

# Advanced Creative Writing

Teacher: Kate Wehlann

Grades: 9th through adults

Wanted: At least five dedicated writers ready for a challenge

Writing is not for the faint of heart and sometimes it's easy to get stuck in a rut or fall into the trap of believing your own limitations. During this class, writers will stretch their own abilities and look what you thought were your limits in the eye and tell them they're wrong.

- This class will cover one semester of fiction and one semester of creative nonfiction. Nearing the end of the first unit, we will attempt one of the ultimate writing challenges — National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), a 50,000-word-in-30-days writing challenge. (Failure to beat the challenge will not damage your grade in the course. Credit will be given based on the amount completed, however, so do your best.) We will spend all November class sessions working on NaNoWriMo projects.

- Each class will start out with freewriting, journaling or writing to a prompt. Writing produced during this time can, of course, be used later in other assignments and I encourage students to be working on prep for their NaNoWriMo project during this time. Should there be students enough for a class, I will be creating a class blog/website, where students can access writing prompts, resources, assignments and other information, along with class notes for students needing to be reminded or who miss class sessions.

- Students will need access to computers with internet connections. All homework assignments will be turned in online, most likely through a Dropbox account. If that's not possible, we'll use email. Homework turned in late (defined as after class starts on the day it's due) will be subject to a loss of points. A syllabus will be presented at the beginning of the first class session, so students will know all homework assignments at the beginning of the course.

## About me:

I'm just a girl, sitting in front of her computer, asking for an easy writing session and maybe just a bit of divine intervention. I've been hoping for the same thing since I started writing in fifth grade.

I majored in journalism and minored creative writing at Ball State University, where my advanced fiction professor, Cathy Day, introduced me to the NaNoWriMo challenge, which we were charged with completing as a part of the course (while completing coursework for another advanced writing class and a handful of journalism courses, so I know it can be done on a tight schedule). I have participated and completed the NaNoWriMo challenge four times (2010, 2013, 2015, 2016) and I'm currently working on the coming year's NaNoWriMo project.

I also write for the local newspaper, The Salem Leader-Democrat, where I've has won approaching 20 state and national industry awards.