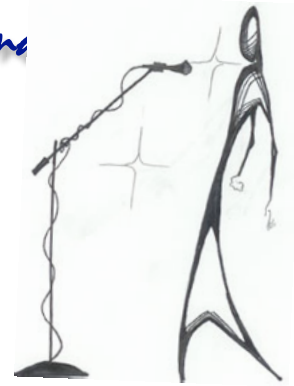


Modern Poetry & Drama

Senior English 2007- 2008

Mrs. Hack
Room 326

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*"Poetry tells us the stories of the soul in its earthly adventure."
- Stanley Kunitz*

Our goal in Modern Poetry & Drama is to gain critical reading and writing skills, to express ourselves, and to appreciate our world through the reading and writing of poems and plays.

In this class we will read literature in a hands-on way: we will first read a poem or a play, and then we will write a piece of our own. Creating original works will become a way of understanding literary works as well as a means of self-expression.

An important second step in developing as a critical thinker is to reflect on the process of reading and imitating. We will do this in class by writing formal reflections about the authors we read and about their own works. You will think critically about how the poem is built and what it is about. You will learn valuable college-level skills of quoting and analyzing.

This class will be graded on portfolio system. A portfolio assessment works like this: you will edit and revise different pieces of original and critical writing worked on during the unit to create a folder full of work. For example, in your portfolio you will have several original poems written and revised by you, critical reflections on the poets read in class, and an introduction that summarizes everything you learned throughout the unit.

Keep in mind, there will be occasional quizzes and tests. We will also have a midterm and final.

Course Description

Our goal in this class is to create poetry and drama. We will read as many poems and plays as we can, but we will read them as writers rather than just students. We will seek to understand how form, diction, rhythm, timing, conflict and/or humor work to make a poem or play successful, and we will seek to strengthen these skills in our own writing. Writing in this class will include small and large poetic and dramatic pieces, reading journals and close-reading essays. Projects will include portfolios, performances, research, oral presentations and more.

Bring To Class

- * A three-ring binder to keep all papers (there will be a lot of papers - so a binder is mandatory!)
- * Pencil, pens, highlighters
- * A Writer's Notebook to store your ideas, feelings, experiences
- * Books

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Classroom Rules

- ★ BE on time and prepared for class
- ★ MEET deadlines - assignments are due at the beginning of class
- ★ USE your time wisely - no sleeping, eating, excessive talking
- ★ KEEP a positive attitude
- ★ PAY attention and LISTEN to instructions the first time they are given

★ **In addition, as per our school policy, no hats, cell phones and/or ipods are allowed in the classroom. If you break the rule, I will confiscate your property and turn it over to Discipline - no ifs, ands or buts about it!** ★

Bathroom Policy

You are not to be in the hallway during the class time. However, you will be granted one emergency bathroom pass to use each marking period.

Grading

All assignments: portfolios, tests, papers, do nows, homework, participation, etc., will earn points. Points will accumulate throughout the marking period.

Vocabulary: You will be responsible for the definitions, spelling, and usage of 20 vocabulary words per unit. You will be tested on vocabulary every other week.

Grammar & Composition: Our major concentration in grammar will be on usage and editing. We will review basic grammar and sentence structure. You will be writing in preparation for college and/or the workplace next year. Our goal is to strengthen your writing.

Writer's Notebook: You are in this class because you want to write! You are required to get yourself a writer's notebook. A writer's notebook is different from a journal or diary, you will not focus on "dear diary" or "what I did today" entries. In your notebook, you will store your ideas, feeling and experiences in an imaginative way using images and words. I want you to be observant of the world around you and aware of the life you are living. I want you to express your emotions and experiences in a literary way, to look at yourself through the lense of language. You will make three-to-four entries per week, and I will collect them on a weekly basis.

**I am so excited to be your teacher this year!
We are going to have an incredible year together!**