

# Aquinas Writing Advantage (AWA) 2017 - 2018 High School *Full Course Descriptions Guide*

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## Course Descriptions

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

## 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

Orange = Offered in Unlimited Access Recording Only

## Course Number Key

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

### COURSE # KEY

HS = High School course

**First Number** (9, 10, 11, 12) = Suggested Grade Level

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

**X** = Exceptional, additional courses that can be taken at any time during high school, if the student meets the prerequisite requirements; for students who want to confirm, practice, and excel in their skills

**Example:** HS 9-1 = The suggested first course in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Grade Suggestions

The grade suggestions on each course show the order of courses in the entire AWA program. The grade numbers (9, 10, 11, 12) 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. The important factor is to make sure your student has the correct prerequisite before starting a new course.

## Course Options

If a live 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, independent-learning courses, an unlimited number of students in your family can view all the Homeschool

Connections courses (including all Aquinas Writing Advantage courses), with 24/7 access, with all of 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](http://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](mailto:homeschoolconnections@gmail.com).

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## Course Listing

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### SUGGESTED 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YEAR

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#### ESSENTIAL & SIMPLIFIED WRITING SKILLS

*The following courses lay the foundation for strong academic writing skills.*

#### HS 9-1

#### HIGH SCHOOL WRITING ESSENTIALS 1:

#### Essential Punctuation and Grammar I

*\* This course is offered during four time slots in the fall semester only; the course will not be offered live in the spring semester. (Can be taken as a recorded course anytime.)*

*\* This is a two-part course; take the 9-1 and 9-2 courses together, to receive one full semester of credit (14 weeks of classes).*

*\* Though not required, it is recommended to sign up for 9-1 and 9-2 courses in the same Time Offering (same time slot) within each semester.*

**Total Classes:** 6

**Class dates and starting times:**

**Mondays, 11:30 AM (10:30 Central; 9:30 Mountain; 8:30 Pacific)**

September 11,18, 25; October 2, 9, 16; 2017

**OR**

**Mondays, 2:00 PM (1:00 Central; 12 noon Mountain; 11:00 Pacific)**

September 11,18, 25; October 2, 9, 16; 2017

**OR**

**Wednesdays, 10:00 AM (9:00 Central; 8:00 Mountain; 7:00 Pacific)**

Sept 13, 20, 27; Oct 4, 11, 18; 2017

**OR**

**Fridays, 10:00 AM (9:00 Central; 8:00 Mountain; 7:00 Pacific)**

September 8, 15, 20, 27; October 6, 13, 2017

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** No class prerequisites. Your student will need Word 2007 or later version

or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

**Suggested grade level:** 9<sup>th</sup> grade; all grade levels accepted

**Suggested credit:** ½ semester Writing or English. Combine with High School Simplified Writing 1 for a full semester credit.

**Fee:** \$89 if you sign up on or before July 15, 2017; \$99 after July 15 for all 6 classes. (\$119 after Sept. 3)

**Instructors:** Lisa Mladinich (Mondays) and Sharon Hamric-Weis, BSEd, JD (Wednesdays and Fridays)

**Course description:** This is an essential writing course for all high school students. Give your high school student exactly what's needed for high school and college writing—including the confidence and the ability to use punctuation and grammar well. Don't let your student struggle—master commas, tense, colons, semicolons, dashes, ellipses, and more. This class will give your student the strong foundation needed to finally master the details that are holding him or her back from writing well. Sentence constructions in the course are upper level, meant to challenge and prepare your student for upper-high school and college courses.

**Course outline:**

*Class 1: Mastering commas in a series and commas with conjunctions using complex sentences*

*Class 2: Mastering commas and clauses and tough constructions, including multiple ideas, connectors, and transitions*

*Class 3: Mastering tense, competing punctuation, quotations, dashes, and ellipses*

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

*Class 5: Mastering colons and semicolons with leading sentence constructions*

*Class 6: Mastering tricky punctuation details, end punctuation, and the most common grammar challenges*

**Course materials:** eBook: *Elements of Writing for High School Students* by Erin Brown Conroy. Ordering information forthcoming

**Homework:** Weekly quizzes graded automatically by the computer for immediate feedback. Estimated two to four hours per week for homework outside of class time, depending on the student's ability.

