Middle School Creative Writing
LAN0651

Course Description
Creative Writing is a semester long course that explores different genres of writing, through both reading and writing, as well as the other necessary elements needed to improve writing and composition skills. This course is designed with the goal of inspiring students to develop original pieces and ideas. Through writing and thinking students will learn to become better readers, writers, and thinkers. The skills focused on in this course will help students in other courses as well, especially English. Writing genres covered are autobiographies, family storytelling, fairy tales, fantasies, short stories, and journals.

Rationale
The Middle School Creative Writing course offers students an examination of the different genres of writing, the five elements that go into story developments, and the importance of keeping a journal. The skills taught in this course will not only help students to become better creative writers, but it will develop the skills that will help them in other courses as well.

Prerequisite
None

Measurable Learning Outcomes
A. Accurately identify the five elements of a story: plot, setting, characters, theme, and conflict
B. Choose and develop strategies for various writing genres
C. Utilize elements of style, including word choice and sentence variation
D. Edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and sentence structure
E. Engage in informal and formal writing assignments
F. Create a plot line and identify the parts of a plot
G. Create and analyze characters
H. Create and recognize the setting in a story

Course Materials
See LUOA’s Systems Requirements for computer specifications necessary to operate LUOA curriculum. Also view Digital Literacy Requirements for LUOA’s expectation of users’ digital literacy.
Note: Embedded YouTube videos may be utilized to supplement LUOA curriculum. YouTube videos are the property of the respective content creator, licensed to YouTube for distribution and user access. As a non-profit educational institution, LUOA is able to use YouTube video content under the YouTube Terms of Service. For additional information on copyright, please contact the Jerry Falwell Library.

Materials Required for Purchase

The following materials are required in this course:

- Students may acquire books through a library or bookstore. All are available at Amazon.com in print or Kindle editions.

Course Grading Policies

The student’s grades will be determined according to the following grading scale and assignment weights. The final letter grade for the course is determined by a 10-point scale. Assignments are weighted according to a tier system, which can be referenced on the Grades Page in Canvas. Each tier is weighted according to the table below. Items that do not affect the student’s grade are found in Tier 0.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>Assignment Weights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A 90-100%</td>
<td>Tier 0 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B 80-89%</td>
<td>Tier 1 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 70-79%</td>
<td>Tier 2 35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D 60-69%</td>
<td>Tier 3 40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F 0-59%</td>
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Course Policies

Students are accountable for all information in the Student Handbook. Below are a few policies that have been highlighted from the Student Handbook.

Types of Assessments

To simplify and clearly identify which policies apply to which assessment, each assessment has been categorized into one of four categories: Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, or Test. Each applicable item on the course Modules page has been designated with an identifier chosen from among these categories. Thus, a Quiz on the American Revolution may be designated by the title, “1.2.W Quiz: The American Revolution.” These identifiers were placed on the Modules page to help students understand which Honor Code and Resubmission policies apply to that assessment (see the Honor Code and Resubmission policies on the pages that follow for further details).

- **Lesson**: Any item on the Modules page designated as a “Lesson”
  These include instructional content and sometimes an assessment of that content. Typically, a Lesson will be the day-to-day work that a student completes.
• **Assignment:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as an “Assignment”*
  Typical examples of Assignments include, but are not limited to, papers, book reports, projects, labs, and speeches. Assignments are usually something that the student should do his or her best work on the first time.

• **Quiz:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as a “Quiz”*
  This usually takes the form of a traditional assessment where the student will answer questions to demonstrate knowledge of the subject. Quizzes cover a smaller amount of material than Tests.

• **Test:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as a “Test”*
  This usually takes the form of a traditional assessment where the student will answer questions to demonstrate knowledge of the subject. Tests cover a larger amount of material than Quizzes.

**Resubmission Policy**

Students are expected to submit their best work on the first submission for every Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, and Test. However, resubmissions may be permitted in the following circumstances:

• **Lesson:** Students are automatically permitted two attempts on a Lesson. The student may freely resubmit for their first two attempts without the need for teacher approval.

• **Assignment:** Students are intended to do their best work the first time on all Assignments. However, any resubmissions must be completed before the student moves more than one module ahead of that Assignment. For example, a student may resubmit an Assignment from Module 3 while in Module 4 but not an Assignment from Modules 1 or 2. High School students may not resubmit an Assignment without expressed written permission from the teacher in a comment.

• **Quiz:** Students may NOT resubmit for an increased grade.

• **Test:** Students may NOT resubmit for an increased grade.

If a student feels that he or she deserves a resubmission on a Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, or Test due to a technical issue such as a computer malfunction, the student should message his or her teacher to make the request, and that request will need to be approved by a Department Chair.

**Consequences for Violations to the Honor Code**

Every time a student violates the Honor Code, the teacher will submit an Honor Code Incident Report. The Student Support Coordinator will review the incident and allocate the appropriate consequences. Consequences, which are determined by the number of student offenses, are outlined below:

• **Warning:** This ONLY applies to high school Lessons and elementary/middle school Assignments and Lessons. Students should view these actions as learning opportunities.
  - **Lessons:** A zero will be assigned for the question only.
  - **Elementary/Middle School Assignment:** The student must redo his or her work; however, the student may retain his or her original grade.
• **1st Offense:**
  - **Lesson, Quiz, or Test:** The student will receive a 0% on the entire assessment.
  - **Assignment:** The student will either:
    - Receive a 0% on the original assignment
    - Complete the Plagiarism Workshop
    - Retry the assignment for a maximum grade of 80%

• **2nd Offense:** The student will receive a 0% and be placed on academic probation.

• **3rd Offense:** The student will receive a 0% and the Faculty Chair will determine the consequences that should follow, possibly including withdrawal from the course or expulsion from the academy.
Scope and Sequence
Middle School Creative Writing

Module 1: Introduction to Creative Writing
Week 1: Introduction
Week 2: Developing Great Characters
Week 3: Writers Read: Little Women
Week 4: Literary Element: Theme

Module 2: Family Storytelling
Week 5: Autobiographies and Biographies
Week 6: Autobiographical Incident
Week 7: Writer's Read: My Father's Legacy
Week 8: Family Memory Narrative

Module 3: The Fairy Tale
Week 9: Introduction to Fairy Tales and Literary Element: Plot
Week 10: Writer's Read: The Snow Queen
Week 11: Writer's Plan: Fairy Tale
Week 12: Writer's Write: Fairy Tale

Module 4: Fantasy
Week 13: Introduction, Literary Element: Setting, and Writer's Read: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
Week 14: Writer's Plan: Fantasy
Week 15: Writer's Write: Fantasy

Module 5: Short Story
Week 16: Introduction
Week 17: Writer's Read: Rip Van Winkle and Writer's Plan: Short Story
Week 18: Writer's Write: Short Story