Course Description

**Creative Writing** will focus on the individual and universal relationship to the written and spoken word. Using a multitude of creative prompts students will learn various styles of presenting the written and spoken word from indigenous forms of poetry such as the pantoum and the ghazal to hip hop, Guerilla Theater, long-form creative non-fiction and even graphic novel writing.

This class is for the writer who wants to step out of the shadows and into the communal writing experience of a writer’s workshop. In fact, class will not be “class”, but rather a WRITER’s WORKSHOP in which students will learn the practice of constructive critique, as well as, the art of collaborative brainstorming, communal revision, and communal presentation or publication of their art.

This class welcomes all opinions, embraces all cultures, respects all life, invests in relevant technology, and assumes its participants are enrolled to grow as individuals and artists. This is a safe space where every word counts and all voices will be heard.

**Writer’s Workshop Cooperative Agreement**

These will be a list of expectations created by and honored by ALL students, instructors, and guests participating in the Writer’s Workshop.

**Teacher Contact Information**

Ariel Robello  
robelloa@pcsb.org

**Work submission requirements**

Submission of ALL COURSE ASSIGNMENTS and FINAL DRAFTS will be submitted via Googledocs

Students will need to create a gmail.com account by the end of the first day of class

Students will submit their assignments to creativewriting.bchs.robello@gmail.com

**Course Goals**

As derived from writer’s who have led the way:

“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.”  
– Maya Angelou
“There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed.”
— Ernest Hemingway

“What really knocks me out is a book that, when you’re all done reading it, you wish the author that wrote it was a terrific friend of yours and you could call him up on the phone whenever you felt like it. That doesn’t happen much, though.”
— J.D. Salinger

“If you don’t have time to read, you don’t have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that.”
— Stephen King

“If there’s a book that you want to read, but it hasn’t been written yet, then you must write it.”

“Make it irrevocably beautiful and political as hell.”
— Toni Morrison

“And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.”
— Sylvia Plath

“You must stay drunk on writing so reality cannot destroy you.”
— Ray Bradbury

“Tears are words that need to be written.”
— Paulo Coelho

**Materials**

- One gmail account, tested and verified by instructor
- One active and vibrantly curious mind
- One willing and awake body in class seat
- Daily access to Tampa Bay Times (password will be provided)
- Daily access to Flickr account and/or pinterest
- Daily access to Voicethread.com
- Daily access to Youtube.com
- Daily access to Wix.com
- Daily access to some form of image capture and/or photographic instrument (this could be your cell phone or computer)
- One 1 ½ inch three ring binder
- Post-It Notes (long ones to write complete notes on)
- Any color pens or pencils you like 😊
- Lots of loose leaf paper
- 25 page protector sheets (if possible)

**Text Books**
I am in the process of ordering some books for this class; however, should a student choose to purchase any of the books listed below it would be in their best interest.

The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry  
The Penguin Anthology of Twentieth-Century American Poetry [Hardcover]  
The Spoken Word Revolution (PB) with Audio CD  
Flash Fiction Forward: 80 Very Short Stories  
Goodwill Hunting Screenplay  
Short Takes: Brief Encounters with Contemporary Nonfiction [Paperback]

A Writer’s Journal

While not required it is highly recommended that students invest in some sort of binder or notebook or journal that they carry with them EVERYWHERE!!! Why? Because you never know when inspiration will hit!!

Parent Connect

Grades and attendance will be available and updated regularly via parent connect. If you or your parent/guardian needs to register for a parent conference, please call the school office at 727-893-2780.

Also feel free to tell your parents to email instructor at robelloa@pcsb.org with any concerns or questions and expect a 24 hour response time.

Homework & Grading Policy

Your grade will be comprised of PARTICIPATION, completion of a project, and ability to see yourself and your writing through the writing process.

Because Creativity is subjective you will be asked to complete a self-analysis of each final product of genre specific writing. The teacher will take your self-analysis into account before assigning a final grade.

Simply put, the easiest way to fall is to avoid your potential for greatness!

Late Work/Make Up Testing

Work should be turned in on time regardless of a student’s attendance in class because it will be submitted via googledocs.

Students with an excuse absence (this means you brought a note from a Doctor or from home within 48 hours of the absence and your administrator excused the absence or you were at a
school function) will have the number of days you were absent to make up the work that you missed with no penalty. This means that if you miss one day of school the work is due the day after you return.

Simply not completing the work
In this instance, your work will not be accepted and you will receive a zero (0) for the assignment.

Absence for an inexcusable reason
In this instance you will have the number of days that you were absent to complete the work, however since the absence is unexcused, the work will be deducted by one letter grade per school board policy

**Student Conduct**

All students will conduct themselves in accordance with Pinellas County School's student behavior expectations as well as following the class rules.

**Tardy Policy**

Being tardy to class not only negatively affects your classroom achievement, but also disrupts your classmates learning. Please be on time. The Tardy count will start over each grading period.

**Cell Phones and Electronic Devices**

Use of cell phones and other electronic devices will not be permitted during class period time. This includes time spent in the hallways and restroom. All cell phones and electronic devices must be OFF AND OUT OF SIGHT during class time.

Please ask your parents to call the school if they need to get a message to you, as you will not be able to answer your phone during class time.

**Dress Code**

The school dress code must be followed at all times while on school grounds.

**Consequences for minor infractions**

1. Verbal warning
2. Conference with student
3. Phone call home
4. Guidance Referral
5. Parent teacher conference
6. Referral*

*Certain extreme actions merit an immediate referral.

**Secrets (o.k. not so secret) for Success**

- Be on time
- Bring all required materials
- Participate often
- Respect each other, the teacher, and yourself
- Follow the student code of conduct and Pirate Code at all times

**Classroom Activities**

Classroom activities will take on a variety of forms including but not limited to:

- Standing on your head
- Smelling rotten food
- Launching a personal website
- Creating found poems from trash
- Starring at impressionist paintings through a kaleidoscope
- "diggin’ in" to a peer's poem and/or your own
- Flash fiction
- Screenplay writing
- Submitting creative works to strangers in strangelands
- Charting your place in the world
- Discovering your hidden talents
- Zombie apocalypse re-enactments
- Freestyle “battles”
- Hosting an open mic
- More TBA

**Cheating**

Cheating and Plagiarism are serious offenses. If you are caught cheating or found to be plagiarizing you will receive a zero (0) on the assignment and a disciplinary referral. Simply put, DON’T CHEAT 😊

**Exam Exemptions**

In order to be eligible to exempt this year you must have fewer than 2 absences in the class you wish to exempt, and a B average. More information will follow about the exam exemption policy.