

Creative Writing

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Creative Writing

For many hundreds of years, literature has been one of the most important human art forms. It allows us to give voice to our emotions, create imaginary worlds, express ideas, and escape the confines of material reality. Through creative writing, we can come to understand ourselves and our world a little bit better. This course provides students with a solid grounding in the writing process, from finding inspiration to building a basic story to using complicated literary techniques and creating strange hybrid forms of poetic prose and prose poetry. By the end of this course, students will learn how to discover their creative thoughts and turn those ideas into fully realized pieces of creative writing.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

- This is an inquiry-based course. Students will generate knowledge through online readings, asynchronous discussions with students and their instructor, interactions with online tutorials, and online and hands-on simulations.
- The instructor will act as a guide, a facilitator, an events planner, and a resource advisor. He/she will always be available through course message.
- The student must actively construct and acquire knowledge by being intrinsically motivated to succeed. To succeed, students must participate and complete all readings and activities. This course requires the student's active participation.
- Both formal and informal assessment methods will be used in the course. Informal assessment will include an evaluation of the quality and timeliness of participation in class activities. Formal assessment may include multiple-choice quizzes, tests, discussion board participation, and written assignments. A final exam will be given at the end of the course.

COURSE PARTICIPATION OBJECTIVES

This course for which you are registered is a college preparatory, academically rigorous course that covers an entire semester's worth of material. As such, it is important that you adhere to the following guidelines as you manage your time and commit to successfully completing all required coursework:

1. The requirements for this course are equivalent to completion of minimum of 90+ hours of class instruction at a traditional on-site high school
2. Assignments must be submitted for each unit as they are completed so that the teacher may review and assess your performance. Do not hold your work, you must submit each unit's homework as it is completed, demonstrating weekly assignment completions
3. You must log in regularly to your course to demonstrate continued participation, and completion of all course requirements, including assignments, assessments and discussion forums
4. You must complete your individual work and any incident of suspected cheating, plagiarism or collaboration on assignments violates the academic integrity expectations outlined at the time of your enrollment and can result in failure of the course or further action as deemed appropriate

Citizenship

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner that reflects sound ethics, honor, and good citizenship. It is the student's responsibility to maintain academic honesty and integrity and to manifest their commitment to the goals of NUVHS through their conduct and behavior. Students are expected to abide by all NUVHS policies and regulations. Any form of academic dishonesty, or inappropriate conduct by students or applicants may result in penalties ranging from warning to dismissal, as deemed appropriate by NUVHS.

Communication

Throughout this course students will need to be in close contact with their instructor and fellow students. Students are expected to communicate via course message and electronic discussion boards. Therefore, students should plan on checking their course messages at least three times a week and participate in the discussion boards during the weeks they are live.

Instructors strongly encourage and welcome open communication. Clear, consistent, and proactive communication will ensure a successful experience in this course. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor immediately if and when a personal situation occurs that affects his/her performance in this class. Being proactive with communication will result in a quick solution to any problems that may occur.

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: Pre-Writing Strategies

In this unit, you will learn about the differences among creative writing and other forms of writing, pre-writing strategies we can use in order to stimulate creativity, the characteristics of various literary forms, and how to begin reading like a writer.

Learning Objectives

- Effectively stimulate your creativity by using established methods such as freewriting, brainstorming, transmittics, and writers' journals.
- Demonstrate awareness of the characteristics of a poem, short story, novel, play or screenplay, novel, and creative nonfiction.
- Begin to understand the creative process and how it is often spontaneous and not logically considered.
- Explain why a poem or short story achieves the effects it does through specific word choice.
- Create a piece of writing that is not just factual but also expresses your own personal feelings on a subject.

Activities

Unit 1 Creative Writing Assignment 1	Homework	10 points
Unit 1 Creative Writing Assignment 2	Homework	10 points
Unit 1 Creative Writing Assignment 3	Homework	10 points
Unit 1 Creative Writing Assignment 4	Homework	20 points
Unit 1 Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 1 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 1 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 1 Quiz	Quiz	15 points

Unit 2: Building a Story

In this unit, you will learn about the most important features of the story: its characters, plot, setting, and point of view. You will learn how to develop these aspects individually and how to use them together to create an engaging and expressive narrative.

Learning Objectives

- Explain the difference between stereotypes and archetypes, as well as how to avoid the use of stereotypes while using archetypes as the basis for characters.
- Explain how to create characters that are consistent and believable.
 - Explain how to fit a character into a plot, as well as how to allow that character to inform plot.
- Describe the seven basic plot types and explain how to use unique versions of these in your own writing.
- Explain the importance of setting, as well as how to narrow the setting down to its most important features.
- Explain the importance of point of view.

Activities

Unit 2 Creative Writing Assignment 1	Homework	10 points
Unit 2 Creative Writing Assignment 2	Homework	10 points
Unit 2 Creative Writing Assignment 3	Homework	10 points
Unit 2 Creative Writing Assignment 4	Homework	5 points
Unit 2 Creative Writing Assignment 5	Homework	10 points
Unit 2 Creative Writing Assignment 6	Homework	5 points
Unit 2 Creative Writing Assignment 7	Homework	10 points
Unit 2 Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 2 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 2 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 2 Quiz	Quiz	15 points

Unit 3: Constructing a Poem

In this unit you will learn how to begin interpreting poetry and how to use your interpretations to begin writing your own poems. We'll discuss imagery, personification, simile, and metaphor in depth, and by the end of the unit, you should feel comfortable using all of these techniques.

Learning Objectives

- Read poetry closely and interpret the poet's intentions.
- Define imagery and demonstrate an understanding of the effect it creates in a poem.
- Utilize images in your own creative writing.
- Define personification and demonstrate an understanding of the effect it creates in a poem.
- Define simile and metaphor and explain the difference between the two.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the different effects created by simile and metaphor.
- Create your own simple and effective similes and metaphors.

Activities

Unit 3 Creative Writing Assignment 1	Homework	5 points
Unit 3 Creative Writing Assignment 2	Homework	15 points
Unit 3 Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 3 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 3 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 3 Quiz	Quiz	15 points

Unit 4: Blurring the Boundaries

In this unit, you'll learn how to use sound in both prose and poetry to convey emotions and ideas, and how to interpret the sounds of both forms of writing for the poet's intentions. You'll also learn about the hybrid forms of writing, poetic prose and narrative poetry, as well as how to compose pieces of writing in both of these forms.

Learning Objectives

- Recognize and notate the rhyming scheme of a poem.
- Recognize when a poem has and does not have a specific rhyming scheme.
- Recognize some of the different types of rhyme including perfect rhyme and alliteration.
- Explain why a writer chooses to repeat certain sounds or words.
- Explain how rhythm is created and how to notate the rhythm of a poem.
- Use both rhythm and rhyme to create your own desired effects.
- Demonstrate the use of poetic techniques in prose writing, and narrative techniques in poetry.

Activities

Unit 4 Creative Writing Assignment 1	Homework	5 points
Unit 4 Creative Writing Assignment 2	Homework	5 points
Unit 4 Creative Writing Assignment 3	Homework	10 points
Unit 4 Creative Writing Assignment 4	Homework	10 points
Unit 4 Creative Writing Assignment 5	Homework	10 points
Unit 4 Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 4 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 4 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 4 Quiz	Quiz	15 points

Unit 4: Blurring the Boundaries (Continued)

Midterm Exam Objectives

Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.

- Take a course exam based on material from the first four units in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

Midterm Exam Activities

Midterm Discussion	Discussion	5 points
Midterm Exam	Exam	50 points

Unit 5: Understanding Your Audience

In this unit, you will learn to take the reader’s expectations into account in your writing. We’ll look at different types of writing and the different reader expectations that go along with them, and consider the question of whether or not to confound readers’ expectations. We’ll look at who writers address in their writing, who they exclude, and whether or not this is appropriate. We’ll then begin to look at how to find your own unique voice.

Learning Objectives

- Assess the assumptions a writer makes about their readership.
- Assess who the writer chooses to exclude from their writing.
- Describe your ideal reader.
- Describe the reader’s expectations for various forms of fiction and creative non-fiction.
- Alter your style and tone according to your intended readership.
- Identify a writer’s individual “voice.”

Activities

Unit 5 Creative Writing Assignment 1	Homework	20 points
Unit 5 Creative Writing Assignment 2	Homework	10 points
Unit 5 Creative Writing Assignment 3	Homework	5 points
Unit 5 Creative Writing Assignment 4	Homework	10 points
Unit 5 Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 5 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 5 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 5 Quiz	Quiz	15 points

Unit 6: Finding Your Voice

In this unit, you'll learn how to examine writing for the characteristics of style, how to use the imitation of other writers in order to inform and inspire the development of your own style, how to identify your own strengths as a writer, and how to transcend imitation to develop your own unique and highly recognizable individual voice.

Learning Objectives

- Identify a writer's style and its unique characteristics.
- Imitate the styles of various writers.
- Synthesize various influences in order to create a unique style.
- Make choices about the voice that is appropriate for your writing.
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of other writers.
- Identify your own strengths and weaknesses as a writer.

Activities

Unit 6 Creative Writing Assignment 1	Homework	10 points
Unit 6 Creative Writing Assignment 2	Homework	10 points
Unit 6 Creative Writing Assignment 3	Homework	10 points
Unit 6 Creative Writing Assignment 4	Homework	15 points
Unit 6 Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 6 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 6 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 6 Quiz	Quiz	15 points

Unit 7: Editing

In this unit, you'll learn about the various types of editing, including content editing, line editing, copy editing, and proofreading. You'll learn how to critically examine the work of other writers in order to learn to apply these same techniques to your own work.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the different types of editing and the differences among them.
- Assess the effectiveness of the various elements of a piece of writing, including its plot, characterization, themes, atmosphere, language, and use of literary techniques.
- Assess the overall success of a piece of writing when all of these elements are put together.
- Examine and improve the word choice in a piece of writing and avoid clichés.
- Explain when fact-checking is necessary and how to check the facts of a piece.
- Examine your own work critically using editing techniques.

