

Aquinas Writing Advantage (AWA) 2016-17 **Middle School** *Full Course Descriptions Guide*

Middle School Course Descriptions

The following AWA Course Descriptions here are complete. Feel free to print this Middle School Course Guide as a reference, to check out courses and sign up (<http://tinyurl.com/HSCregister>). To reference High School courses, please check out the High School Full Course Descriptions Guide.

Course Name/Semester Key

Please note that not all courses are offered every semester. For easy reference as to the semester that a course is offered, please refer to the following key:

SEMESTER KEY

Burnt Sienna = Offered in the Fall Semester

Green = Offered in the Spring Semester

Blue = Offered Both Semesters

Red = Offered in the Summer Semester

Course Number Key

Each listed course has an assigned number that is located before the course name, for easy reference.

COURSE # KEY

MS = Middle School course

First Number (7/6, 8/7) = Suggested Grade Levels

Second Number (after the dash) = Suggested Order of Courses

Example: MS 7/6-1 = The first course to take in 7th (or accelerated 6th) grade.

Grade Suggestions

The grade suggestions on each course show the order of courses in the Middle School AWA program. The grade numbers (7/6, 8/7) are suggestions and can be thought of as levels, laying out the courses in a specific order. It is assumed that students who take the courses may be younger or older than the suggested grade levels that, again, are only a guide.

Course Options

If a course isn't offered at a time that works for your family, you can still take the course. With the \$30 per month Unlimited Access recorded courses, an unlimited

number of students in your family can view all the Homeschool Connections courses (including all of the Aquinas Writing Advantage courses), with 24/7 access. This includes the course materials and recordings. If you want your student to have personal instructional feedback and grading, all courses also have the one-on-one Instructor Access option (also known as “optional grading services”). With an additional fee that is less than the “live” course fee, your student gets personal instructional feedback and grading. Be sure to check out Unlimited Access on the Homeschool Connections website at www.homeschoolconnections.com, to sign up for the courses and services you would like for your family.

If you have questions about this Course Listing, don't hesitate to email us at homeschoolconnections@gmail.com

Course Listing

GRADE 7/6 COURSE OFFERINGS – 2016 Fall Semester

MS 7/6-1

WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Punctuation and Grammar I

** This course is scheduled during three time slots in the fall semester only; the course will not be offered in the spring semester.*

** This is a two-part course; take the Essentials 1 and 2 courses together, to receive one full semester of credit (12 weeks of classes).*

** Though not required, it is recommended to sign up for Essentials 1 and 2 in the same Time Offering (same time slot) within each semester.*

Total Classes: 6

Class dates and starting times:

Tuesdays, 2 PM EDT (1:00 Central; 12 noon Mountain; 11:00 Pacific)

Sept 6, 13, 20, 27; Oct 4, 11; 2016

OR

Wednesdays, 11:30 AM EDT (10:30 Central; 9:30 Mountain; 8:30 Pacific)

Sept 7, 14, 21, 28; Oct 5, 12; 2016

OR

Wednesdays, 1:00 PM EDT (12 noon Central; 11:00 Mountain; 10 Pacific)

Sept 7, 14, 21, 28; Oct 5, 12; 2016

Duration: 50 minutes

Prerequisite: No class prerequisite. Your student will also need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

Suggested grade level: 7th or accelerated 6th grade

Fee: \$89 if you register on or before July 15, 2016; \$109 after July 15, 2016, for all six classes

Instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

Course description: This is an essential writing course for all beginning middle school students, designed to give your middle school student confidence and the ability to use punctuation and grammar well. This foundational course will help your student not struggle with commas, the semicolon and colon, and the most challenging ideas within proper grammar for middle school students.

Course outline:

Class 1: Solid commas in a series and commas with conjunctions

Class 2: Solid commas within clauses and tough constructions

Class 3: Solid tense, competing punctuation, and quotations

Class 4: Sticky-pair sentence construction (if-then, not only-but also) and tough grammar

Class 5: Using colons and semicolons correctly

Class 6: Introducing tricky punctuation details and end punctuation

Course materials: Word 2007 or later version. eBook: *Simplified Punctuation and Grammar for Middle School Students, Book 1*, by Erin Brown Conroy. Ordering information forthcoming.

Homework: Weekly quizzes, with an estimated two to three hours per week for homework outside of class time. Quizzes are graded automatically by the computer for instant feedback.

