*Writing is a great and precious freedom. We are free to discover*

*what we know about the human animal, to reaffirm our belief that we are not alone,*

*to explore the beautiful complications of the human spirit...and no one can stop us.*

*~Monica Wood~*

Jessica L Hovey

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**B Days,** Room 200

2nd Block: (M,Th) 9:53am-11:08am

(T, W, F) 10:03am-11:28am

**Course Description**

In this course, students develop their creative and expressive writing skills.  Exercises and assignments in each of the main literary genres—creative non-fiction, poetry, fiction, and drama—will help students discover their voice and tone while expanding vocabulary, building awareness of audience, and refining flow, context, meaning, and sentence variation.  Creative writing will promote critical thinking and help students refine communication skills which will aid students in writing more interesting essays, enhance their success in other classes, set them apart in college applications, and as they continue on in the world of academia.

**Learning and Language Objectives**

(Adapted from Minnesota State Standards)

Through creative thinking, examination of literature, writing exercises, and creation of original works , students will be able to . . .

* produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.
* plan, draft, revise, edit and rewrite to develop and strengthen writing.
* write well-developed narrative, poetry, drama, and fiction, using affective technique, details, and structure.
* analyze, discuss and evaluate works of others and use critical thinking skills in discussion and journal responses.
* develop their unique voice and tone in writing to create original and compelling creative and narrative texts.

**Required Texts & Materials:**

-writing journal for brainstorming, writing exercises, and reading responses

-laptop (ONLY when needed in class)

**-3-ring binder** (for essays and handouts)

**Recommended:** a good college dictionary

Please bring texts to class on the days they are assigned.

**Creative Writing vs. Revision vs. Copy-Editing**

In this class we focus on the production of creative ideas and the development of those ideas into clear and coherent works of writing. This will, of course, take some revising. Through the revising process we will work on concept and sentence fluency; through individual, paired, group work, and conferences, we will look at your writing and determine what it needs to be a truly enjoyable, cogent, well-written piece. We will, of course, also work to eliminate grammar and spelling errors through careful proof reading (sometimes referred to as copy-editing), the last step in the revision process before your work goes to print.

**Academic Honesty**

Presenting another person’s words or thoughts as your own is illegal and unacceptable in academic writing. In this course we will discuss how to quote, document, summarize and paraphrase sources, and I will expect you to use sources responsibly. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a 0 for the task. Repeat offenses will result in a failing grade for the course.

**Attendance**

Every student’s contributions are valued and important to the success of this class. Expect to attend each class meeting prepared to participate fully in discussion and exercises. Skipping class or failing to prepare will lower your grade. Should an emergency situation arise, contact me as early as possible.

**Conferences**

I will meet with each of you twice during the semester to look over current assignments and review your progress. These conferences are required and a significant part of your class participation grade. I am always happy to meet with you before or after school.

**In-Class Writing**

I will assign many in-class exercises and writing assignments. These should be written in your writing journal or notebook, which I will collect throughout the semester. If you have to miss a day for illness or other reasons, I encourage you to get the exercises from other students and try them yourself at home. However, there is no substitute for being present.

**Essays/Writing Topics**

In addition to writing exercises, daily free-writing, and reading responses, you will also have three major writing assignments this semester.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Assignment Due** |
| Tuesday, October 8 | Fiction: Rough Draft Due |
| **Tuesday, October 22** | **Fiction: Final Draft Due** |
| Wednesday, November 13 | Drama: Rough Draft Due |
| **Thursday, November 21** | **Drama: Final Draft Due** |
| Monday, December 9 | Poetry: Rough Draft Due |
| **Tuesday, December 17** | **Poetry: Final Draft Due** |
| **Wednesday, January 8** | **Final Portfolio Due** |

**Assignments**

All assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. Grades will be lowered 10% each day an assignment is late. An assignment turned in more than five minutes after the start of class will be considered one day late. If you are absent or ill, please make arrangements to get your assignment in to me before the start of class on the due date.

Rough drafts and evaluations should be turned in with your papers.

**Final Portfolio**

For the end of the term, you will create a portfolio of your work. It will demonstrate your progress throughout the semester and will include drafts, papers, revisions and a cover letter. In order to complete the portfolio, you will have to SAVE EVERYTHING you write for this class.

**Grading**

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Class Participation, including conferences, exercises,

discussions, and work with your peers: 20%

Writing journals and reading responses: 20%

Major writing assignments (10% each): 40%

Final Portfolio: 20%

**Grade Scale**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A+  A  A- | 97-100%  94-96%  90-93% | B+  B  B- | 87-89%  84-86%  80-83% | C+  C  C- | 77-79%  74-76%  70-73% | D+  D  D- | 67-69%  64-66%  60-63% | F | 0-59% |

*Close the door. Write with no one looking over your shoulder. Don’t try to figure out what other people want to hear from you; figure out what you have to say. It’s the one and only thing you have to offer.*

*~Barbara Kingsolver~*

*The man who has no imagination has no wings.*

*~Muhammad Ali~*