**Creative Writing Syllabus 2023-24**

*“For the mind does not require filling like a bottle, but rather, like wood, it only requires kindling to create in it an impulse to think independently and an ardent desire for the truth.” — Plutarch*

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Room 105, (559) 665-1331 ext 2308

**Course Objectives**: My overall goal this year will be to help you advance in your ability to use the English language to communicate, specifically through the creative medium of writing. Whatever your language abilities may be today, the goal is for you to progress markedly by the end of the year, and it is my job to help that process.

Together we will progress through a shared curriculum that will explore various forms of creative writing including but not limited to: short stories, long-form fiction (novels, novellas, and novelettes), biography, newswriting, memoir, graphic novel, poetry, prose (including blogging and non-academic essay), drama, and free writing.

The general standards we will be teaching include students’ ability to:

* Analyze the impact of authors’ choices in stories and drama.
* Analyze complex sets of ideas or sequences of events and explain how different elements interact and develop over time.
* Write creatively to inform and offer commentary on social issues..
* Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately.
* Write narratives.
* Apply language in different contexts and to make effective choices for meaning or style
* Vary syntax for effect
* Initiate and participate effectively in collaborative discussions
* Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats to solve problems and make decisions.
* Evaluate different speakers’ points of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.
* Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study and draw on that preparation in discussion.

**Assignments:** In general, the work of this class will be in four components:

*Journal/Freewriting***:** You will be asked to respond to specific questions, reflect on life experiences and offer samples of writing on a regular basis. This work will not be graded with the expectation of perfect grammar, spelling or punctuation, but it is expected that you make an honest effort to complete the assignments on time and to the best of your ability.

*Form Review and Practice:* We will be exploring various forms of creative writing and, while you will not be expected to master all of them, you will be provided with assignments to learn about the elements of these different forms and opportunities to practice them.

*Discussion and Peer Support*: We will regularly be discussing works of creative writing and reviewing each other’s work. You will be expected to contribute to these discussions and reviews to the best of your ability.

*Portfolios*: At the end of each semester you will submit a portfolio of nine completed projects. If you want to work on a longer-form project, you may substitute 500 words as the equivalent of one project. This means you could submit a 1,000-word short story and 7 more poems of any length. If you wanted to work on a novelette as your only project for the year, you should have at least 4,500 words by the end of a semester and 9,000 words by the end of the year.

**Grading**: You will be graded based on your engagement in and completion of class discussions and peer review, classwork, individual and group writing assignments, and your final portfolio.

Discussion and Class Engagement: 30%

Individual and Group Assignments: 30%

Portfolio: 40%

**Classroom Expectations**: We will collectively create standards we want to abide by within the classroom, but as a general policy all students are expected to follow the TRIBE Behavior Expectations posted in every classroom. Below are a few school policies that are not flexible.

Bathroom: If possible, restrooms should be used during passing, break, and lunch. The first and last 10 minutes of class are off limits. One person at a time. One person at a time. Students will be signed out of using MINGA. Students must return within 10 minutes of leaving for the bathroom or the incident will be documented and they may face disciplinary measures.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded at the beginning of class.

You will be expected to be in your seat when the bell rings and attendance is taken, or you may be marked late. Even if you are in the classroom when the bell rings, if you are not in your seat you may be marked late. Your grade will not be affected by tardiness, but you will be subjected to school discipline. If you arrive more than 30 minutes late to class you will be marked absent.

Tribe Cell Phone Policy: Phones can only be used during passing, break, and lunch. Teachers will give a “phones away” signal when class starts. Phones out after that will be placed in a sealed bag. Students will take the bag to the office at the end of the day to be opened. Failure to take the bag to the office will result in a guided study.

Repeated offenses will result in Saturday School and Parent Conferences.

Food: Unless it is provided by the teacher, only water will be allowed in the classroom, and only as long as it is in a container that can close.

Dress code:

Students are expected to conform to the CUSHD standards of dress.

Classroom Behavior:

Classroom interactions will remain civil, respectful, and supportive.

Privacy Policy

You are not to take/post videos or pictures of anyone in class. Do NOT take pictures, videos, screenshots, or recordings of any kind without my consent or the consent of your classmates. THIS INCLUDES GOOGLE MEETS per California Ed Code and FERPA.

Plagiarism and AI-generated Writing

All work turned in must be your own. The Council of Writing Program Administrators defines plagiarism as:

"In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. This definition applies to texts published in print or on-line, to manuscripts, and to the work of other student writers."

There is a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism. If you plagiarize any part of an assignment you will receive a zero on the assignment and a referral. Additionally, your parents/guardian will be contacted. Consequences will increase in severity as per the CUHS School handbook.

Similar consequences will apply to any writing that utilizes AI software to substitute student writing. Any writing that is determined to be AI generated will receive a zero on the assignment, and a referral. Additionally, your parents/guardian will be contacted.]

**Contact**:You can contact me at any time at [rendonf@chowchillahigh.org](mailto:rendonf@chowchillahigh.org) or my school extension x2308. The class will be held in room 105 on campus.

**Response Form:**

**Mr. Rendon’s Creative Writing Class: 2023-24**

My student,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I have read the **Goals and Policies** for Mr. Rendon’s Creative Writing class. S/he knows that in addition to completing all assigned class work, s/he will need to spend time at home doing homework and personal reading. We understand that plagiarism will not be tolerated at CUHS, and all work submitted by my student will be only his/her own work.

Please return this sheet by Friday, August 25, 2023.

Comments/questions/additional information that will help me better teach your student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Parent/Guardian’s Signature Student’s Signature

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\*\* Please complete the following contact information so that I can keep in touch with you about your student’s progress—Mr. Rendon

**Parent / Guardian Contact Information:**

Parent / Guardian’s Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian’s Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The best number to reach you during the day \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The best email address to reach you at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Language Preference\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_