MS 7/6-2

WRITING ESSENTIALS 2: Excellent Sentence and Paragraph

Writing I

** This course is scheduled during three time slots in the fall semester only; the course will not be offered in the spring semester.*

** This is a two-part course; take the Essentials 1 and 2 courses together, to receive one full semester of credit (12 weeks of classes).*

** Though not required, it is recommended to sign up for Essentials 1 and 2 in the same Time Offering (same time slot) within each semester.*

Total Classes: 6

Class dates and starting times:

Tuesdays, 2 PM EDT (1:00 Central; 12 noon Mountain; 11:00 Pacific)

Oct 18, 25; Nov 8, 15, 29; Dec 6; 2016 (No class Thanksgiving week)

OR

Wednesdays, 11:30 AM EDT (10:30 Central; 9:30 Mountain; 8:30 Pacific)

Oct 19, 26; Nov 2, 9, 16, 30; 2016 (no class Thanksgiving week)

OR

Wednesdays, 1:00 PM EDT (12 noon Central; 11:00 Mountain; 10 Pacific)

Oct 19, 26; Nov 2, 9, 16, 30; 2016 (no class Thanksgiving week)

Duration: 50 minutes

Prerequisite: *Writing Essentials 1: Punctuation and Grammar I* (MS 7/6-1) or written permission from the instructor. You may take the prerequisite course live or in Unlimited Access. Your student will also need Word 2007 or later version or the ability

to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

Suggested grade level: 7th or accelerated 6th grade

Fee: \$89 if you register on or before July 15, 2016; \$109 after July 15, 2016, for all six classes

Instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

Course description: This is an essential writing course for all middle school students, to make sure your student has strong middle school writing foundations in place. Your student will learn how to create well-crafted sentences and paragraphs—including the absolute “must-have” knowledge and practice for the use of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions and prepositional phrases, and compound sentence structures. Your student will also cover capitalization, end punctuation, and the use of quoted material. Even if your student has learned the composition of a sentence and paragraph in elementary materials, this course uses higher-level vocabulary and structures. This course can help your student finally master the details that are holding him or her back from writing well.

Course outline:

Class 1: Nouns, verbs, and capitalization in sentences

Class 2: Adjectives, adverbs, and end punctuation in sentences

Class 3: Prepositions, prepositional phrases, and compound sentence structures

Class 4: Using quotes in dialogue and academic writing

Class 5: Transitions and connectives in sentences

Class 6: Putting it all together: Transitions and linear sentences in paragraph writing

Course materials: Word 2007 or later version. Book: *Simplified Writing Foundations: Sentences and Paragraphs for Middle School Students*, by Erin Brown Conroy. Ordering information forthcoming.

Homework: Estimated one to three hours per week for homework outside of class time, depending on the student’s ability. All writing assignments are graded by the instructor.

GRADE 7/6 COURSE OFFERINGS – 2017 Spring Semester

NEW! MS 7/6-3

WRITING ESSENTIALS 3: Punctuation and Grammar II

** This course, a continuation of the Writing Essentials series for 7/6 students, is scheduled three time slots in the spring semester only; the course will not be offered in the fall semester.*

** This is a two-part course; take the Essentials 3 and 4 courses together, to receive one full semester of credit (12 weeks of classes).*

** Though not required, it is recommended to sign up for Essentials 3 and 4 in the same Time Offering (same time slot) within each semester.*

Total Classes: 6

Class dates and starting times:

Tuesdays, 2 PM EDT (1:00 Central; 12 noon Mountain; 11:00 Pacific) Jan 10, 17, 24, 31;
Feb 7, 14

OR

Wednesdays, 11:30 AM EDT (10:30 Central; 9:30 Mountain; 8:30 Pacific)
Jan 11, 18, 25; Feb 1, 8, 15

OR

Wednesdays, 1:00 PM EDT (12 noon Central; 11:00 Mountain; 10 Pacific)
Jan 11, 18, 25; Feb 1, 8, 15

Duration: 50 minutes

Prerequisite: *Writing Essentials 2: Excellent Sentence and Paragraph Writing I* (MS 7/6-2) or written permission from the instructor. You may take the prerequisite courses live or in Unlimited Access. Your student will also need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

Suggested grade level: 7th or accelerated 6th grade

Fee: \$89 if you register on or before November 15, 2016; \$109 after November 15, 2016, for all six classes

Instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

Course description: This is an essential writing course for all middle school students, designed to further your middle school student's ability and confidence to use punctuation and grammar well. The course will focus on identifying and using correct punctuation in longer passages of text, including the use of commas, semicolons and colons, and quotation marks. Special emphasis will be placed on using punctuation correctly in systems of testing, such as standardized tests, and the student's ability to identify wrong uses of punctuation, making the corrections easily.

Course outline:

Class 1: Correct comma use with clauses, compound sentences, and commas vs. semicolons in lists

Class 2: Odd punctuation challenges with colons, semicolons, and capitalizations

Class 3: Correct usage of quotation marks and their surrounding punctuation

Class 4: Complete Sentences vs. fragments in academic work vs. Advertisements and informal writing

Class 5: Punctuation, capitalization, and form in formal letters

Class 6: Common punctuation and grammar mistakes with pronouns, questions, compound sentences, and more

Course materials: Word 2007 or later version. eBook: *Simplified Punctuation and Grammar for Middle School Students, Book 2*, by Erin Brown Conroy. Ordering information forthcoming.

Homework: Weekly quizzes, with an estimated two to three hours per week for homework outside of class time. Quizzes are graded automatically by the computer for instant feedback.

MS 7/6-4 (NEW!)

