



# Welcome to Creative Writing & Syllabus

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## 1.) Syllabus

### CREATIVE WRITING

#### SEMESTER 1

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, you will explore various genres of creative writing—fiction, poetry, personal narrative, and drama—while developing your voice, style, and storytelling skills. You'll practice techniques used by professional writers and complete multiple creative pieces. The course focuses on writing as a process: brainstorming, drafting, revising, and publishing.

#### COURSE SUBMISSIONS

All assignments will be graded through OnFire. Any attachments must be made in a Word document file, PDF, or Google Doc shareable link and turned in through OnFire or directly to the instructor.

#### GRADING BREAKDOWN

A 94-100%	C 73-76%
A- 90-93%	C- 70-72%
B+ 87-89%	D+ 67-69%
B 83-87%	D 63-66%
B- 80-82%	D- 59-63%
C+ 77-79%	F 58% or below

#### GRADED WEIGHT OF SCHOOLWORK

- It is important to note that you will receive unlimited attempts on all assignments and quizzes until you demonstrate mastery of the content. All quizzes will be randomized and do not show the correct answer, which makes it important to read the lesson material BEFORE taking the quiz and completing the assignments.
- **Writing Assignments: 40%**
- **Quizzes and Activities: 30%**
- **Bigger Writing Assignments and Portfolio: 40%**
- **Competency Exams:** There is no competency exam for this course.

#### WEEKLY BREAKDOWN

##### Unit 1: Introduction to Creative Writing & the Writing Process (Weeks 1–2)

- **Topics Covered:**
  - What is creative writing?
  - Elements of strong writing (voice, tone, style)

- Stages of the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, publishing)
- **Writing Activity:** Personal writing journal entry + writer's goals
- **Activity:** Create a "Writer's Toolbox" resource page

## Unit 2: Descriptive Writing & Setting (Weeks 3–4)

- **Topics Covered:**
  - Sensory language and imagery
  - Showing vs. telling
  - Creating vivid settings
- **Writing Activity:** Write a descriptive scene without dialogue
- **Writing Activity:** Write a setting-based short story excerpt

## Unit 3: Character Development (Weeks 5–6)

- **Topics Covered:**
  - Creating realistic, complex characters
  - Dialogue and inner thoughts
  - Character arcs
- **Writing Activity:** Create a character profile
- **Writing Activity:** Write a character-driven short story

## Unit 4: Plot & Structure (Weeks 7–8)

- **Topics Covered:**
  - Story structure (beginning, middle, end)
  - Conflict and resolution
  - Narrative pacing
- **Activity:** Outline a story using the plot diagram
- **Bigger Assignment:** Write a complete short story (3–5 pages)

## Unit 5: Poetry & Wordplay (Weeks 9–10)

- **Topics Covered:**
  - Types of poetry (free verse, haiku, sonnet, narrative)
  - Poetic devices (rhyme, rhythm, metaphor, simile, alliteration)
  - Mood and tone in poetry
- **Activity:** Write 3 poems in different styles
- **Bigger Assignment:** Create a mini poetry portfolio

## Unit 6: Personal Narrative & Memoir (Weeks 11–12)

- **Topics Covered:**
  - Writing from real life
  - Voice and authenticity
  - Creating meaning from experience
- **Activity:** Freewrite about a powerful memory
- **Writing Activity:** Write a 2–3 page personal narrative

## Unit 7: Dialogue & Flash Fiction (Weeks 13–14)

- **Topics Covered:**
  - Writing realistic and purposeful dialogue
  - Flash fiction techniques (brevity, twist endings, subtext)
- **Writing Activity:** Write a story using only dialogue
- **Bigger Assignment:** Compose two flash fiction stories (500–750 words each)

## Unit 8: Genre Writing (Weeks 15–16)

- **Topics Covered:**
  - Exploring genres: fantasy, mystery, sci-fi, horror, historical fiction
  - Tropes and conventions
  - Adapting style for different genres
- **Writing Activity:** Analyze a short story in a chosen genre
- **Bigger Assignment:** Write a genre-based short story

