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ART 220 - 3 credits

# Creative Writing I

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## Description

The Creator God has deposited His creative Spirit within each of His children, and lighted a fire within each one to express that creativity through his own unique personality and gifting. Many people have an urge within them to write, but because of insecurity, the criticism of early teachers, lack of time or training, or a host of other reasons, they have not released that creative urge in a satisfying way. This course is designed to encourage, instruct, and liberate those whom the Lord has called to minister to His Body and His world through the written word. Whether you are impelled to write fiction or nonfiction, short articles or college textbooks, the Holy Spirit wants to be your Source and your inspiration.

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## Course Texts

*Creativity Rules: A Writer's Workbook* by John Vorhaus.

*Writing on Both Sides of the Brain* by Henriette Anne Klauser

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## Course Requirements:

1. Carefully read and complete the exercises in *Creativity Rules: A Writer's Workbook* by John Vorhaus. Note: This is not a Christian text and therefore contains undesirable language and some questionable passages. However, since you are a mature college student, I believe you should be able to ignore the unacceptable parts and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you and teach you even through an unbeliever.

This text contains many exercises. You will be assigned five sections of the book in each lesson. If you try to complete a week's assignment in one sitting, you may feel overwhelmed and fail to learn the creative lessons being presented. Therefore, you should **plan to complete one section of the book each day, for five days each week.** Detailed instructions will be given in the first two lessons. Follow the recommended format for the rest of the lessons from this text.

Do not try to write your answers in the text. Either purchase a notebook to use specifically for this course, or establish a folder on your computer where you will do all of your writing. You will be submitting this to your instructor when you have finished the text to be graded on completeness.

2. Carefully read and complete the exercises in *Writing on Both Sides of the Brain* by Henriette Anne Klauser. Do not try to write your answers in the text. Either purchase a notebook to use specifically for this course, or establish a folder on your computer where you will do all of your writing. You will be submitting this to your instructor when you have finished the text to be graded on completeness.
3. Carefully read the article *How to Write Spirit-Anointed Nonfiction* by Mark Virkler, which is included here in your Student Notebook.

The two texts are mainly concerned with writing fiction out of your own creativity. This article instructs you how to move beyond your own human abilities and tap into the Spirit Who is living within you. In addition, it demonstrates how the same principles taught for fiction writing can be adjusted for writing readable nonfiction.

4. Since this is a writing course, you will be doing a great deal of writing throughout this course. There is therefore no final paper, as such. Instead, you are to create two checklists for your personal future reference.
  - A. As you work through the texts, make a note of important principles or concepts that will help you make your writing more effective. This list will be submitted in your final lesson.
  - B. At the end of the course, look back on all the exercises you were given to help release the creativity God has placed within you more effectively. Make a list of those exercises that proved most useful and stimulating for you. In the future, if you experience "writer's block," you will be able to turn to this list to help you break through. Therefore, include enough information and instructions to make this a useful stimulus to you.

5. There are no quizzes, self-tests or tests for this course. You will be graded on the daily exercises and your final lists. Unless the exercise is emphasizing grammar and spelling, these mechanics will not be analyzed. What will be evaluated is the time and effort you put forth.

## Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, “C” or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least “B” (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a “B”.

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, we are training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- “D”
- Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
  - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- “C”
- Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
  - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- “B”
- Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
  - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- “A”
- Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
  - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.

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## ART220 Creative Writing I

# Assignment Schedule

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### Lesson One

#### Assignment to be completed:

Read the Foreword, Introduction, and Choices in *Creativity Rules!* Follow this recommended schedule:

Monday: Read the Foreword, Introduction, and “Good Writing,” completing all included exercises.

Tuesday: Read “Bad Writing” and complete all exercises.

Wednesday: Read “Recording Reality” and complete all exercises.

Thursday: Read “Filters,” completing all exercises.

Friday: Read “She’s Deeply Confused,” completing all exercises.

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### Lesson Two

#### Assignment to be completed:

Read the first five sections of “Story” from *Creativity Rules!* Follow this recommended schedule:

Monday: Read “Sequence” and complete all exercises.

Tuesday: Read “Theme,” completing all exercises.

Wednesday: Read “Snapshot,” completing all exercises.

Thursday: Read “Change Bomb” and complete all exercises.

Friday: Read “Pressure and Response” and complete all exercises.

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### Lesson Three

#### Assignment to be completed:

Read the last three sections of “Story” and the first two sections of “Development” from *Creativity Rules!* Complete one section per day, doing all exercises. (Read “Summaries” of chapters along with the last section of that chapter.)

#### Subjects:

Boom

The Brink

The Blessed Beyond (and Summary)

Bridge Writing

Premise Pages

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### Lesson Four

#### Assignment to be completed:

Read the last two sections of “Development” and the first three sections of “How To” from *Creativity Rules!* Complete one section per day, doing all exercises.

#### Subjects:

Outline

‘Script (and Summary)

How to Write Like the Buddha

How to Invent New Words

How to Write a Sonnet