WRITING ESSENTIALS 4: Excellent Sentence and Paragraph

Writing II

** This course, a continuation of the Writing Essentials series for 7/6 students, is scheduled three time slots in the spring semester only; the course will not be offered in the fall semester.*

** This is a two-part course; take the Essentials 3 and 4 courses together, to receive one full semester of credit (12 weeks of classes).*

** Though not required, it is recommended to sign up for Essentials 3 and 4 in the same Time Offering (same time slot) within each semester.*

Total Classes: 6

Class dates and starting times:

Tuesdays, 2 PM EDT (1:00 Central; 12 noon Mountain; 11:00 Pacific) Feb 21, 28; Mar 7, 14, 21, 28; 2017

OR

Wednesdays, 11:30 AM EDT (10:30 Central; 9:30 Mountain; 8:30 Pacific)
Feb 22; Mar 8, 15, 22, 29; Apr 5; 2017

OR

Wednesdays, 1:00 PM EDT (12 noon Central; 11:00 Mountain; 10 Pacific)
Feb 22; Mar 8, 15, 22, 29; Apr 5; 2017

Duration: 50 minutes

Prerequisite: *Writing Essentials 3: Punctuation and Grammar II (MS 7/6-3)* or written permission from the instructor. You may also take the prerequisite courses in Unlimited Access. Your student will also need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

Suggested grade level: 7th or accelerated 6th grade

Fee: \$89 if you register on or before November 15, 2016; \$109 after November 15, 2016, for all six classes

Instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

Course description: This essential writing course for middle school students continues teaching how to create well-crafted sentences and paragraphs using specific nouns, strong verbs, appropriate adjectives and adverbs, prepositions and prepositional phrases, and compound sentence structures. Special emphasis will be placed on using words correctly in systems of testing such as standardized tests and the student's ability to identify improper word choice and make the corrections.

Course outline:

Class 1: Identifying and building on specific nouns and strong verbs in sentences

Class 2: Identifying and building on appropriate adjectives and adverbs in sentences

Class 3: Identifying and correctly using prepositions, prepositional phrases, and compound sentence structures within sentences and paragraphs

Class 4: How to easily identify incorrect usage in standardized tests

Class 5: Creating paragraphs with strong transitions and connectives

Class 6: Critical know-how for writing multi-paragraph essays

Course materials: Word 2007 or later version. eBook: *Simplified Punctuation and Grammar for Middle School Students* by Erin Brown Conroy. Ordering information forthcoming.

Homework: Estimated one to three hours per week for homework outside of class time, depending on the student's ability. All writing assignments are graded by the instructor.

GRADE 8/7 COURSE OFFERINGS – 2016 Fall Semester

MS 8/7-1

SIMPLIFIED WRITING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL 1: Foundations of Composition I

** This course, a continuation of the Simplified Writing series for 8/7 students, is scheduled during three time slots in the fall semester only; the course will not be offered in the spring semester.*

** This is a two-part course; take the Simplified Writing 1 and 2 courses together, to receive one full semester of credit (14 weeks of classes).*

** Though not required, it is recommended to sign up for Simplified Writing 1 and 2 in the same Time Offering (same time slot) within each semester.*

Total Classes: 8

Class dates and starting times:

Tuesdays, 3:30 PM EDT (2:30 Central; 1:30 Mountain; 12:30 Pacific)

Sept 6, 13, 20, 27; Oct 4, 11, 18, 25

OR

Thursdays, 2:00 PM EDT (1:00 Central; 12 noon Mountain; 11 AM Pacific)

Sept 8, 15, 22, 29; Oct 6, 13, 20, 27

OR

Thursdays, 3:30 PM EDT (2:30 Central; 1:30 Mountain; 12:30 Pacific)

Sept 8, 15, 22, 29; Oct 6, 13, 20, 27

Duration: 50 minutes

Prerequisite: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Punctuation and Grammar I* (MS 7/6-1). Students may take the requisite course live or in Unlimited Access. Your student will also need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

Suggested grade level: 8th or accelerated 7th grade

Fee: \$177 if you register on or before July 15, 2016; \$197 after July 15, 2016, for all eight classes

Instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

Course description: This course introduces middle school students to the skills and habits creating strong and clear writing foundations for high school level writing. The course covers the purposes of writing, including expression, informing, and persuading; the effect of audience on writing; and how to sculpt a piece of writing with direction, including the characteristics of an effective introduction, body, and conclusion. Students continue to perfect effective topic sentences, linear writing, and transitions with specific feedback from the instructor.

Course outline:

Class 1: Writing for a purpose and audience: the “why” of writing

Class 2: Great word choice: how to choose the “right” word

Class 3: Strong sentences: how to write a great sentence

Class 4: Clear paragraphs: what makes a great paragraph/linear writing that makes sense to the reader

Class 5: Writing with direction: great introductions and the hook

Class 6: Writing with direction: great introductions and the thesis

Class 7: Writing with direction: the body (of your paper) and how to make it “shapely”

Class 8: Writing with direction: the conclusion

Course materials: Word 2007 or later version. Book: *Simplified Writing for Middle School Students, Book 1*, by Erin Brown Conroy. Ordering information forthcoming.