Activities

Unit 7 Creative Writing Assignment 1	Homework	10 points
Unit 7 Creative Writing Assignment 2	Homework	10 points
Unit 7 Creative Writing Assignment 3	Homework	10 points
Unit 7 Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 7 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 7 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 7 Quiz	Quiz	15 points

Unit 8: Peer Review and Publishing

In this unit, you'll build on what you have learned about editing, taking your skills as a content editor into the workshop to help others develop their creative writing. You'll learn all about how to conduct a workshop effectively, including how to make comments that are productive, relevant, and qualified, and finally, create a publication of your own to showcase your writing.

Learning Objectives

- Be an effective participant in a creative writing workshop.
- Make constructive, relevant, and qualified comments.
- Frame comments so that they are productive.
- Organize your thoughts in effective note form to give to your peers.
- Explain comments on your own work and learn from them.
- Publish your own work in print or online form.

Activities

Unit 8 Creative Writing Assignment 1	Homework	10 points
Unit 8 Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 8 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 8 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 8 Quiz	Quiz	15 points

Unit 8: Peer Review and Publishing (Continued)

Final Exam Objectives

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from units five to eight in this course – the last four units.
(Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

Final Exam Activities

Class Reflection Discussion	Discussion	10 points
Final Exam	Exam	50 points

HOW YOU WILL BE GRADED

For critical thinking questions, there are no right or wrong answers. For example, a question on your thoughts on why you think people are shy is a pretty open-ended type of question. Grades will be based on the depth of personal insight you present. **Do not simply agree or disagree** with an insight question. We are looking for critical thinking and possibly a related personal experience with the question.

It is important to provide detailed answers for insight/opinion questions.

For review questions, you should produce a more academic answer. For example, "What two categories are norms divided into?" This type of direct question requires a specific answer. Please use full sentences and proper grammar.

When submitting paragraphs, use these guidelines.

1. The first, second or last sentence contains the main idea and key words from the question or assigned topic.
2. Paragraph contains one to three explanatory sentences.
3. Paragraph contains two to four sentences about specific details related to question.
4. Details are colorful, interesting and appropriate.
5. Paragraph ends with a good closing sentence that refers to the main idea without repeating it.
6. Free of spelling and grammatical errors.

GRADE SCALE

The following grading scale will be used to determine your final letter grade.

Letter Grade	Percentage Earned
A	95%+
A-	90% - 94.9%
B+	87% - 89.9%
B	84% - 86.9%
B-	80% - 83.9%
C+	77% - 79.9%
C	74% - 76.9%
C-	70% - 73.9%
D+	67% - 69.9%
D	64% - 66.9%
D -	60% - 63.9%
F	59% and lower

SUPPORT

At NUVHS you will have access to multiple support teams. Who you contact will depend on the questions you have. Always start by contacting your teacher through the Message Center in the course. Your teacher should be able to answer your question, but if they can't, then they will direct you to another support team. If you have questions about any of the course content, your grades, or course policies, you should contact your instructor.

For questions about your enrollment, transcripts, or general school-wide policies, you can contact **NUVHS Student Services** at info@nuvhs.org or by phone at 866.366.8847. For example, if you would like to withdraw from your course, you should contact Student Services. Please note that a refund for your course can only be obtained if you drop within the first seven days of enrolling in the course.

For help with login/password issues, or other technical issues specific to the Blackboard website, you can contact the team at [National University Blackboard Learn](#). They can also be reached by phone at (888) 892-9095.

EXPECTED SCHOOL-WIDE LEARNING RESULTS (ESLRs)

Engaged Learners

- Demonstrate self-directed learning skills such as time management, and personal responsibility through the completion of course requirements
- Develop an understanding of their own preferred learning styles to enhance their overall academic potential
- Incorporate effective and relevant internet and multimedia resources in their learning process to broaden their knowledge base

Critical Thinkers

- Effectively analyze and articulate sound opinions on a variety of complex concepts
- Illustrate a variety of problem-solving strategies that strengthen college preparation and workforce readiness
- Formulate a framework for applying a variety of technology and internet-based research to enhance information literacy and collaborative thinking

Effective Communicators

- Demonstrate awareness and sensitivity to tone and voice in multiple forms of communication
- Express concepts and ideas in a variety of forms
- Enhance communication skills through the use of media rich or other technology resources

Global Citizens

- Appreciate the value of diversity
- Understand the range of local and international issues facing today's global community
- Demonstrate awareness of the importance of cultural sensitivity and social responsibility in the 21st century