

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Creative Writing

Mrs. Clifton

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Description:**

Creative writing is designed to aid students in their creative expression, as well as delivery of one's writing. Students will read and discuss articles on the craft of writing. The first quarter will focus on fiction. Students will read and evaluate the effectiveness of fiction of varying styles. They will write and workshop short stories to complete a final portfolio. The second quarter will focus on poetry. Students will learn poetic vocabulary and read interpret poems of varying styles. Students will write and workshop each other's poetry to complete a final portfolio at the end of the quarter. Students will be expected to deliver their writing to an audience.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Create and edit original sentences.
- ✓ Evaluate the effectiveness of a well-written narrative.
- ✓ Identify the steps in creating characters for a story.
- ✓ Explain the parts of speech and their basic functions in a sentence.
- ✓ Develop original pieces of work utilizing various strategies.
- ✓ Evaluate the usefulness, or lack thereof, of a source (both Internet and non-Internet)
- ✓ Understand poetry language in music. (Rhythm, lineation, meter, etc.)
- ✓ Recognize patterns and variations in poetry.
- ✓ Organize a portfolio of original works.

**Required Class Materials:**

- ✓ Notes
- ✓ Pen or pencil
- ✓ Notebook Paper
- ✓ Portfolio
- ✓ Student Tracker

**Text:**

There is no text for this course, though articles and writing samples will be used throughout the semester.

**Course Outline:**

(Subject to change due to time constraints, class population, and individual preference)

- ✓ Parts of Speech and Basic Writing Skills (January)
- ✓ Editor's Workshop (January/February)
- ✓ Character Analysis (February)
- ✓ Short Stories (February)
- ✓ Thank-You Notes (March)
- ✓ Poetry and Music (interpretation) (March)

- ✓ Historical Writing (April)
- ✓ Class Story Writing (Fictional) (April/May)
- ✓ Portfolio Submissions (May)

### **Major Assignments:**

- ✓ Create-Your-Own “How To” Sheets (January)
- ✓ “Create a Character” (February)
- ✓ *Thank You Notes* for family (March)
- ✓ Personal Collection of Poems (March)
- ✓ *Back in Time Stories* (April)
- ✓ Collaborative story writing with Chebanse students (April/May)
- ✓ Portfolio (culminating project throughout the semester)

### **Grading:**

- ✓ Creative Writing grades are based on an accumulation of points throughout the semester.
- ✓ The point value for assignments will vary.
- ✓ Grading Scale – as stated in the Handbook: 92-100 A, 85-91 B, 77-84 C, 70-76 D, below 70 F.
- ✓ The semester breakdown is that 85% of your final grade is your quarter grade and 15% of your final grade is your exam grade.
- ✓ Grades are updated at least once a week. Parents and students can monitor their grades via Skyward.

### **Class Policies & Procedures:**

- ✓ It is up to the students to take care of any missing or late homework. The CHS late work and absent work policies (as stated in the Handbook) will be enforced. IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE OF LATE WORK AND ABSENT WORK.
- ✓ Pre-arranged absences can be tricky. Please be aware of the guidelines stated in the Handbook regarding pre-arranged absences, as they will be followed in this course. Unless it is an emergency situation, students are expected to turn in any work they will be missing AHEAD of time. If you have any questions about this policy, please feel free to contact me.
- ✓ The best way to alleviate any of these absence issues regarding homework and missing grades is to simply come to school!
- ✓ The class policies and procedures are best stated with three simple guidelines:
  - Please do not “pack up” when I am still teaching and/or other students are discussing. It is rude and distracting to all.
  - Please do not leave trash in the room (i.e. empty water bottles and gum wrappers).
  - Please be respectful to your classmates, your teacher, and yourself at all times.

### **Miscellaneous:**

Creative Writing is an elective. Because the majority of the work will be done in class, utilizing demonstrations, writing prompts, and partners, it is extremely important to be in attendance as often as possible.

**Instructor Contact:**

- ✓ The best way to get a hold of me is through email ([aclifton@cusd4.org](mailto:aclifton@cusd4.org)) as I check it multiple times throughout the day.
- ✓ I am also available before school (7:30am – 8:10am) and during my prep periods (see below) by appointment or a phone call (815-694-2321).
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Prep Periods: A Days, 8:15 – 9:45am, B Days, 9:50-11:15
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Prep Periods: Same as above