Homework: Weekly writing assignments, with grading and direct feedback from the instructor. Estimated three to four hours per week for homework outside of class time, depending on the student’s ability.

MS 8/7-2

SIMPLIFIED WRITING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL 2:

Introduction to Essays and Papers I

** This course, a continuation of the Simplified Writing series for 8/7 students, is scheduled during three time slots in the fall semester only; the course will not be offered in the spring semester.*

** This is a two-part course; take the Simplified Writing 1 and 2 courses together, to receive one full semester of credit (12 weeks of classes).*

** **Though not required**, it is recommended to sign up for Simplified Writing 1 and 2 in the same Time Offering (same time slot) within each semester.*

Total Classes: 6

Class dates and starting times:

Tuesdays, 3:30 PM EDT (2:30 Central; 1:30 Mountain; 12:30 Pacific)

Nov 8, 15, 29; Dec 6, 13, 20 (No class Thanksgiving week)

OR

Thursdays, 2:00 PM EDT (1:00 PM Central; 12 noon Mountain; 11 Pacific)

Nov 3, 10, 17; Dec 1, 9*, 15 (no class Thanksgiving week)

**NOTE! The fifth class is held on FRIDAY, December 9, at 1 PM EDT; there is no Thursday class that week*

OR

Thursdays, 3:30 PM EDT (2:30 Central; 1:30 Mountain; 12:30 Pacific)

Nov 3, 10, 17; Dec 1, 9*, 15 (no class Thanksgiving week)

*NOTE! The fifth class is held on FRIDAY, December 9, at 1 PM EDT; there is no Thursday class that week

Duration: 50 minutes

Prerequisite: *SIMPLIFIED WRITING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL 1: Foundations of Composition I* (MS 8/7-1); students may take the requisite courses live or in Unlimited Access. Your student will also need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

Suggested grade level: 8th or accelerated 7th grade

Fee: \$97 if you register on or before July 15, 2016; \$117 after July 15, 2016, for all six classes

Instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

Course description: This is a writing course that takes the foundational writing skills learned in the Simplified Writing 1 course and puts into critical practice, with specific feedback and coaching regarding how your student's writing can improve. Students will brainstorm and craft the outline of an essay and a short paper during the course, introducing hooks, thesis statements, and connecting sentences in an essay/paper's introduction and creating outlines. Attention will be given to writing with a Christian worldview.

Course outline:

Class 1: Writing structure and skill: practicing the introduction, hook, and thesis

Class 2: Writing structure and skill: practicing outlines and the conclusion/concluding statements

Class 3: Writing an essay: rough drafts

Class 4: Writing a paper: five types of papers & practicing the introduction, hook, and thesis

Class 5: Writing a paper: practicing outlines and concluding statements; revising an essay

Class 6: Writing a paper: rough drafts; editing an essay

Course materials: Word 2007 or later version. eBook: *Simplified Writing for Middle School Students, Book 1*, by Erin Brown Conroy. Ordering information forthcoming.

Homework: Weekly writing assignments, with grading and direct feedback from the instructor. Estimated three to four hours per week for homework outside of class time, depending on the student's ability.

GRADE 8/7 COURSE OFFERINGS – 2017 Spring Semester

MS 8/7-3 NEW!

[SIMPLIFIED WRITING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL 3: Writing the Excellent Essay](#)

*** This course, a continuation of the Simplified Writing series for 8/7 students, is scheduled during three time slots in the spring semester only; the course will not be offered in the fall semester.**

*** This is a two-part course; take the Simplified Writing 3 and 4 courses together, to receive one full semester of credit (12 weeks of classes).**

*** Though not required, it is recommended to sign up for Simplified Writing 3 and 4 in the same Time Offering (same time slot) within each semester.**

Total Classes: 8

Class dates and starting times:

Tuesdays, 3:30 PM EDT (2:30 Central; 1:30 Mountain; 12:30 Pacific)

Jan 10, 17, 24, 31; Feb 7, 14, 21, 28; 2017

OR

Thursdays, 2:00 PM EDT (1:00 PM Central; 12 noon Mountain; 11 Pacific)

Jan 12, 19, 26; Feb 2, 9, 16, 23; Mar 2; 2017

OR

Thursdays, 3:30 PM EDT (2:30 Central; 1:30 Mountain; 12:30 Pacific)

Jan 12, 19, 26; Feb 2, 9, 16, 23; Mar 2; 2017

Duration: 50 minutes

Prerequisite: SIMPLIFIED WRITING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL 2: Introduction to Essays and Papers I (MS 8/7-2). Students may take the requisite courses live or in Unlimited Access.

Suggested grade level: 8th or accelerated 7th grade

Fee: \$177 if you register on or before July 15, 2016; \$197 after July 15, 2016 for all eight classes

Instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

Course description: This course takes the skills learned Simplified Writing 1 and 2 and puts into practice the writing of essays, with specific feedback and coaching regarding how your student's writing can improve. Students will go through the start-to-finish process of creating an academic essay. Attention will be given to using all of the correct forms and skills of writing to this point in the Essentials and Simplified Writing courses.

Course outline:

Class 1: Types of essays – an introduction to rhetoric and choosing an essay topic

Class 2: Narrowing topics (from last class); brainstorming content for your topic and creating the thesis statement

Class 3: Analyzing and improving thesis statements (from last class); creating outlines

Class 4: Analyzing and improving outlines (from last class); creating introductions

Class 5: Creating rough drafts

Class 6: Revising the essay

Class 7: Editing the essay

Class 8: Formatting for the academic essay; an introduction to style guides

Course materials: Word 2007 or later version. Book: *Simplified Writing for Middle School Students, Book 2*, by Erin Brown Conroy. Ordering information forthcoming.

Homework: Weekly writing assignments, with grading and direct feedback from the instructor. Estimated three to five hours per week for homework outside of class time, depending on the student's ability.

MS 8/7-4 NEW!

SIMPLIFIED WRITING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL 4: Writing Form and Style

** This course, a continuation of the Simplified Writing series for 8/7 students, is scheduled during three time slots in the spring semester only; the course will not be offered in the fall semester.*

** This is a two-part course; take the Simplified Writing 3 and 4 courses together, to receive one full semester of credit (12 weeks of classes).*

** Though not required, it is recommended to sign up for Simplified Writing 3 and 4 in the same Time Offering (same time slot) within each semester.*

Total Classes: 6

Class dates and starting times:

Tuesdays, 3:30 PM EDT (2:30 Central; 1:30 Mountain; 12:30 Pacific)

Mar 7, 14, 21, 28; Apr 4, 18; 2017 (No class Holy Week)

OR

Thursdays, 2:00 PM EDT (1:00 PM Central; 12 noon Mountain; 11 Pacific)

Mar 9, 16, 23, 30; Apr 6, 20; 2017 (No class Holy Thursday)

OR

Thursdays, 3:30 PM EDT 3:30 PM EDT (2:30 Central; 1:30 Mountain; 12:30 Pacific)

Mar 9, 16, 23, 30; Apr 6, 20; 2017 (No class Holy Thursday)

Duration: 50 minutes

Prerequisite: SIMPLIFIED WRITING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL 3: *Writing the Excellent Essay* (MS 8/7-3). Students may take the requisite courses live or in Unlimited Access. Your student will also need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

Suggested grade level: 8th or accelerated 7th grade

Fee: \$97 if you register on or before July 15, 2016; \$117 after July 15, 2016, for all six classes

Instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

Course description: This course instructs your student in the many types of non-fiction and fiction writing that he/she will encounter, including descriptive writing, reviews, how-to articles and instructions, news articles and journalistic reporting, types of business writing, speeches, creative/expressive story writing (songs, plays, and other forms of story) and the kinds of writing used in the bible (epistles/letters, genealogical writing, historical narratives, laws and statutory writing, parables, poetry, and proverbial writing). Special emphasis will be placed on knowing the characteristics of each kind of writing and how to identify types of writing. Students will also experiment within and practice writing within most of the forms. This course will use all of the skills of writing to this point in the Essentials and Simplified Writing courses for middle school students.

Course outline:

Class 1: Types of Writing Overview, Purpose and Audience, Nonfiction and Fiction

Writing

Class 2: How-to Writing and Instructional Writing

Class 3: An introduction to Journalism and News Reporting

Class 4: Expressive Writing – Forms of Story and Expression

Class 5: Descriptive Writing

Class 6: Business Writing

Class 7: Writing Reviews and Speeches

Class 8: Forms of Writing in the Bible

Course materials: Word 2007 or later version. Book: *Simplified Writing for Middle School Students, Book 2*, by Erin Brown Conroy. Ordering information forthcoming.

Homework: Weekly writing assignments, with grading and direct feedback from the instructor. Estimated three to five hours per week for homework outside of class time, depending on the student's ability.

FICTION WRITING CLASSES – HIGH SCHOOL OFFERINGS OPEN TO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

The following courses lay strong foundations for creative writing, college literature, and professional writing events, while developing and practicing the writing skills necessary for future success. Students in Middle School 8/7 may choose the Fiction courses as additional writing credits if there is a high interest in writing fiction, the student has already begun writing fiction stories/books, and/or the student is interested in pursuing writing stories/books.

HS 11-1

FICTION WRITING 1: Plot & Structure

Series description:

* There are eight courses in the *Write Your Own Fiction Book Series*. Students can jump into the series at any time. Students are encouraged to take *The Hero's Journey: Mythic Structure for Writers* and/or *Screenwriting*, and the courses may be taken at the same time as the series courses or following the series courses.

* Each Foundational Course shares critical information on one of the key elements of fiction writing. All eight courses are designed to give your student the skills to write his/her own book and a solid foundation of story and form for college literature courses.

Total classes: 4

Starting time: 10:30 AM Eastern (9:30 Central; 8:30 Mountain; 7:30 Pacific)

Class dates: Thursdays, September 8, 15, 22, 29; 2016

Duration: 55 minutes

Prerequisite: Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (MS 7/6-1). Recommended: *SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (MS 8/7-1). Prerequisites can be taken either live or through Unlimited Access. Your

student will need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

Suggested grade level: 11th grade; however, all students are welcome

Suggested high school credit: 1/3 semester Creative Writing. Take this course with HS 11-2 (Description & Setting) and HS 11-3 (Characters & Dialogue) for a full semester of credit (12 weeks).

Fee: \$89 if you register on or before July 15, 2015; \$99 after July 15, 2016, for all four classes

Instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

Course description: This course teaches the key components of writing a gripping plot for fiction books of any genre. Designed for writing fiction for middle grade, young adult, and adult plots, the course covers great openings (the opening line, hook, drop into action, and inciting incident); development (doors of no return, peaks, and the rising plot line); creating tension and intrigue; and the climax and finish.

Course outline:

Class 1: Great openings—the opening line, hook, drop into action, and inciting incident

Class 2: Developing your plot—doors of no return, peaks, and the rising plot line

Class 3: Creating tension and intrigue—tricks, tips, and “the plant”

Class 4: Great endings—creating a strong climax and finish

Course materials: Word 2007 or later version. All materials are provided FREE via the instructor.

Homework: Weekly writing assignments, with direct feedback from Professor Brown Conroy, with an estimated three to four hours per week for homework outside of class time that includes reading, writing, and responding to feedback.

HS 11-2

FICTION WRITING 2: Description & Setting

Series description:

* There are eight courses in the *Write Your Own Fiction Book Series*. Students can jump into the series at any time. Students are encouraged to take *The Hero’s Journey: Mythic Structure for Writers* and/or *Screenwriting*, and the courses may be taken at the same time as the series courses or following the series courses.

* Each Foundational Course shares critical information on one of the key elements of fiction writing. All eight courses are designed to give your student the skills to write his/her own book and a solid foundation of story and form for college literature courses.

Total classes: 4

Starting time: 10:30 AM Eastern (9:30 Central; 8:30 Mountain; 7:30 Pacific)

Class dates: Thursdays, October 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2016

Duration: 55 minutes

Prerequisite: Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (MS 7/6-1). Recommended: *SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (MS 8/7-1). Prerequisites can be taken either live or through Unlimited Access. Your

student will need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

Suggested grade level: 11th grade; however, all students are welcome

Suggested high school credit: 1/3 semester Creative Writing. Take this course with HS 11-1 (Plot & Structure) and HS 11-3 (Characters & Dialogue) for a full semester of credit (12 weeks).

Fee: \$89 if you register on or before July 15, 2015. \$99 after July 15, 2016, for all four classes

Instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

Course description: This course teaches key components of using excellent description and crafting a strong and memorable setting for your fiction book. The course covers when a good writer uses description and setting (timing and amount of use); types of description (sensory, metaphor and simile, figures of speech, and literary techniques); principles and techniques of memorable settings; and how to integrate description and setting into plot, structure, and character development.

Course outline:

Class 1: Description and Setting: Timing and the Basics of their Use

Class 2: Types of Description—The senses, metaphor and simile, figures of speech, and literary techniques

Class 3: Principles and techniques of memorable settings (including examples to learn by)

Class 4: How to integrate description and setting into plot, structure, and character development

Course materials: Word 2007 or later version. All materials are provided FREE via the instructor.

Homework: Weekly writing assignments, with direct feedback from Professor Brown Conroy, with an estimated three to four hours per week for homework outside of class time that includes reading, writing, and responding to feedback.

HS 11-3

FICTION WRITING 3: Characters and Dialogue

Series description:

* There are eight courses in the *Write Your Own Fiction Book Series*. Students can jump into the series at any time. Students are encouraged to take *The Hero's Journey: Mythic Structure for Writers* and/or *Screenwriting*, and the courses may be taken at the same time as the series courses or following the series courses.

* Each Foundational Course shares critical information on one of the key elements of fiction writing. All eight courses are designed to give your student the skills to write his/her own book and a solid foundation of story and form for college literature courses.

Total classes: 4

Starting time: 10:30 AM Eastern (9:30 Central; 8:30 Mountain; 7:30 Pacific)

Class dates: Thursdays, November 3, 10, 17; December 1; 2016

Duration: 55 minutes

Prerequisite: Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (MS 7/6-1). Recommended: *SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (MS 8/7-1). Prerequisites can be taken either live or through Unlimited Access. Your student will need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

Suggested grade level: 11th grade; however, all students are welcome

Suggested high school credit: 1/3 semester Creative Writing. Take this course with HS 11-1 (Plot & Structure) and HS 11-2 (Description & Setting) for a full semester of credit (12 weeks).

Fee: \$89 if you register on or before July 15, 2015. \$99 after July 15, 2016, for all four classes

Instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

Course description: This course teaches the key components of creating dynamic characters and dialogue for fiction books of any genre. Designed for writing fiction for middle grade, young adult, and adult plots, the course covers how to develop characters, the character arc, how to develop dialogue, and how to weave dialogue into character development and action. The course will also center on how to implement your Catholic worldview into your characters and dialogue.

Course outline:

Class 1: Types of characters, developing characters fully, introducing your character

Class 2: Character arc: Your lead character's inner change

Class 3: Dialogue how-to's, do's, and don'ts

Class 4: Showing your character in the dialogue: weaving dialogue with your character and the action

Course materials: Word 2007 or later version. All materials are provided FREE via the instructor.

Homework: Weekly writing assignments, with direct feedback from Professor Brown Conroy, with an estimated three to four hours per week for homework outside of class time that includes reading, writing, and responding to feedback.

HS 11-4

FICTION WRITING 4: Theme, Style, & Point of View

Series description:

* There are eight courses in the *Write Your Own Fiction Book Series*. Students can jump into the series at any time. Students are encouraged to take *The Hero's Journey: Mythic Structure for Writers* and/or *Screenwriting*, and the courses may be taken at the same time as the series courses or following the series courses.

* Each Foundational Course shares critical information on one of the key elements of fiction writing. All eight courses are designed to give your student the skills to write his/her own book and a solid foundation of story and form for college literature courses.

Total classes: 4

Starting time: 10:30 AM Eastern (9:30 Central; 8:30 Mountain; 7:30 Pacific)

Class dates: Thursdays, January 12, 19, 26; February 2; 2017

Duration: 55 minutes

Prerequisite: Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (MS 7/6-1). Recommended: *SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (MS 8/7-1). Prerequisites can be taken either live or through Unlimited Access. Your student will need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

Suggested grade level: 11th grade; however, all students are welcome

Suggested high school credit: 1/3 semester Creative Writing. Take this course with HS 11-5 (Conflict) and HS 11-6 or 11-7 (Authoring a Book 1 or Short Story) for a full semester of credit (12 weeks).

Fee: \$89 if you register on or before November 15, 2016; \$99 after November 16, 2016, for all four classes

Instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

Course description: This course teaches the key components of creating dynamic theme, style, and point of view for fiction books of any genre. Designed for writing fiction for middle grade, young adult, and adult plots, the course covers types of theme, how to develop theme, developing your style of writing, and all of the major fiction writing points of view. The course will also center on how to implement the Christian worldview into your theme.

Course outline:

Class 1: What is theme and how to use it in your book

Class 2: What is style and how to develop yours

Class 3: Point of view

Class 4: Integrating theme, style, and point of view to create a dynamic story

Course materials: Word 2007 or later version. All materials are provided FREE via the instructor.

Homework: Weekly writing assignments, with direct feedback from Professor Brown Conroy, with an estimated three to four hours per week for homework outside of class time that includes reading, writing, and responding to feedback.

HS 11-5

FICTION WRITING 5: Conflict & Creating the Breakout Novel

Series description:

* There are eight courses in the *Write Your Own Fiction Book Series*. Students can jump into the series at any time. Students are encouraged to take *The Hero's Journey: Mythic Structure for Writers* and/or *Screenwriting*, and the courses may be taken at the same time as the series courses or following the series courses.

* Each Foundational Course shares critical information on one of the key elements of fiction writing. All eight courses are designed to give your student the skills to write his/her own book and a solid foundation of story and form for college literature courses.

Total classes: 4

Starting time: 10:30 AM Eastern (9:30 Central; 8:30 Mountain; 7:30 Pacific)

Class dates: Thursdays, February 9, 16, 23; March 2; 2017

Duration: 55 minutes

Prerequisite: Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (MS 7/6-1). Recommended: *SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (MS 8/7-1). Prerequisites can be taken either live or through Unlimited Access. Your student will need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

Suggested grade level: 11th grade; however, all students are welcome

Suggested high school credit: 1/3 semester Creative Writing. Take this course with HS 11-4 (Theme, Style, & POV) and HS 11-7 or 11-7 (Authoring a Book or Short Story) for a full semester of credit (12 weeks).

Fee: \$89 if you register on or before November 15, 2016; \$99 after November 16, 2016, for all four classes

Instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

Course description: This course teaches the key components of creating conflict that gives us the breakout novel. The course will also center on how to implement the Christian worldview into your conflict.

Course outline:

Class 1: What makes a great novel and “stakes” (personal and universal)

Class 2: Conflict in the setting, characters, and plot

Class 3: Playing the “what if” game: making your character do the unthinkable

Class 4: Cliffhangers, self-sacrifice, and turning points

Course materials: Word 2007 or later version. All materials are provided FREE via the instructor.

Homework: Weekly writing assignments, with direct feedback from Professor Brown Conroy, with an estimated three to four hours per week for homework outside of class time that includes reading, writing, and responding to feedback.

HS 11-6

FICTION WRITING 6: *Authoring a Book, Part 1: How it Works, What it Takes, and How to Succeed*

Series description:

* There are eight courses in the *Write Your Own Fiction Book Series*. Students can jump into the series at any time. Students are encouraged to take *The Hero’s Journey: Mythic Structure for Writers* and/or *Screenwriting*, and the courses may be taken at the same time as the series courses or following the series courses.

