**Creative Writing Course Syllabus - 2014-2015**

**Class:** Creative Writing

**Length of Course:** Trimester (66-minute periods, meets daily)

**Course Overview:**

The creative writing class is designed to provide students with an opportunity to improve existing writing skills and take these skills to a new level using creative writing techniques and strategies. The students will be practicing various phases of the writing process every day, becoming actively engaged in prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. Students will also be actively reading and examining author styles to promote variation and effectiveness, while also identifying and strengthening their own unique style. An important part of the class consists of critiquing peer writing as well as one’s own writing in order to become craft conscious.

**Class Objectives:**

* To practice the writing process, understanding its importance and effectiveness for present and future writing tasks
* To participate actively and effectively in small group discussions and peer editing procedures
* To apply the basic techniques of creative writing to various genres for multiple purposes and

audiences

* To learn to think outside the box and then apply this concept to the writing process
* To have fun with writing!

**Expectations:**

1) Come to class with a 3-ring binder to be used as a separate writer’s notebook. Please no

“fringed” edges! Paper will be provided.

2) Come to class with a pencil, pen (black or blue ink only), and a highlighter!

3) Be organized! Your binder needs to be your storehouse for your prewriting and works in

progress!

4) Come prepared to think creatively, write confidently, and contribute cooperatively!

**Evaluation:**

**Category #1 - Participation Grade**

As you are expected to participate actively, to comment on others’ writings, and to receive feedback from others, you will receive a participation grade of 20 points each week of the trimester. Failure to be prepared with drafts or homework assignments or failure to engage in discussions/collaborative interactions with classmates will result in weekly participation grade reductions.

**Category #2 - Daily Assignments**

A large portion of your grade will consist of daily assignments, activities, rough drafts, final drafts, peer evaluations, and self-evaluations.

**Category #3 - Final Exam**

The final portion of your grade will be your Final Exam, which will constitute 20% of your overall grade.

**\*Note**: Late daily work is unacceptable as each day’s tasks are typically built around what you did the previous day in class or the previous evening at home. Late final drafts will be reduced by a full grade (10%) for each day that they are late.

**Sample List of Types of Resources:**

“How to Eat a Guava,” pp. 625-626 of *Elements of Literature* (from *Autobiography*)

“Starfish,” p. 476 of *Elements of Literature* (poem)

“The Giant Waterbug” by Annie Dillard (descriptive essay)

Excerpts from *Cold Tangerines* (novel)

“The Princess and the Tin Box” by James Thurber pp. 394-396 of *Elements of Literature* (ironic/satiric

fable)

“The Grandfather” by Gary Soto, pp. 431-433 of *Elements of Literature* (narrative essay)

“A Christmas Memory” by Truman Capote, pp. 63-72 of *Elements of Literature*

Excerpts from *Reader’s Digest*/Letters to the Editor/Other

*Writers Inc.- Write for College : A Student Handbook* - Sebranek, Patrick, Verna Meyer, and Dave

Kemper. Wilmington, Massachusetts: Houghton-Mifflin, 1997.

**List of Writing Assignments (Tentative):**

* Essay of Description/Observation
* Essay of Experience
* Essay of Classification
* Essay of Definition (emotion)
* Editorial (school-related issue)
* Formal Business Letter (letter of complaint)
* Poetry (haiku, cinquain, acrostic, free form)

* Short Story