seek other classroom space at times, the majority of our class will use computers. Students are required to protect their own writing and projects by saving and storing their own work. Lab equipment must be handled and used correctly. **Internet use is strictly for class projects** and not to be used recreationally. Refusal to follow proper classroom rules will result in lower participation grades, failing, parent conferences and/or academic intervention. Please no food or drink in the lab.

Music/ipods/mp3 players, etc.:

**It is the policy of the school that all these items are forbidden in classrooms**. However, due to the nature and art of writing, music can help focus and enhance the writing process for some students. As this is a privilege, not a rule, only students who are maintaining a “C” average in the class will be able to use these materials when appropriate. **Headphones** are required to listen to your music (without them, you cannot listen to your personal music). Additionally, students are not to download music onto our computers as this strains our network and may result in viruses or computer problems. We recommend a personal ipod or mp3 player with music previously selected.

Teacher Conferences:

The creative writing department has realized that the best instruction for writing is one-on-one conferencing. I am trying to get away from covering your drafts with my written comments, which you skim over and/or ignore. When I read your drafts, I will always give you basic feedback, but if you are looking for more constructive criticism and/or a solution to a writing problem, then meeting with me privately is invaluable. I will be available to discuss your writing with you per scheduled appointment. It is *your* responsibility to seek me out. This is how I know you are serious about your writing progress. Most conferences can be done before or after school, during lab time, or during a mutual free study hall period. Realize, that I am not allowed to ‘pull’ you from another class to meet.

The Blog:

Our class has a blog. The blog, like last year, has important deadline dates and notes covering material discussed in class. Please make sure you check it daily. Parents are free and encouraged to visit as often as one cares to.

Our classroom blog is: **craftofwriting2015.blogspot.com**

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**WORK POLICY/LATE POLICY:**

I will probably extend a deadline if you see me in a timely manner, such as a day or two **BEFORE** the assignment is due. Please pre-plan and ask questions.

**Late work will receive a 5/10 grade until it is completed in a timely fashion (10 days max). Then it will receive a 7/10 for late. If not completed in time, the grade will be a 0.**

**TARDY/ATTENDANCE POLICY: Students are required to be in class on time. If you are tardy, you must sign in on the Tardy Log. Excessive tardies (especially periods 1 and 2) will require a consequence of detention to make up missing class participation and classwork.**

**Important Dates:** Curriculum Night – Sept 17   6-8 PM.

Parent teacher conference dates:   10/17 5-7

CW DATES: Readers Theatre October 17 and 18, Fall Coffeehouse November 20, Playwrights Festival, March 19 and 20, Spring Coffeehouse May 18

**Classroom Plan**

**Be on time, Be prepared, Be engaged.**

Early is on time! ☺ On time is late! ☹

**Electronics** Technology as required by a specific assignment.

To include but *not* limited: ear buds or headphones for writing work with teacher permission.

**NON-NEGOTIABLES – Immediate removal from classroom**

To include but not limited to: Fighting; both physical and verbal, vandalism, theft, chronic disruption, and suspicion of being under the influence of illegal substances.

Expectations:

* How do you want me to treat you? RESPECT. FAIRNESS.
* How do you want to treat one another? RESPECT. FAIRNESS.
* How do you think I want to be treated? RESPECT
* How should we treat one another when there's a conflict? ACTIVE LISTENING. WORK OUT A WIN-Win

AGREED UPON:

Norms for Discussion:

Student Rights:

1. You have the right to ask questions.

2. You have the right to be treated respectfully.

3. You have the right to have your work/ideas discussed, not you personally.

Student Responsibilities:

1. You must speak loudly enough for others to hear.

2. If you cannot hear or understand what someone says, you must ask him or her to say it again.

3. You are expected to agree or disagree (and explain why) in response to other people’s ideas (active listening and participation).

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Please sign, tear off and return.

**Parent/Guardian Signature (PRINT and SIGN):**

**(PRINT)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (SIGN)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature  (PRINT and SIGN):**

**(PRINT)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (SIGN)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments, questions :**