



Essentials in Writing[®]

Where Students Learn to Write

Creative Writing Online Class

FA-23 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Ms. Athena Lester

Prerequisites: Any high school student (9th-12th grade, or 14-19 years old) may register for this course; however, it is best suited for students who have completed Level 9, Level 10, or Level 11 of Essentials in Writing or other fundamental composition curriculum. Students should already have at least intermediate mastery of English language mechanics, punctuation usage, and basic written communication skills. Additionally, students taking this course should enjoy writing creatively (fiction, poetry, non-academic nonfiction, etc).

Students in 8th grade or lower, or 13 years old or younger, are not permitted to take this class.

Contact Information

Email the instructor at alester@essentialsinwriting.com or send a Canvas message. Send any and all questions you have and feel free to contact the instructor if you wish to discuss/desire help with your creative writing projects.

Course Policies

1. The Creative Writing Online Course will be conducted using Canvas by Instructure.

- **Instruction**

This course utilizes both short text-based instruction and short video lessons *posted on Canvas*. Students must monitor their syllabus on their own so that they know when they are expected to read/watch a lesson.

- **Assignments**

This course requires file-submission assignments as well as participation in Discussion Posts. Students will be reminded of assignments, but students must monitor their syllabus on their own so that they know when they are expected to turn in an assignment.

All compositions must be submitted through Canvas and will receive feedback on Canvas.

Please do not email submissions; they will not be reviewed.

Specific instructions about how Canvas works will be sent prior to the first day of class.

2. For ease of reviewing and receiving feedback, all compositions must:

- be double spaced
- be typed in 12-point Times New Roman, Verdana, or Arial font
- have one-inch margins on all sides
- include the following information, in this order, at the top-left corner of the first page:
 - student's full name
 - student's grade level
 - the assignment they are writing for
 - the due date of the assignment
- include page numbers in the event of a multi-page submission

Canvas will only accept the following file extensions for submissions: .doc, .docx, .rtf, .pdf

3. All creative compositions submitted to this course must be “rated” G – PG-13.

Any compositions that do not comply to this rule may not be reviewed and may receive an automatic 0.

4. Students who plagiarize will receive an automatic 0 on the assignment.

Do NOT plagiarize (i.e., copy the work of someone else and present it as your own). Plagiarism is a serious issue that could result in your suspension or expulsion from schools and universities. Turning in an assignment that you wrote for another class is also considered plagiarism.

Class Times

Students do not meet at regularly scheduled class times. However, video/text posts are made by the instructor every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to teach the material and explain assignments. Assignments are due once or twice a week.

Class Dates

Fall 2023 (September 6th – December 15th)

Course Description

A course in creative writing that provides instruction and practice in short fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. Course requirements include critically analyzing published works of creative writing, weekly participation in class discussions, a critique of the work of fellow classmates, and submitting original creative works.

Compositions

At least 5 poems, 2 works of creative nonfiction, and 1 fully developed short story (with 5 optional compositions)

Class Itinerary

This course requires online interaction between the student, their peers, and the teacher through Canvas. In an online classroom, students will view/read instruction, submit assignments, and interact with their classmates through discussion. Students will learn the foundational concepts of

fiction and apply them in a semester project: **a two- to ten-thousand (2,000-10,000) word original short story**. Students will be required to turn in multiple drafts of their original short story throughout the semester for feedback and guidance. Additionally, students will write at least **five original poems**, compose **two works of creative nonfiction**, and **identify creative writing concepts in published works of fiction and poetry**. Extra credit assignments will give students **additional writing opportunities**. The instructor will be available through email and Canvas Monday-Friday.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 – Welcome and Semester Project Introduction

September 6 – Day 1 – Welcome

Watch Day 1 Video Lesson

Assignment: Discussion Post (Due: September 8, Day 2)

September 8 – Day 2 – Semester Project Introduction

*Watch Day 2 Video Lesson **and** Read Day 2 Text Lesson*

Assignment: Ideas for Semester Project (Due: September 11, Day 3)

Optional Assignment: Watch *Zootopia* film to prepare for class next week.

Week 2 – Identify Foundations of Fiction 1

September 11 – Day 3 – Characters and Conflict

Watch Day 3 Video Lesson

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: September 15, Day 5)

Optional Assignment: Conflict Short Fiction (Due: September 15, Day 5)

September 13 – Day 4 – Plot (3-Act Structure)

Watch Day 4 Video Lesson

September 15 – Day 5 – Fiction Identify Assignment #1

Watch Day 5 Video Lesson

Assignment: Identify Character, Conflict, and Plot Worksheet (Due: September 18, Day 6)

Week 3 – Apply Foundations of Fiction 1

September 18 – Day 6 – Your Turn: Character, Conflict, Plot

Watch Day 6 Video Lesson

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: September 22, Day 8)

Assignment: Apply Character, Conflict, and Plot Worksheet (Due: September 22, Day 8)

September 20 – Day 7 – Writing Advice

Read Day 7 Text Lesson

September 22 – Day 8 – Assignment Due

Watch Day 8 Video Lesson

Assignment: Draft #1 of Semester Project (Due: October 16, Day 18)

Week 4 – Nonfiction: Personal Narrative

September 25 – Day 9 – Personal Narrative

Watch Day 9 Video Lesson

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: September 29, Day 11)

Assignment: Personal Narrative (Due: October 2, Day 12)

September 27 – Day 10 – Voice and Tone

Read Day 10 Text Lesson

September 29 – Day 11 – [nothing]

