Welcome to Creative Writing
Semesters 1 & 2

This course is meticulously designed to align with state standards and targeted learning objectives, ensuring comprehensive coverage of essential knowledge and skills required for student success.

Course Description:
A self-paced, year-long elective course that encourages students to explore the art of creative expression. Through this course, students will develop the habits, attitudes, and responsibilities of a creative writer while learning how to create, develop, and refine original works of writing. Throughout the two semesters, students will explore various genres such as short stories, poetry, screenplays, and more, honing their skills in creative writing techniques that foster imagination and originality.

Semester 1: Foundations of Creative Writing

Unit 1: The Creative Writing Process
- **Objective:** Develop an understanding of the writing process, including brainstorming, drafting, revising, and editing.
- Students will focus on cultivating a consistent writing routine, learning to manage their time, and embracing the art of drafting and revision.
- Explore techniques for overcoming writer's block and fostering creativity.
- Write short descriptive pieces to establish a foundation for more complex projects.

Unit 2: Descriptive Writing and Imagery
- **Objective:** Learn to craft vivid and engaging descriptions through the use of sensory details and figurative language.
- Study the importance of setting, character descriptions, and scene-building in short stories and poetry.
- Practice writing descriptive pieces, focusing on evoking emotion and creating atmosphere through language.

Unit 3: Introduction to Short Fiction
- **Objective:** Explore the structure and elements of short fiction, including character development, plot, and conflict.
- Write original short stories, experimenting with various narrative styles and voices.
- Focus on structuring short stories with a clear beginning, middle, and end while developing compelling characters and settings.
- Peer reviews and group discussions will encourage constructive feedback and growth as writers.

Semester 1 Outcomes:
- Mastery of the creative writing process from draft to revision.
- Ability to write descriptive pieces using sensory and figurative language.
- Develop a foundation in short story writing with a focus on character and plot development.

Semester 2: Expanding Creative Horizons
Unit 4: Poetry and the Power of Language
- **Objective:** Discover the elements of poetry, including meter, rhyme, and structure.
- Experiment with various forms of poetry such as free verse, haiku, sonnets, and more.
- Focus on rhythm, sound, and imagery to create emotional impact and meaning in poetry.
- Write original poems and engage in peer critiques to refine work and develop style.

Unit 5: Screenwriting and Scriptwriting Techniques

- **Objective:** Learn the fundamentals of writing for the screen, including formatting, dialogue, and scene description.
- Study the structure of short films and TV scripts, emphasizing the importance of visual storytelling.
- Write an original short screenplay, focusing on creating tension, character interactions, and setting.
- Receive peer feedback and revise drafts to improve pacing and clarity.

Unit 6: Refining and Finalizing Creative Works

- **Objective:** Focus on refining and finalizing creative pieces to prepare for presentation.
- Review and revise written work, ensuring clarity, coherence, and engagement.
- Students will create a final portfolio of their best work from the course, showcasing their growth and development as writers.
- Prepare a final writing piece—whether a short story, poetry collection, or screenplay—emphasizing polished craft and originality.

Semester 2 Outcomes:

- Proficiency in writing poetry and experimenting with various forms of poetic expression.
- Mastery of screenwriting basics, including structure, dialogue, and scene writing.
- Creation of a polished portfolio of original creative works, demonstrating growth and skill in multiple genres.

Course Summary

In **Creative Writing**, students will embark on an inspiring journey to develop their unique voice and writing style. The course offers a self-paced, flexible approach, allowing students to progress at their own speed while exploring different genres and techniques. Semester 1 focuses on establishing the basics of creative writing, including descriptive writing and short fiction, while Semester 2 challenges students to expand their creative horizons through poetry and screenwriting. By the end of the course, students will have developed a diverse portfolio of original work, showcasing their skills as emerging writers.