

Mr. Curry

Intro to Creative Writing

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Intro to Creative Writing Syllabus

“Poetry, I feel, is a tyrannical discipline. You've got to go so far so fast in such a small space; you've got to burn away all the peripherals.” – Sylvia Plath

“Fiction is one of the few experiences where loneliness can be both confronted and relieved. Drugs, movies where stuff blows up, loud parties — all these chase away loneliness by making me forget my name’s Dave and I live in a one-by-one box of bone no other party can penetrate or know. Fiction, poetry, music, really deep serious sex, and, in various ways, religion — these are the places where loneliness is countenanced, stared down, transfigured, treated.”- David Foster Wallace

This course is meant to spark your literary interests, talents, and inclinations, so that you can walk away with a clearer image of who you are – or rather, who you might be – as a writer. This applies to everyone, from those who might have never written before, to those who are fairly decided on their preferred forms of writing, and everyone in between. You will read a fair amount of short stories and poems and then write your own. You will critique the works of your classmates, and help one another on this path of self-discovery and skill improvement. And if you enjoy the crafts of fiction and poetry, rest assured: you will have a great time.

Texts and Materials: All readings will be printed out and provided.

Class Structure:

Mondays-Wednesdays: are For fiction workshops, we will discuss three works of fiction. For poetry workshops, we will discuss five poems.

Thursday & Friday: we will work on crafts. This will involve discussing readings, talking stories, poems, and all sorts of other narrative forms. We will watch videos of interviews and readings. It will be a cool and relaxed discussion that you will enjoy, so long as you're interested.

Course Structure and Grading:

In-class Discussions & Workshops – 40% - Submissions (20%): You are required to submit one short story, and five poems throughout the semester, to be workshopped in class. Weekly Critique (20%): You are required to critique the work of your classmate, read it, and annotate it.

Policies:

- Timeliness: Please respect your classmates and be on time. If you are more than fifteen minutes late to class, you will be considered absent. And if you are in a habit of arriving late quite frequently, it will add up to an absence.

- Format: All submitted work, except for poems, must be size 12 font, with one-inch margins.

- Technology: Because our class will revolve around conversation, it is detrimental to have laptops/phones open in front of us while we talk to one another. No laptops/phones allowed.

- Late Submissions: I will not accept any late reading responses. For this reason, I will allow three missed responses throughout the semester

Final Portfolio: Along with your final essay, you are to submit one rewrite of a poem, and a rewrite of your story, with the help of the critique you received in class.

Rewriting/editing is arguably the most important skill a writer must have. If you don't know what this means, don't worry, it will be explained in class.

Return for 5 extra points

Student Signature_____

Parent Signature_____