**Creative Writing - Course Outline**

Instructors: Paul Morris and Christopher Johnson

Course: Creative Writing

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Classroom: 416

Greetings! I hope you all are ready for a new semester.

First off, let me explain something hugely important. I will not be the only teacher for this class. Mr. Johnson will also be your instructor for the first half of the semester. He’s currently finishing up his Master’s program at Coastal Carolina University. You don’t know it yet, but you’ll be teaching him a lot of what to expect for his career. **Treat him like you would any other teacher… only better.**

Secondly, we will have a permanent laptop cart in this room. And once we have it, we will be using laptops almost every day.

And in using these computers, many of the ways we will be learning in here will be new to you.

Our writing practices will include variety of things like: daily free writing, personal essays, blogging and online discussion. We will be using **Google Classroom** for a large majority of classwork. It will likely be intimidating at first for some of you, but I guarantee you will become experts quickly. It’s my goal that by the end of the year, you will have command over both your words and technology in ways you couldn’t have imagined.

Each day, we will be sharing some “good things.” Each and every one of you should come to class **everyday** ready for a positive experience. And while the events in our lives can often lead us toward negativity, we must ensure that our classroom is an open and positive environment for everyone.

**Rules:**

School wide cellphone policy will be enforced. **You will know when you will be able to use your cellphone.** All calls must be made from the front office. I promise you, we will spend plenty of time learning to use social and digital media. So while you cannot text in class, we will be blogging and chatting online frequently.

Most of you know that Mr. Morris can handle a joke. But there’s a fine line between edgy and offensive. Whether it’s digital, spoken, or written, we must all respect each other. Any disrespect towards myself or your peers will be dealt with immediately. Above and beyond anything else, this means valuing each other’s personal space and property, including mine.

Excessive class time missed from trips to the rest room must be made up. Tardies will be recorded and dealt with appropriately.

During the first full week of class, each class will develop their own rules and write them within a social contract. This contract will be displayed both IRL and in our Google Classroom.

**Assignments:**

Lesson plans, due dates, assignments, homework, and documents will be **provided on our Google Classroom.**

There are two links to the Google Classroom. Use either. You can find both on my webpage on the AHS Homepage. If at any point you are behind or curious, these sources are great ways to keep up with class.

We will have short writing and reading **homework assignments at least twice a week**. Internet access is not required for these assignments.

But if there’s one thing you can count on doing every day, it’s our 7 Minutes of Writing exercise. Why? Because if you want to become stronger, you exercise!

**Supplies:**

**Pencils. Pencils. Pencils.** I bought over a hundred pencils at the beginning of the year. I can give you one, but no more than twice. If you consistently show me that you lack supplies because you’re irresponsible, you will be assigned **more work** than your peers

Students will be using a Writer’s Notebook each day and will be responsible for bringing their notebook to class. Students should bring in a notebook that they like into class the first week. Each individualized notebook will be decorated, and we will even spend class time making each notebook unique. Homework will also be completed in this notebook from time to time. Do not lose it!

You will be assigned a laptop for this class for the entire semester. The laptops will stay in the classroom at all times. Because this is essentially *your* computer you will no longer have to wait long times for logging in, and it’s my hope that you’ll even be able to personalize the background and themes.

**Grade weight:**

Homework / Class work 30% Projects 35%

Formal extended writing 35%

Your final exam will be to write an entire story in an hour and thirty minutes. This test will count as 20% of your final grade. However, if you can keep your absences minimal and your average above an A, you will exempt the final exam.

**Late Work:**

Late work may only be submitted if there was a prior absence. In the event of an absence, the student will submit late work within the next three days. Any late work submitted after that time will be counted for only partial credit. (20 points off per day late)

~1.23.18 Morris