

Creative Writing Curriculum

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD

Course Overview:

The Creative Writing course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the major genres of fiction and nonfiction while giving them the opportunity to develop versatility as a writer. Within each genre, students will be presented with the rhetorical tools of the genre and have the opportunity to experiment with the genre's forms and structures. A necessary part of the creative course involves reading and studying model texts through the lens of the writer seeking to master the craft of writing. All students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the recursive nature of the writing process, effectively applying the conventions of usage and the mechanics of written English. The students' evaluation of their own writing as well as the writing of others ensures that students completing this course are able to analyze and discuss published and unpublished pieces of writing, develop peer and self-assessments for effective writing, and set their own goals as writers.

Creative Writing TEKS

The Creative Writing TEKS will not be listed under separate units. Instead, they will be incorporated into all the units since the nature of the course is a recursive process of reading, writing, revising, and editing one's own work as well as the work of other students.

CW.1A – G, CW.2A – G, CW.3A – C, CW.4A – C

Grading Expectations

Check for Understanding <i>Minimum 1 per week</i>	Relevant Application <i>Minimum 2 per grading period</i>	Summative Assessment <i>Minimum 3 per grading period</i>
Brief assignments designed to assess students' understanding of small content chunks	Assignments designed to reflect critical thinking or writing processes	Longer assignments designed to assess TEKS course standards for a unit or multiple units
20%	30%	50%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response to reading• Experimentation with literary genres and forms• Focused writing (i.e. writing dialogue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rough draft or parts of a the writing process• Peer reviews• Revision of drafts• Small project over concept covered in current unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit tests• Major projects• Final drafts• Recital/performance of writing

Lesson Cycle

In the creative writing course, students should spend chunks of time reading exemplar pieces of writing in the applicable genre and examining aspects of the author's craft in that genre. After reading, teachers should lead discussions and/or activities that explore why and how an author crafted a particular element, give students an opportunity to try the studied craft move, and finally, to revise, edit, and polish drafts for submission to the class.

The lesson cycle in the creative writing class should generally go as follows:

1. Learn an aspect of writer's craft
2. Read exemplars of the craft move and/or genre
3. Write within parameters specified by the teacher
4. Work through the revision process
5. Share with peers for critique and constructive criticism via a structured workshopping method
6. Select work(s) to polish and share with the class for culminating assessment

Scope & Sequence

FIRST SEMESTER

UNITS	Writing Terminology & Craft Skills	Culminating Assessment
Unit 1: Personal Narrative & Memoir 3 weeks August 13 – September 5	Personal narrative Memoir Biography Autobiography Epistle Elements of story Rhetorical Strategies Revising & editing skills	At the end of this unit, students may write: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal narrative essay or any of its subforms (memoir essay, gastronomical essay, fictional narrative, humorous essay, nature essay, or travel essay) • College application essay
Unit 2: Poetry 4 weeks September 8 – October 3	Classic and contemporary examples of types and forms of poetry Elements of structure & form Prosody Use of figurative language in poetry	At the end of this unit, students will create a poetry portfolio that contains a collection of poems written in the style(s) and form(s) specified by the instructor.
Unit 3: Short Fiction 4 weeks October 6 – 31	Genres of short fiction Characters in short fiction Dialogue Setting Point of View Structure Use of figurative language in short fiction Tone Theme Fiction-writing research	At the end of this unit, students will write a short story and/or a piece(s) of flash fiction.
Unit 4: Novel 5 weeks November 5 – December 18	Instructors will continue to reference and teach skills from Unit 3, as needed, within the genre of the novel. <u>Additional terms and writing skills:</u> Novel Novella Prologue Epilogue Archetypes Scene Frame story Narrative pace Parenthetical observation Subplot	At the end of this unit, students will produce one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novel (in any form approved by the instructor) • Novel excerpt (specified word count) • Novella • Graphic novel

	Storyboarding or plot graph	
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SECOND SEMESTER		
UNITS	Writing Terminology & Craft Skills	Culminating Assessment
Unit 5: Drama & Scriptwriting 5 weeks January 6 – February 6	Genres of drama Characters in drama Dialogue Setting Point of View Structure Use of figurative language in drama Tone Theme	At the end of this unit, students will produce one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play • Screenplay • One-act play
Unit 6: Editorial Writing 4 weeks February 9 – March 6	Methods of brainstorming Research skills Rhetorical situation Rhetorical strategies	At the end of this unit, students will write one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural criticism • Art Review of one of the following: book, restaurant, film, music, TV show, performer, theater performance, video game, art, architecture, fashion, or dance • Op Ed • TED Talk Reviews or cultural criticisms may be in a genre and form chosen by the student and approved by the course instructor.
Unit 7: Science-fiction & Fantasy 5 weeks March 16 – April 17	Instructors will continue to reference and teach skills from Units 3 – 5, as needed, within the scope of this unit. <u>Additional terms and writing skills:</u> Genres of science-fiction and fantasy Elements of fantasy fiction Elements of science-fiction Elements of dystopian fiction	At the end of this unit, students will write a piece in the genre of their choosing (short fiction, novel/novella, screenplay, or drama) within one of the subgenres of fantasy or science-fiction.
Unit 8: Publishing & Major Project 5 weeks April 20 – May 28	Instructors will reference and re-teach skills as necessary from Units 1 – 7 as they apply to students' passion projects. <u>Elements of Publishing:</u> Types of publishing: self vs. traditional Publishing houses Finding agents Setting career goals Literary magazines Building an author's platform Blogging, social media, and marketing Writing careers	At the end of this unit, students will write a piece or create a portfolio of works in a previously-studied genre of their choosing, or in a genre approved by the course instructor.