

Creative Writing 2011-2012

Instructor: Lilianna Serbicki lmmeldrum@gmail.com

Level: This course can be viewed as either an Intermediate or pre-AP level English class. It's primary intention is to give students interested in creative writing the opportunity to work with a professional writer. This course could even be taken concurrently with AP English Language or Literature.

Readiness: 9th -12th grade

Web-ex Lectures/Discussions: Live sessions will be held on designated weekday afternoons per student/teacher schedules. Other course lessons will be recorded and available for students to play back at their convenience. Individual tutorials will be offered at a time mutually agreeable to both student and instructor.

Description:

This course is intended to be an intense series of readings and exercises that explore many aspects of the writing craft. All of the genres and forms included are categories featured in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards (<http://www.artandwriting.org/>). By the end of the course, students will have worked towards building a vibrant and varied writing portfolio they can submit to Scholastic and/or other contests. This class will also give students the opportunity to develop skills that will help them succeed in both AP English Language and AP English Literature.

The first section of the class will focus on *elements* of literature such as plot, characterization, point of view, symbolism, and dialogue. Reading assignments will focus on specific elements which the students will explore in the accompanying writing assignments.

The second section of the class will focus on *genre and form*. Reading assignments will focus on specific genres and/or forms of writing, such as realism, fantasy, creative non-fiction, poetry, and drama. Written assignments will help students develop versatility as well as a portfolio with a wide breadth.

Each week will include:

- One to four reading assignments, depending on length and focus
- A writing assignment (or a section of a larger project)
- Active discussion in the online class forum of both assigned AND peer writing.

The final weeks will include an individual project. Students will have two choices:

1. Choose ONE to TWO previous assignments to expand on. Number will be decided through discussion with me.
2. Choose a previous week's theme/genre to focus on and create an entirely new writing project. This may involve more than one individual piece.

Both of these options help to hone the student's total writing portfolio. Submission of one or more pieces to Scholastic or another contest (or publication) will be a key experience of the course.

Authors may include but are not limited to:

Ernest Hemingway

Dylan Thomas

Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Flannery O'Connor

James Joyce

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Guy de Maupassant

Katherine Mansfield

Willa Cather

John Updike

Kurt Vonnegut

Ursula K. LeGuin

Nathaniel Hawthorne

T.S. Eliot

Margaret Atwood

Robert Browning

William Shakespeare

W. B. Yeats

Matthew Arnold

Sylvia Plath

E. E. Cummings

Tennessee Williams

Course Length: 34 weeks. Class begins week of August 29, 2011.

Tuition: \$550

Communications: Course instruction occurs through e-mail, class forums, and live chats. I will also post podcasts and video as needed. I will be available to students through AIM, gmail, and Skype.

Technical needs: Google Account, high speed Internet and an e-mail account that

accepts large files.

Time Commitment: Students should expect to spend 5-8 hours per week on this class.

Class Meeting Time: Students will not meet at a scheduled time, but all writing assignments are due weekly (or bi-weekly, depending on the section) via email.

Required Texts:

- The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction, Seventh Edition (ISBN: 978-0393926118)
- Various online texts (most poetry will be found online)
- The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

Instructor Qualifications:

I am a 2009 graduate (Magna Cum Laude) of Franciscan University of Steubenville with a BA in Communication Arts and a Minor in Philosophy. My last two years of school, I served as the Editor-in-Chief of FUS' literary magazine. I'm currently the Web/Sales Coordinator at WTOV9 News in Steubenville, OH, where my activities include coordinating web ad traffic, designing and writing copy for web ads and creating effective, memorable commercial scripts. I have experience in writing, editing, and proofreading both fiction and nonfiction, including creative fiction, non-fiction articles, commercial scripts, and ad copy. My other current creative projects include managing an online writing forum and editing a collection of short stories in preparation for seeking publication.

Note from Debra: Lili is a former student of mine who was not only a perennial winner of Scholastic Writing Awards at our homeschool co-op; but also, an outstanding student in all other categories. Her parents, who also teach online, are professional artists with M.F.A.'s from Yale. I know any budding writer will be nurtured and challenged by Lili's creative vision and teaching skills. I am thrilled to have her join our staff.