

## 2024 EIU English Studies Camp Session Descriptions

### **S1 - Don't Worry, The Ship Will Fly Itself: Exploring the Wild and Weird Terrains of Science Fiction**

In this class, we will meet various robots and aliens, contemplate alternate versions of reality, and visit (and create!) alternate worlds. Through our journeys, we'll contemplate these differences to help us understand what it means to be human. We'll also write some weird stories together, using the features of science fiction we encounter in the short stories and short films/games we'll enjoy. You'll have a chance to share your work with others for feedback as well. For your final project, you'll have the option of creating a short story or comic to showcase on the last day of camp.

### **S2 - Horror Literature: How do You Define Horror?**

In this session, we will explore horror as a genre and how it has changed over time. From *Frankenstein* and ghost stories to *It* and Junji Ito, we will analyze how horror has developed as society's fears have changed. Students will get to look at and read some horror fiction as well as discuss what makes a piece truly horrifying. This course will be discussion heavy, so come prepared with your thoughts on horror and how you would define it as a genre. For our final project we will be constructing our own short horror pieces and getting feedback from our peers. We will also be constructing book covers for our short horror works. Get ready to get spooked!

### **S3 - Tell Your Story: The Art of Creative Nonfiction**

In this session, we will dive into the power of storytelling and sharing one's life experiences, as well as the impact of presenting one's story in creative, memorable ways. We will begin by viewing a captivating variety of creative nonfiction pieces, and breaking down the successful techniques used in each. Students will then apply their knowledge of this genre by partaking in engaging writing exercises and peer workshopping opportunities that will assist them in drafting their very own creative nonfiction piece. Whether students are interested in drafting a personal essay, lyric essay, pop-culture review, or even the beginning chapter of a memoir, they will leave this course with a newfound understanding of not only the myriad of ways in which truth can be told through the lens of creativity, but their personal writing capabilities as well.

### **S4 - Modernizing Society's Stories**

Are you tired of hearing the same old story again and again? Well if so, this is the course for you! In this course you'll consider what if Cinderella wasn't a princess but the villain, what if Hercules never came back from the underworld, and what if the stories you've heard and know don't truly show their darker side? After examining different stories and their elements, you'll have the opportunity to rewrite and redraw them, ultimately giving your own spin on these tall tales!

### **S5 - It's all Myth to Me**

During this session, we will explore the idea of the myth. What defines a myth? Where do they come from? Are the words "myth" and "false" truly interchangeable? By engaging with various mythologies, ranging from the classic Greek Gods, to Area 51, all the way to (my personal favorite) Native American mythology, we will expand our understanding of both what can be a myth and what a myth can be.

### **S6 - Pre-Writing Strategies with a Focus on Journaling**

This session will look at different pre-writing strategies such as free-writing, bubble charts, journaling, and more. We will look at how to use pre-writing techniques in different genres of writing both for personal use and academic use. This session would be great for those who are interested in creative writing and want tips to battle writers block or for those who struggle to start writing for any task. We will also look at the use of journaling from a social emotional perspective and how it can be beneficial in your personal life as well as your writing career.

### **S7- The Ethics of *Black Mirror***

The sci-fi TV show *Black Mirror* portrays potential near-future technological possibilities, inviting us to examine the role technology plays in our current society. The “black mirror” of the title refers to the multiple screens we stare at all day. How do these screens shape the people we have become and the world we are building? What kind of society is reflected back to us through those black mirrors? Is technology playing an increasingly insidious role in our lives? What should we do about it? In this course, students will get to dip their toes into the realm of media studies as we will watch clips and full episodes of *Black Mirror* and discuss the issues and implications that arise.

### **S8 - Speak and Shout Your Heart Out: Developing Spoken Word Poetry!**

In this session, students will learn and understand the origins of spoken word poetry, from its birth place to the height of its popularity in the 70's. Students will also learn where Spoken Word poetry and other creative writing genres have a place in our society and how the genre has changed over time. Students will learn the importance of developing and using their own unique and individual voices and life experiences to either comment, change, or call to action complementary issues the world is facing today.