# Literature and Creative Writing 2020

Welcome to Literature and Creative Writing! I am happy to have you in my class and look forward to a great semester ahead. This overview will provide you with a brief description of the course, its readings, and the expectations of my classroom. As will be the case throughout the semester, I strongly encourage you to ask for help as needed.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course focuses on six areas:

1. Gaining knowledge about literature and genres

2. Analyzing literature and writing to see common and meaningful themes and subject matter over time

3. Developing skills used by critics and writers: marketing, editing, critical reading, interpretation, and analysis

4. Understanding the connections between the writer and audience

5. Building skills necessary for heightened success AND creative writing, including: organization, characterization, theme, plot development, individual expression, and traditional grammar

6. Continuing skills necessary to advance reading and writing

We will engage in a variety of activities during each class period, including: class discussion, group work, lecture, grammar and punctuation practice, technology and presentation, essay components, projects, and individual assignments. As seniors, students will organize and prioritize: self-monitoring of his/her time, opportunity, and productivity on given tasks and timelines.

**Expectations:** All students are expected to follow our three main rules at all times. These rules are **R**espect (for yourself, fellow students, and teachers), **A**ppreciation (for the work done by you, your fellow students, and your teachers) and **P**articipation (be actively involved in the learning process). If issues arise that affect a student’s work, that student should inform the teachers as soon as possible.

**Materials**: Students should come to class on time each day with the following materials:

Lined notebook paper

Laptop (If you have one. We have school ones too. **Please do not buy one specially for class!**)

**BREADTH OF MATERIAL & BROAD GENRE WE WILL COVER, including:**

* Introspective exploration of oneself and/or an original character in relation to his/her desires, imagination, opinions, objectives, and life direction through various written assignments and presentations
* Imagination, exploration, and expression through varied writing formats and presentation
* Read literature selections in preparation for analysis essay
* Individual and group presentations
* One 1,200-1,500 word original analysis paper with formal MLA in-text citations, Works Cited page, and preliminary and final outline

**Attendance Policy**: The district policy will be followed. Regular attendance is extremely important because in-class writing, lecture, discussion and collaborative work are essentials of the course.

**Absences**: Students must make up missed notes and assignments immediately and must meet posted due dates for major tests and projects. If you are absent the day a culminating assignment is due, you are still required to submit by the due date/time. Students who miss a class when work is due but are at school for any other part of the day must turn in their work on that day. A student with a prearranged absence must receive assignments in advance and keep current with the class while away. Assignments due during prearranged absences may be due before the student leaves, so students should make arrangements at least one week prior to absence.

**Note:** you have one day per absence to make up any work. Do not turn them in to me during class time, please turn in work to the folders in our classroom. Check the class websites to find out what work was missed each day. If you miss a test or in class writing assignment, the only day to make them up is Wednesday morning before school. If a longer assignment is due the day you are absent, you will still be required to submit on time and by the due date.

**Late work policy**: Late work will be accepted for partial credit until the end of the unit. If you are absent, homework will need to be submitted the day you return.

**Tardies:** There is no excuse for tardies. 1st offense = warning; 2nd offense = after school detention; 3rd offense = referral to administration.

**Cell Phones/Electronic Devices:** My policy is straight forward -- no cell phone, iPods in class unless given permission; 1st offense = warning, 2nd offense = confiscate for the rest of the school day, 3rd offense = confiscate to administration with additional consequences.

**Homework:** There will typically be 45-90 minutes of homework each week for the class (if you do not finish in class). All writing assignments will be completed electronically and submitted on turnitin.com. Unless otherwise requested, no handwritten assignments may be submitted for culminating assignments.

**Plagiarism/cheating**:

**Academic Integrity/Honesty Policy:** Academic integrity speaks to a student’s commitment and responsibility to pursue scholarship openly and honestly.  It respects the concept that *learning* is the primary purpose of education, secondary to grades and credits.

Academic Dishonesty is defined as any action or attended action that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for oneself or an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any other student.

A student shall not attempt to earn credit or receive a grade for coursework (tests, quizzes, assignments, discs, projects, essays) in a manner other than defined as acceptable by each instructor.

Academic Integrity violations are tracked throughout a student’s entire high school career (grades 9 – 12).  Academic Integrity violations include, but are not limited to:

* **Plagiarizing** or submitting any part of another person’s work as representing ones’ own scholarship
* **Distribution/sharing of class assignments or test information** in either written or verbal form to another student without teacher permission
* **Unauthorized Collaboration** – working with others without the specific permission of the instructor on assignments that will be submitted for an individual’s grade.   This applies to in-class or take-home assignments/homework, projects, tests, or labs.
* **Collusion** – supporting the lack of integrity/honesty by another student, as in allowing one’s work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another.  Collusion also includes the use or sharing of identical or highly similar passages of one’s own work, or the work of another, unless specifically authorized by the teacher.
* **Technology Malpractice** – any misuse or abuse of private or public technology in relation to grades or in acquiring an academic advantage, including infractions of the school technology user agreement, language translation websites, cell phone messaging or picture transmission.

**Printing Policy**: While in the library or lab students have access to a variety of resources at Skyline. However, in order to manage our supplies, increase student accountability, and protect the environment, according to school policy; **students may only print 20 pages worth of material per month**. Once they have hit their limit their printing capabilities will be shut off until next month. If that occurs, students should print page at home, at a private resource center or at the King County Public Library, etc. Typically, however, assignments will be submitted electronically through turnitin.com.

**Grading**:

A 93-100 B 83-86 C 73-76 D 63-66

A- 90-92 B- 80-82 C- 70-72 D- 60-62

B+ 87-89 C+ 77-79 D+ 67-69 F below 60

**Grade Categories:**

Culminating (projects, major writing pieces) 50%

Process (class work/free writes/journals, minor writing components) 25%

Participation/Homework 15%

Final Semester Exam (children’s book, semester portfolio *of all LCW work*) 10%

**Grade Rounding:** I do not round grades.

## Teacher meetings: I am happy to meet with students or parents at times that are mutually convenient. Students or parents who wish to meet with me should set up a meeting time in advance. I can be reached at the following locations:

Mrs. Cossano Office 2410K (425) 837-7728 [cossanok@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:cossanok@issaquah.wednet.edu)

*Please note – if the course is a graduation requirement, the student will need to take responsibility to make up the course requirement on their own, i.e. summer school, correspondence course, etc. as approved by the student’s school counselor.*

*Sign and detach the slip below. Turn in to Mrs. Cossano by Wednesday 2/5 for maximum assignment grade; point count, lessens thereafter.* ***Keep the remainder of this contract and tips in your binder for daily reference; also available on Mrs. Cossano’s website***

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Literature & Creative Writing (LCW), Semester 2, 2020, (Cossano)

* *I have reviewed the grading criteria, tardy policy, printing policy, and plagiarism policy for this course. I clearly understand the importance of daily checking Mrs. Cossano’s web site, and promptly attending class.*
* *I also acknowledge that each English credit requires seniors to complete an Analysis Essay*
* *Should I have any questions about what is expected of me, etc., I will make an appointment with Mrs. Cossano.*

*Student’s name (printed* ***and s****igned)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Parent/Guardian’s name (printed* ***&*** *signed)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Parent/Guardian’s* ***email & phone***: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Any additional notes of concern/things I should know to support you or your student: