

William A. Shine—Great Neck South High School
Course Expectation Sheet

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

COURSE: Creative Writing

(Revised 06/26)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course students will read and analyze nonfiction, fiction, and poetry with the intention of assembling their own “writer’s toolbox.” This class is organized as a writers’ workshop, meaning most periods will be dedicated to the writing process (journaling, drafting, conferencing, revising, editing). The writing done for this class will be shared with classmates for comments and critiques. From focused lessons, model texts, and authors’ writings on writing, students will acquire a vocabulary of techniques and terminology for thinking about, critically discussing, and producing all kinds of writing. Written assignments may include short stories, flash fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, drama, hybrid writing, letters, speeches.

By the end of the course, students will learn to silence the inner critics, develop a writing process that fits their needs and purposes, establish reliable routines and techniques to tap into their creativity, and produce a portfolio of polished works worthy of publication.

GRADES

Students will be evaluated on the basis of their own efforts and demonstrated progress. Grades will be determined by assessments, assignments, revisions, attendance, conferences, participation, and timeliness of submitted work. These will include, but are not limited to, quizzes, tests, projects, presentations, homework, classwork, proof of the writing process, and final drafts. Please familiarize yourself with the following department-wide assessment policies:

- Major tests will be given on English testing day. Other assessments may be given any day.
- It is the responsibility of absent students to arrange a time to make up missed work and tests.
- Students with unexcused absences will not be entitled to make up assignments or exams missed during that period.
- Students will be responsible for all assignments on the date they are due unless prior arrangements have been approved by the teacher.
- All unapproved late submission of work will be penalized by reduction in grade.

EXTRA HELP

Students are encouraged to attend extra help sessions on the day before English testing day.

WRITING CONFERENCES

Writing conferences provide students with the opportunity to discuss and improve their writing. Each student is expected to schedule appointments at a time that is mutually convenient for both

student and teacher. Students may not absent themselves from another class in order to attend a writing conference.

ATTENDANCE

According to the school's attendance policy, excessive absences will result in parental notification, a negative impact on the course grade, and in some cases will result in a loss of course credit.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

"Today...we have contraptions like computers that cheat you out of becoming. Bill Gates says, 'Wait till you can see what your computer can become.' But it's you who should be doing the becoming, not the...fool computer. What you can become is the miracle you were born to be through the work that you do."

~Kurt Vonnegut, *A Man without a Country*, 2005

This course invites you to tap into, explore, and share your creativity. We are interested in what you can do, not what AI can do for you.

Plagiarism involves passing off someone's work (including another student's work, an online source, or AI-generated writing) as one's own. When students submit work that is not their own, they will receive no credit for that work and will have no opportunity to make up that work. Students who willingly share their work with others (outside the specific purposes of reviewing, revising, critiquing, and editing during writing workshops) are also subject to penalty.