

CREATIVE WRITING COURSE OFFERINGS 2024-25



ALL LEVELS

FRIDAY ENRICHMENT

A focused look into a particular topic or form, meant to give the student time to take a deep dive into a particular type of storytelling. Some examples of past modules include Interactive Storytelling, Collage, Songwriting, and World-Building. Additionally, for many months, we have “First Fridays” that we use as team-building where we may take a field trip, play creativity games, or make collective pieces of art/writing.

9th GRADE

READING LIKE A WRITER

A survey course in which students make connections between ancient texts and the contemporary world and apply those connections to their own work through ekphrastic writing, experimentation with forms, extensive reading, and multi-media projects.

INTRO TO POETRY

Students study the craft of poetry through discussions of language, tone, diction, rhyme, meter as well as extensive readings of published poets and in-class writing assignments. The students share their work and participate in critiques to further develop their craft.

INTRO TO FICTION

An introductory course in the craft of fiction writing. Students study narrative structure, character, conflict, point-of-view, and tone. Students write, workshop, and revise their writing as they develop their voices.

TACTILE TECHNIQUES

Students take their creativity off the page to experiment with methods such as collage, puppetry, or sculpture to tell their stories.

SPOKEN WORD

An introduction to using performance as a means to deliver creative work.

10th GRADE

SOPHOMORE CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

This course is intended to enhance student understanding of classic texts and selected literary and artistic movements with an eye on how contemporary writers are shaped by the literary past. Students will analyze a variety of forms and genres with an emphasis on events that might have shaped an artist's work, as well as looking at how authors make meaning through craft. Prompts, projects, and writing assignments connected to the text or topic of study help students further develop their own writing.

INTRO TO PLAYWRITING

An introductory course in the craft of playwriting through the study structure, characterization, and dialogue. Students begin with the reading of Aristotle's Poetics and completing short writing exercises. They then work towards completing a ten-minute play and its revision, watching and reading plays as they work.

ACTING FOR WRITERS

A course in which students analyze scripts and perform short scenes to better understand what an actor needs from the writer on the page.

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR WRITERS

A photography course designed to teach students the basics of photography while practicing being observers of the world. Students will pair their photographs with writing as they hone their use of imagery in their work.

INTRO TO SCREENWRITING

An Introductory course in which students read screenplays and complete exercises as they learn proper screenplay format, all while gearing up to workshop a their 9-12 page scripts.

SOCIAL JUSTICE WRITING

This is a course dedicated to when your art meets your conscience. Students will dive into examples of artists who stirred the world to change with their work.

11th AND 12th GRADES

ADVANCED WORKSHOP

Each semester, upperclassmen choose an area of focus (fiction, poetry, playwriting, screenwriting) for their writing. Students take a workshop class in their chosen form in which they will write, read, and critique work.

MOVING STORIES

A project-based course where students create stories using video, photography, and mixed media.

LITERARY PERFORMANCE

This class is designed to give students more experience in presenting their work to an audience.

SENIOR SHOP

A course in which seniors develop their senior shows - from their mini manifestos to their plans. Additionally, students prep for YoungArts and peer review college essays.

ELECTIVES

A variety of courses in which students accumulate additional skills to produce and publish their work. Some past examples include using the Adobe Suite for projects in digital storytelling and chapbook-design, studying food or collage writing, and revision.

IDEA DEVELOPMENT

A generative course in which students experiment with styles and techniques as seek to identify their voice as an artist.

SENIOR LEGACY

In their last semester at HSPVA, senior Creative Writing students archive their work and design ways in which they can give back to their community.