

Syllabus

Creative Writing

Course Overview

This one-semester elective course is intended as a practical, hands-on guide to help you learn and sharpen your skills as a creative writer.

The course is structured into lessons and course activities as follows:

- The first lesson describes the process of and motivations for creative writing and answers basic questions about creative writing. (“What makes for a budding creative writer?” “What strengths should I build on to become one?” “Where should I look for ideas?”). You will learn about the scope of creative writing and its genres.
- The second lesson focuses on the personal essay and travel writing—two forms of non-fiction. Besides learning about desirable attributes in these two sub-genres, you’ll try your hand at writing diaries and speeches. You will also record a short speech for self-review and revision.
- The next four lessons look at prose and poetry and explore the elements of fiction: plot, setting, and characterization. In the course activities that follow, you’ll get to write a full length short story, as well as a chapter from a novel of your own imagination. You will also learn about the poetry writing process and try your hand at a few poetic forms.
- In the next three lessons, you’ll look at writing for stage, film, and TV. You’ll learn about theatrical and film techniques, as well as technical effects that are typically used in electronic media. Learning about plot and character-creation techniques will help you write a play of your own in the following course activity.
- The next three lessons take you through writing for younger audiences, for advertising, and journalism. You’ll get to write a news editorial as well as an editorial review of a book or film.
- The last lesson introduces you to the publishing industry—the way it works and the way you should approach it. You will also learn about marketing and promotion planning for your work.

At key points in this course, you will get to assess your own original writing (either through self-review against a set of guidelines or by a peer) and revise it before submission to the instructor. You will notice that extended writing tasks are typically *planned for* in the lesson activity and actually *written* in the course activity that follows.

This is a writing intensive course. You will spend about 60 percent of your time doing original writing, reviewing, and rewriting. You will do a good deal of your original writing in the course activities.

You will submit the Course Activity documents to your teacher, and you will grade your work in the Lesson Activities by comparing them with sample responses. Each lesson also has a multiple-choice mastery test. A multiple-choice end-of-semester test completes the course.

The Course Activities (submitted to the teacher) and the Lesson Activities (self-checked) are major components of this course.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will have done the following:

- Understood the scope and impact of creative writing, and its various genres and sub genres
- Written a short story, part of a novel, select forms of poetry, a one act play, and a short work of fiction for children
- Written a personal essay, op-ed, and journalism review
- Learned how to receive and incorporate feedback about your writing
- Read some great works of literature
- Learned how to ideate and plan for your writing
- Appreciated and applied the creative power of the English language
- Written in response to various stimuli
- Appreciated the power of the audience in shaping writing
- Figured out a process for writing that works specifically for you

Prerequisite Skills

Creative Writing is a higher level elective, aimed at Grade 12 students. It is assumed that the student has completed English 11 and is concurrently taking English 12 or its equivalent.

These fundamental skills, interests, and aptitudes will be helpful:

- The power to experiment with the language
- A keen interest in reading, both fiction and non fiction
- Imaginative powers
- The ability to understand people, and imagine their thoughts and motivations
- Ideation and research skills
- Ability to take constructive criticism

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

Creative Writing is a 1-credit course.

Course Materials

- Notebook
- Presentation software
- Computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you stay on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Day	Activity / Objective	Type
1 day: 1	Course Orientation <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Orientation
3 days: 2-4	What Is Creative Writing? <i>Describe the scope, sources, and genres of creative writing and the motivations for the same.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 5-7	Personal Narratives <i>Produce various forms of personal essays, including writing about self and place, and writing to persuade.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 8-11	Personal Essays	Course Activity
1 day: 12	Writing About Self	Course Discussion
3 days: 13-15	The Short Story—I <i>Discuss key elements of the short story, including plot, structure, characterization, and style.</i>	Lesson
3 day: 16-18	The Short Story—II <i>Demonstrate the use and importance of narrative, dialogue, narrative techniques and various literary techniques in writing prose in the short form.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 19-22	Writing a Short Story	Course Activity
1 day: 23	Short Stories	Course Discussion
1 day: 24	Space Jumble	Game
3 days: 25-27	Writing Long Prose <i>Demonstrate the importance and use of fundamental elements of long-form prose, such as plot, setting, theme, and characterization.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 28-31	Writing Long Prose	Course Activity

1 day: 32	Long Prose	Course Discussion
3 days: 33-35	Forms and Techniques and Poetry <i>Demonstrate the use of fundamental techniques and forms of poetry.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 36-39	Writing Poetry	Course Activity
1 day 40	Poetry	Course Discussion
4 days: 41	Para Jumble	Game
4 days: 42-44	Writing for Theater—I <i>Demonstrate an understanding of various forms and fundamental techniques of writing for theater.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 45-48	Outlining a Play	Course Activity
1 day: 49	Theater	Course Discussion
3 days 50-52	Writing for Theater—II <i>Demonstrate the use of production techniques and temporal techniques in writing for theater.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 53-56	Writing a Play	Course Activity
1 day: 57	Theater Revisited	Course Discussion
1 day 58	Space Jumble	Game
2 days: 59-60	Writing for Feature Films and Television <i>Apply techniques for various forms of written works, for both film and television.</i>	Lesson
2 days: 61-62	Writing for Young Audiences <i>Demonstrate the scope and impact of writing for younger audiences.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 63-66	Writing for Young Audiences	Course Activity
1 day: 67	Writing for Young Audiences	Course Discussion

1 day: 68	Space Jumble	Game
2 days: 69-70	Writing for Advertising <i>Write advertising campaigns for various media, given a creative brief.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 71-73	Writing for Journalism <i>Produce various forms of journalistic nonfiction, including reviews, essays, and business articles.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 74-78	Journalistic Writing	Course Activity
1 day: 79	Journalism	Course Discussion
3 days: 80-82	Making It Big: Getting Noticed and Getting Published <i>Outline the working of the publishing industry, including roles played by various entities, especially editors, agents, retail chains, and marketers.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 83-86	The Publishing Industry	Course Activity
1 day: 87	Trying to Get Published	Course Discussion
1 day: 88	Para Jumble	Game
1 day: 89	Course Review	Course Review
1 day: 90	End of Course Test	Assessment