

Creative Writing

SCOPE OF COURSE

This course covers the full spectrum of writing genres ranging from short stories, novels, plays and poetry, to the various forms of essays and nonfiction. Students will learn and apply a broad variety of techniques to generate, edit, and evaluate their own literary efforts and those of others.

SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 1 – Fiction Part I: Short Stories

- The origins of language
- A writer's definition of story
- The importance of premise
- The story triangle
- Irony and suspense
- Character types
- Point of view
- Scene keys
- Characterization
- Dialogue
- Writing your story
- Revising, editing, and revision

Unit 2 – Fiction Part II: The Novel and Drama

- Brainstorming
- Description: using nouns and verbs effectively
- Description: using adjectives and adverbs effectively
- Descriptions: general tips
- Useful punctuation for the creative writer
- Planning your story
- Writing a descriptive passage
- Flashback and foreshadowing
- Character development and characterization techniques
- Style techniques
- Staging and special format rules for playwriting
- Writing a scene
- Writing careers and goals / using a writer's rubric

Unit 3 – Poetry

- Types of poetry and reading tips
- Voice and tone / tips for writing
- Imagery and symbolism
- Figurative language
- The star scramble
- Rhyme and rhyme schemes
- Repetition, refrain, alliteration, and onomatopoeia
- Rhyme devices & parody
- Rhythm and meter
- Blank verse and haiku
- Free verse
- The sonnet, elegy, and requiem
- Narrative poetry & ballads

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UNIT 4 – Nonfiction: Part I

- Introduction to nonfiction
- Persuasive writing
- Expressive writing
- Literary writing
- Informative writing
- Scientific writing
- Exploratory writing
- Descriptive writing
- Observation and experience
- Revision and editing
- Autobiographical essay
- Final revision and editing

Unit 5 – Nonfiction: Part II

- Creative reporting
- Report analysis
- Cause and effect analysis
- Argument analysis
- Opinion and claims
- Critical review
- Crusading evaluations
- Position papers
- Credibility, preliminary research and refining the subject
- Thesis statements and presenting findings
- Research and sources
- The first draft
- Revision and editing