

## **Fiction & Collaborative Novel Writing 2021-2022**

**Instructor:** Emily Fertic

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### **Syllabus**

*Fiction & Collaborative Novel Writing* is a unique and fun course that combines a study of the craft of fiction with group writing exercises to produce a dynamic learning experience for high school writers. This course will count for a Creative Writing credit.

In the first semester, we will cover fiction writing fundamentals and several writing skills and techniques used by fiction writers. Those principles will be put into practice while we work on in-class projects as well as the first draft of the collaborative novel. The second semester will mainly focus on the editing and revising process and the finishing touches to the novel (deciding on a title, finalizing the cover design, coming up with the blurb, etc.) This semester will also cover some of the “real-world” aspects of writing and authorship (different publishing options, marketing your book, etc.) By the end of the year, we will have produced a collaborative (group-written) novel. Upon completion, this student-written novel will be published as an e-book and paperback on Amazon for purchase by family and friends. Proceeds from the novel will go toward creating scholarships for future Class Source students. Student writers’ names will be listed on the cover as authors of the novel. While this course focuses heavily on novel writing, we will also cover some of the principles of short-story writing. This course is appropriate for all types of fiction writers at varying skill levels, so long as they are willing to learn and grow.

### **Materials:**

- Required Text - *Slap Him with a Fish: A Crash Course in Fiction Writing* by Crystal Crawford (available on Amazon in e-book and paperback)
- 3-ring binder with 5 dividers (to store handouts and notes)
- Notebook paper for taking down notes and assignments
- Pen and highlighter

### **Course Requirements:**

- Reliable internet access to view posted assignments, maintain communication on collaborative projects, and complete online discussion board posts (we will have a closed Facebook group for students to communicate. Students without an account may use a parents’ account. If this is an issue for you please let me know ASAP)
- Computer and word-processor program (Microsoft Word, Google Docs, etc.) for typing and submitting assignments.

- Prompt completion of all writing assignments and homework
- Participation in class discussions and group activities
- A team-player mentality (with collaborative writing, this is especially important)
- Encouragement and positivity (we will practice constructive criticism in all of our workshops and discussions, working to help each student improve as a writer and to find creative ways to include everyone's writing as part of one cohesive novel)
- Willingness to receive constructive criticism with grace and humility, and a desire to improve as a writer
- Each student will be expected to complete at least 10% of the first draft of the novel. If a student does not contribute at least 10% they will be listed on the cover as a contributor rather than as an author.

### **Attendance/Late Assignments:**

All assignments should be completed prior to the deadline, and any late assignments may be penalized a full letter grade for each day they are late. The instructor should be notified in advance of any planned absences, and any assignments which affect the group project must still be completed and submitted on time.

**Grading** (90-100= A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 59 or below=F) :

Homework/Writing & Revising -- 40%

Class Participation -- 40%

Online Discussions/Social Media -- 20%

### **Recommended Reading:**

\*None of the books listed below are required reading but if you are considering taking this class and are interested in some summer reading, these books are good examples of some of the techniques we will be discussing in the class.

- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin
- *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis