

St. Augustine High School

Creative Writing

2007-2008

Teacher: Mrs. Patricia Castillo Room: 114
E-Mail: School Number: 724-8131
Planning Period: By Appointment before/after school

As your teacher, I see myself as the facilitator, here to help the students to succeed. People succeed when they know what is expected of them and are provided with proper resources and support. The information below is intended to help you succeed in this course. I suggest saving this paper so you can refer to it through out the year. If you require any clarification, please do not hesitate to ask me at any time.

Course Description

This course provides students opportunities to develop both academically and creatively as writers, so they will be prepared to succeed in their future educational years. This is an ideal environment for students to polish their writing skills and learn to communicate in a proficient and engaging manner. Additionally, this class should be a place that is inviting and comfortable without losing the sense of adventure and spontaneity. Throughout this semester, this class will become a safe place for students to share their thoughts, feelings, and work.

Required Materials

Binder (including the spiral notebook), pens and paper should also be brought to class.

Binder should include tabs for the following: *Notes, Class Work, Tests/Quizzes, and References*

Attendance Policy

(As per student handbook)

The school day begins promptly at 7:55 A.M., and ends at 3:08 P.M. The school year consists of 180 instructional days.

When a student is absent from school, a parent should call the office by 8:00AM each day of the absence. Teachers are not required to give make-up tests or assignments for absences due to vacations. No assignment will be given in anticipation of the vacation.

Grading Policy

Tests/ Quizzes.....60%
Classwork/Homework.....40%

Note: Every late assignment will have points deducted. Make up work will only be accepted for excused absences.

Criteria for Written Work

Students must write in their best English possible at all times. Assignments should always be written using complete sentences. Although the clarity of written expression of ideas will be one of the main objectives of written work, students should use correct grammar, spelling, and proper mechanics at all times (unless otherwise specified).

Quizzes and Tests

Quizzes may be announced or unannounced. This is a good way to make sure that students are doing their assigned reading.

Tests will always be announced and will be on our testing date. This year Reading will be testing on Wednesdays. Students will only be able to make up one test at 100% if they are absent on a testing date. After a student has spent this option, all other make up tests will be graded starting at 80%. This is to encourage that student absenteeism on test day is minimal.

Make-up Work

Students who are absent will get the number of days absent to make up their work. Athletes who miss due to school competitions will receive three days to turn in missed work at full credit. After this allotted time, athletes will be subject to the late work policy. It is the responsibility of all students to come before or after school to get their missed work.

All work that is turned in after the tardy bell will be considered late and in turn the student will be deducted 20 points automatically and will not have the opportunity to turn in homework in the tray. Homework then must be given directly to the teacher with a written explanation of the reason for the tardiness.

Plagiarism

Cheating results in an automatic zero grade with no possibility for make-up work.

Course Calendar

Poetry: This unit concentrates on reading various forms of poetry as models for the students own poetic writing. In this unit, poems, articles, and visual media will be utilized. Students will learn and implement literary devices (simile, metaphor, etc), sound devices (ex. Alliteration).

Short Story: This unit covers writing the short story and implementing various literary techniques in writing. Students will learn and use setting, characterization, and plot structure, along with other literary elements in short story writing.

Nature and Environment Non-fiction: This unit explores a variety of writing in essay form and other non-fiction forms (ex. Memoir, diary).