### Unit 9: Revision & Publishing (Week 17)

- **Topics Covered:**
  - Peer/self-revision strategies
  - Editing for clarity, grammar, and impact
  - Writing cover letters and submitting work
- **Activity** Revise one major piece from the course
- **Writing Activity:** Prepare a “ready-for-publishing” portfolio with one revised piece

### Unit 10: Final Portfolio & Reflection (Week 18)

- **Topics Covered:**
  - Reflecting on growth as a writer
  - Compiling and presenting creative work
- **Writing Activity:** Write a 1-page reflective essay
- **Final Project:** Submit a final writing portfolio including:
  - 3–5 polished pieces from the course
  - A cover letter/introduction
  - Reflection on your writing journey

## ONLINE TECHNOLOGIES

This course takes place online. Since we will not meet face-to-face, you must have the necessary technology and technical know-how to work effectively in this online learning environment. This online course will utilize OnFire as the learning management system. Please contact your instructor if you have trouble logging in or viewing any of the documents and links posted.

## 2.) Why Creative Writing Matters

**Creative writing** is more than just a school subject or an activity for poets and novelists. It is a powerful form of self-expression that allows you to explore your thoughts, share your perspective, and create something uniquely your own.

You may be used to writing for assignments—essays, reports, summaries. But creative writing is different. It invites you to use your imagination, tap into your emotions, and express ideas that don’t always follow strict rules. It allows room for experimentation. There’s no single “right” way to write creatively, and that freedom can be both exciting and intimidating.

### What Is Creative Writing?

At its core, creative writing is any writing that goes beyond just presenting facts. It includes:

- **Fiction** (short stories, novels, flash fiction)
- **Poetry**
- **Personal essays and memoirs**
- **Scripts and plays**
- **Creative non-fiction**

These genres often use literary devices such as metaphor, dialogue, tone, mood, and symbolism. But creative writing isn't just about crafting elegant sentences—it's about making the reader feel something or see the world differently.



### 3.) Reasons Creative Writing Matters

Here are some of the most important reasons creative writing is valuable:

#### 1. It Helps You Find Your Voice

- In creative writing, *you* are the expert. There's no textbook with the exact answer—your voice is what makes your writing stand out. Developing your voice means learning how to express your ideas in a way that feels true to who you are.

#### 2. It Encourages Empathy and Perspective

- When you write a character or poem, you're often stepping into someone else's shoes. This process naturally encourages empathy—you begin to understand people with different backgrounds, ideas, or experiences.

#### 3. It Strengthens Communication Skills

- Even though creative writing is imaginative, it still teaches you how to communicate ideas clearly and effectively. This skill helps in almost every area of life—from writing better college essays to expressing yourself confidently in conversations.

#### 4. It Boosts Mental and Emotional Health

- Writing creatively can be therapeutic. When you're feeling stressed, sad, or overwhelmed, putting words on the page can help you process emotions. You can write about your own experiences, or invent a world far from your own.

#### 5. It Inspires Innovation

- Creative thinking is the root of innovation. The ability to generate ideas, imagine new scenarios, or solve problems with creativity is valuable in careers ranging from design and advertising to science and business. Learning to think like a writer helps you become more original in all areas of life.

### 4.) Welcome to Creative Writing!

Welcome to your creative writing journey! This course is your space to explore storytelling, build your voice, and discover the power of imagination. Whether you've been writing for years or are just beginning, you're in the right place.

In this class, *you* are the author. You'll write stories, poems, and reflections drawn from your own ideas, experiences, and creativity. There are no "right" answers in creative writing—only honest expression, thoughtful revision, and growth.

**Along the way, you'll learn how to:**

- Develop original characters and plots
- Use literary techniques like dialogue, setting, and tone
- Craft poetry in different forms
- Write with purpose, emotion, and authenticity
- Reflect on your writing and compile your own portfolio

Remember, this is a self-paced course, so take the time you need to dive into each assignment with care. The goal isn't perfection—it's progress and self-discovery.

Let your imagination lead the way. You have stories worth telling—and this is your chance to tell them.

**Happy writing!**