

# 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. This course has 13 lessons and nine Course Activities. Each lesson contains one or more Lesson Activities.

In Creative Writing, you will learn about the scope of creative writing and its genres. You will identify the key elements of prose and poetry. You will look at writing for stage, film, and TV. You will learn about theatrical and film techniques, as well as technical effects that are typically used in electronic media. You will look at writing for younger audiences, for advertising, and journalism. You will learn how the publishing industry works.

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.

Your teacher will grade your work on the Course Activities, and you will grade your work on the Lesson Activities by comparing them with the given sample responses. The Course Activities (submitted to the teacher) and the Lesson Activities (self-checked) are major components of this course. There are other assessment components, namely the mastery test questions that feature along with the lesson and an end-of-semester test. These tests are a combination of simple multiple-choice questions and technology-enhanced (TE) questions.

### Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- List various genres of creative writing and explain how to begin the process of writing.
- Identify the key elements of various forms of personal narratives.
- Identify and describe the key elements of a short story.
- Demonstrate effective dialogue-writing skills and apply various literary techniques in writing short prose.

- Describe various elements of long prose and identify the different types of narrative styles.
- Describe various literary techniques used in poetry and identify poetry's different forms.
- Identify the different forms of theater and describe key elements in writing for theater.
- Describe various aspects of stage direction and temporal techniques in writing for theater.
- Describe the key elements in writing for films and television.
- Describe the key elements in writing for younger audiences.
- Describe the key elements in writing for advertising in different forms of media.
- Describe the key elements of various forms of journalism including hard news, features, reviews, and opinion essays.
- Explain the process of publishing a piece of work and identify various methods to promote it.

## **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:

- power to experiment with the language
- keen interest in reading, both fiction and non fiction
- imaginative powers
- 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 or Google Docs
- perform online research using various search engines and library databases
- 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	<b>Course Orientation</b> <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Orientation
3 days: 2-4	<b>What Is Creative Writing?</b> <i>List various genres of creative writing and explain how to begin the process of writing.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 5-7	<b>Personal Narratives</b> <i>Identify the key elements of various forms of personal narratives.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 8-11	<b>Personal Essays</b>	Course Activity
1 day: 12	<b>Writing About Self</b>	Course Discussion
3 days: 13-15	<b>The Short Story—I</b> <i>Identify and describe the key elements of a short story.</i>	Lesson
3 day: 16-18	<b>The Short Story—II</b> <i>Demonstrate effective dialogue-writing skills and apply various literary techniques in writing short prose.</i>	Lesson

Day	Activity / Objective	Type
4 days: 19-22	<b>Writing a Short Story</b>	Course Activity
1 day: 23	<b>Short Stories</b>	Course Discussion
1 day: 24	<b>Space Jumble</b>	Game
3 days: 25-27	<b>Writing Long Prose</b> <i>Describe various elements of long prose and identify the different types of narrative styles.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 28-31	<b>Writing Long Prose</b>	Course Activity
1 day: 32	<b>Long Prose</b>	Course Discussion
3 days: 33-35	<b>Forms and Techniques and Poetry</b> <i>Describe various literary techniques used in poetry and identify poetry's different forms.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 36-39	<b>Writing Poetry</b>	Course Activity
1 day 40	<b>Poetry</b>	Course Discussion
4 days: 41	<b>Para Jumble</b>	Game
4 days: 42-44	<b>Writing for Theater—I</b> <i>Identify the different forms of theater and describe key elements in writing for theater.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 45-48	<b>Outlining a Play</b>	Course Activity
1 day: 49	<b>Theater</b>	Course Discussion
3 days 50-52	<b>Writing for Theater—II</b> <i>Describe various aspects of stage direction and temporal techniques in writing for theater.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 53-56	<b>Writing a Play</b>	Course Activity

<b>Day</b>	<b>Activity / Objective</b>	<b>Type</b>
1 day: 57	<b>Theater Revisited</b>	Course Discussion
1 day 58	<b>Space Jumble</b>	Game
2 days: 59-60	<b>Writing for Feature Films and Television</b> <i>Describe the key elements in writing for films and television.</i>	Lesson
2 days: 61-62	<b>Writing for Young Audiences</b> <i>Describe the key elements in writing for younger audiences.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 63-66	<b>Writing for Young Audiences</b>	Course Activity
1 day: 67	<b>Writing for Young Audiences</b>	Course Discussion
1 day: 68	<b>Space Jumble</b>	Game
2 days: 69-70	<b>Writing for Advertising</b> <i>Describe the key elements in writing for advertising in different forms of media.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 71-73	<b>Writing for Journalism</b> <i>Describe the key elements of various forms of journalism including hard news, features, reviews, and opinion essays.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 74-78	<b>Journalistic Writing</b>	Course Activity
1 day: 79	<b>Journalism</b>	Course Discussion
3 days: 80-82	<b>Making It Big: Getting Noticed and Getting Published</b> <i>Explain the process of publishing a piece of work and identify various methods to promote it.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 83-86	<b>The Publishing Industry</b>	Course Activity
1 day: 87	<b>Trying to Get Published</b>	Course Discussion
1 day: 88	<b>Para Jumble</b>	Game

Day	Activity / Objective	Type
1 day: 89	<b>Course Review</b>	Course Review
1 day: 90	<b>End of Course Test</b>	Assessment