* Each Foundational Course shares critical information on one of the key elements of fiction writing. All eight courses are designed to give your student the skills to write his/her own book and a solid foundation of story and form for college literature courses.

Total classes: 4

Starting time: 10:30 AM Eastern (9:30 Central; 8:30 Mountain; 7:30 Pacific)

Class dates: Thursdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30; 2017

Duration: 55 minutes

Prerequisite: Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (MS 7/6-1). Recommended: *SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (MS 8/7-1). Prerequisites can be taken either live or through Unlimited Access. Your student will need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

Suggested grade level: 11th grade; however, all students are welcome

Suggested high school credit: 1/3 semester Creative Writing. Take this course with HS 11-4 (Theme, Style, & POV) and HS 11-5 or 11-7 (Conflict or Short Story) for a full semester of credit (12 weeks).

Fee: \$89 if you register on or before November 15, 2016; \$99 after November 16, 2016, for all four classes

Instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

Course description: This course teaches what it takes to be an author, from personal practices to the publishing world. The course will also discuss what it's like to be a Catholic author today.

Course outline:

Class 1: Personal practices of successful writers

Class 2: The manuscript and query

Class 3: The platform, marketing, and the Internet

Class 4: Agents, publishers, and self-publishing

Course materials: Word 2007 or later version. All materials are provided FREE via the instructor.

Homework: Weekly writing assignments, with direct feedback from Professor Brown Conroy, with an estimated three to four hours per week for homework outside of class time that includes reading, writing, and responding to feedback.

HS 11-7 NEW!

FICTION WRITING 7: *Writing the Short Story*

Series description:

* There are eight courses in the *Write Your Own Fiction Book Series*. Students can jump into the series at any time. Students are encouraged to take *The Hero's Journey: Mythic Structure for Writers* and/or *Screenwriting*, and the courses may be taken at the same time as the series courses or following the series courses.

* Each Foundational Course shares critical information on one of the key elements of fiction writing. All eight courses are designed to give your student the skills to write his/her own book and a solid foundation of story and form for college literature courses.

Total classes: 4

Starting time: 10:30 AM Eastern (9:30 Central; 8:30 Mountain; 7:30 Pacific)

Class dates: 2016 Course – Thursdays, April 14, 21, 28; May 5; 2016

2017 Course – Thursdays, April 6, 20, 27; May 4; 2017

Duration: 55 minutes

Prerequisite: Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (MS 7/6-1). Recommended: *SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills*

(MS 8/7-1). Prerequisites can be taken either live or through Unlimited Access. Your student will need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

Suggested grade level: 11th grade; however, all students are welcome

Suggested high school credit: 1/3 semester Creative Writing. Take this course with HS 11-4 (Theme, Style, & POV) and HS 11-5 or 11-7 (Conflict or Short Story) for a full semester of credit (12 weeks).

Fee: \$89 if you register on or before November 15, 2016; \$99 after November 16, 2016, for all four classes

Instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

Course description: Have you ever wanted to write (and publish) a short story? This course will cover just that -- how to write a dynamic, publishable short story -- including fleshing out ideas for your short stories, the similarities and differences between short stories and full-length book writing, and marketing your short stories to publications.

Course outline:

Class 1: Defining short stories: micro fiction, flash fiction, short stories, novelettes, and novellas

Class 2: Characteristics of dynamic, saleable short stories

Class 3: Brainstorming, outlining, and forming your short story

Class 4: Short story markets and sales

Course materials: All course materials will be provided.

Homework: Estimated one to three hours of homework outside of class time per class, depending on the student's ability.

HS 11-8 NEW!

FICTION WRITING 8: *How to be an Author II: Perfecting the Query and Synopsis*

Series description:

* There are eight courses in the *Write Your Own Fiction Book Series*. Students can jump into the series at any time. Students are encouraged to take *The Hero's Journey: Mythic Structure for Writers* and/or *Screenwriting*, and the courses may be taken at the same time as the series courses or following the series courses.

* Each Foundational Course shares critical information on one of the key elements of fiction writing. All eight courses are designed to give your student the skills to write his/her own book and a solid foundation of story and form for college literature courses.

Total Classes: 4

Starting time: 11:30 AM Eastern (10:30 Central; 9:30 Mountain; 8:30 Pacific)

Class dates: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; May 2, 3, 4, and 5; 2016

Duration: 55 minutes

Prerequisite: Authoring a Book I (live or recorded). Your student will need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

Suggested grade level: high school

Fee: \$89 if you register on or before March 15, 2016. \$99 after March 15, 2016, for all

four classes

Instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

Course description: During this course, each student will receive feedback on their own query letter and synopsis – two components necessary for submitting your work to an agent and/or publisher. The class will have both instructor feedback and workshopping together, and students should leave the course with documents that have been edited and polished.

Course outline:

Class 1: Analyzing excellent query letters

Class 2: Workshopping query letters

Class 3: Analyzing excellent synopses

Class 4: Workshopping synopses

Course materials: All course materials will be provided.

Homework: Estimated one to three hours of homework outside of class time per class, depending on the student's ability.