Continue working on Nonfiction Assignment and Semester Project

Week 5 – Identify Properties of Poetry 1

October 2 – Day 12 – Sound Devices and Figurative Language

Watch Day 12 Video Lesson

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: October 6, Day 14)

Optional Assignment: Sound Device Poem(s) (Due: October 6, Day 14)

October 4 – Day 13 – Example Poems

Watch Day 13 Video Lesson

October 6 – Day 14 – Poetry Identify Assignment #1

Read Day 14 Text Lesson

Assignment: Identify Sound Devices and Figurative Language Worksheet
(Due: October 9, Day 15)

Week 6 – Apply Properties of Poetry 1

October 9 – Day 15 – Your Turn: Sound Devices and Figurative Language

Watch Day 15 Video Lesson

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: October 13, Day 17)

Assignment: 2 poems [≥ 16 lines] with figurative language and sound devices
(Due: October 13, Day 17)

October 11 – Day 16 – Writing Advice

Read Day 16 Text Lesson

October 13 – Day 17 – Assignment Due

Watch Day 17 Video Lesson

Week 7 – Identify Foundations of Fiction 2

October 16 – Day 18 – Setting and Point of View

Watch Day 18 Video Lesson

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: October 20, Day 20)

Optional Assignment: Setting Short Fiction (Due: October 20, Day 20)

DUE: DRAFT #1 OF SEMESTER PROJECT BY 11:59 PM (CST) ON OCTOBER 16

October 18 – Day 19 – Setting Examples

Watch Day 19 Video Lesson

October 20 – Day 20 – Fiction Identify Assignment #2

Read Day 20 Text Lesson

Assignment: Identify Point of View and Setting Worksheet (Due: October 23, Day 21)

Week 8 – Apply Foundations of Fiction 2

October 23 – Day 21 – Your Turn: Setting and Point of View

Watch Day 21 Video Lesson

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: October 27, Day 23)

Assignment: Apply Point of View and Setting Worksheet (Due: October 27, Day 23)

October 25 – Day 22 – Writing Advice

Read Day 22 Text Lesson

October 27 – Day 23 – Assignment Due

Watch Day 23 Video Lesson

Assignment: Draft #2 of Semester Project (Due: November 15, Day 31)

Week 9 – Identify Properties of Poetry 2

October 30 – Day 24 – Meter and Free Verse

Watch Day 24 Video Lesson

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: November 3, Day 26)

Optional Assignment: Metered Poem(s) (Due: November 3, Day 26)

November 1 – Day 25 – Example Poems

Watch Day 25 Video Lesson

November 3 – Day 26 – Poetry Identify Assignment #2

Read Day 26 Text Lesson [continued on next page]

Assignment: Identify Meter (Scanning) Worksheet (Due: November 6, Day 27)

Week 10 – Apply Properties of Poetry 2

November 6 – Day 27 – Your Turn: Meter and Free Verse

Watch Day 27 Video Lesson

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: November 10, Day 29)

Assignment: 1 metered and 1 free verse poem [≥ 16 lines] (Due: November 10, Day 29)

November 8 – Day 28 – Writing Advice

Read Day 28 Text Lesson

November 10 – Day 29 – Assignment Due

Watch Day 29 Video Lesson

Week 11 – Peer Review

November 13 – Day 30 – Peer Review

Watch Day 30 Video Lesson

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: November 17, Day 32)

Assignment: Peer Review of Semester Project Draft #2 (Due: November 17, Day 32)

DUE: DRAFT #2 OF SEMESTER PROJECT BY 11:59 PM (CST) ON NOVEMBER 13

November 15 – Day 31 – [nothing]

Work on Peer Review

November 17 – Day 32 – Writing Advice and Assignment Due

Read Day 32 Text Lesson

Continue working on Peer Review and submit

Optional: Start working on the Final Draft of Semester Project

Week 12 – Nonfiction: Opinion Piece [AMERICAN THANKSGIVING WEEK]

November 20 – Day 33 – Opinion Piece

Watch Day 33 Video Lesson

Assignment: Opinion Piece (Due: November 27, Day 36)

November 22 – Day 34 – Academic Writing vs Creative Writing

Read Day 34 Text Lesson

November 24 – Day 35 – [nothing]

Continue working on Nonfiction Assignment and Semester Project

Week 13 – Finalize Semester Project

November 27 – Day 36 – Finalize Semester Project

Watch Day 36 Video Lesson

Assignment: Final Draft of Semester Project (Due: December 1, Day 38)

November 29 – Day 37 – [nothing; finalize Semester Project]

December 1 – Day 38 – Semester Project Due

Read Day 38 Text Lesson

DUE: FINAL DRAFT OF SEMESTER PROJECT BY 11:59 PM (CST) ON DECEMBER 1

Week 14 – Identify and Apply Properties of Poetry 3

December 4 – Day 39 – Special Forms

Watch Day 39 Video Lesson

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: December 8, Day 41)

Assignment: A Sonnet or Villanelle (Due: December 8, Day 41)

December 6 – Day 40 – Example Poems

Watch Day 40 Video Lesson

December 8 – Day 41 – Assignment Due

Read Day 41 Text Lesson

Week 15 – Final Week

December 11 – Day 42 – Discussion

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: December 13, Day 43)

December 13 – Day 43 – Discussion

Assignment: Discussion Post and Responses (Due: December 15, Day 44)

December 15 – Day 44 – Final Class – Semester Projects Returned

Watch Day 44 Video Lesson