## HS 9-2

### **HIGH SCHOOL SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1:**

#### **Strong Foundational Writing Skills**

*\* This course is offered during four time slots in the fall semester only; the course will not be offered live in the spring semester. (Can be taken as a recorded course anytime.)*

*\* This is a two-part course; take the 9-1 and 9-2 courses together, to receive one full semester of credit (14 weeks of classes).*

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

**Total Classes: 8**

**Class dates and starting times:**

Mondays, 11:30 AM (10:30 Central; 9:30 Mountain; 8:30 Pacific)  
October 23, 30; November 6, 13, 20, 27; December 4, 11; 2017

**OR**

Mondays, 2:00 PM (1:00 Central; 12 noon Mountain; 11:00 Pacific)  
October 23, 30; November 6, 13, 20, 27; December 4, 11; 2017

**OR**

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM (9:00 Central; 8:00 Mountain; 7:00 Pacific)  
October 18, 25; November 8, 15, 29; December 6, 13, 20; 2017 (No class Nov. 1 for All Saints Day or Nov. 22 for Thanksgiving week)

**OR**

Fridays, 10:00 AM (9:00 Central; 8:00 Mountain; 7:00 Pacific)  
Oct 20, 27; Nov 3, 10, 17; Dec 1, 15, 22; 2017 (No class Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving week or Dec. 8 for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception)

**Duration:** 55 minutes.

**Prerequisite:** Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (HS 9-1). Your student will need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

**Suggested grade level:** 9<sup>th</sup> grade; however, all students are welcome.

**Suggested credit:** ½ semester Writing or English. Combine with High School Writing Essentials 1 for a full semester.

**Instructor:** Lisa Mladinich (Mondays) and Sharon Hamric-Weis, BSEd, JD (Wednesdays and Fridays)

**Fee:** \$177 on or before July 15, 2017; \$197 after July 15 for all 8 classes. (\$217 after Oct. 10)

**Course description:** This high school writing overview course is designed to give the teen skills that make writing strong and clear, lacking nothing—able to articulate ideas well in writing for all high-school level work. Students will learn how to further perfect strong sentences and paragraphs; learn nine basic forms of rhetoric; focus on linear academic writing for a purpose; practice transitions and connectives, parallelism, paraphrasing, and summary; review punctuation as it influences excellence in writing (comma, semicolon, colon, and dash use); recognizing and correcting common grammar struggles; understand the characteristics of an effective introduction, body, and conclusion; overview prewriting, drafting, and editing skills; and practice sculpting a piece of writing with direction that receives specific feedback from the instructor.

**Course outline:**

*Class 1:* Audience, purpose, and word choice

*Class 2:* Perfecting strong sentence and paragraph construction

*Class 3:* Nine forms of rhetoric (and what they have to do with great writing)

*Class 4:* Linear writing for a purpose: more strong sentences and paragraphs

*Class 5:* How to effectively use transitions/connectives and parallelism

*Class 6:* Punctuation and excellent writing: the comma, colon, semicolon, and dash; conquering common grammar struggles

*Class 7:* The introduction, body, and conclusion; prewriting for success

*Class 8:* Drafting for success; editing and polishing your writing

**Course materials:** Word 2007 or later version. *Simplified Writing 101: Top Secrets for College Success* by Erin Brown Conroy. Available from

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00B7AB90W/catholictreas-20>. (Download the Kindle app for free to easily read on your computer, tablet, or mobile device.)

**Homework:** Students will have weekly writing assignments with grading and direct feedback from instructor. Expect an estimated five hours per week for homework (outside of class time) that includes reading, writing, and responding to feedback.

## HS 9-3

### HIGH SCHOOL WRITING ESSENTIALS 2: Excellent Paragraphs and Essay Writing

*\* This course is scheduled during three time slots in the Spring Semester only; the course will not be offered live in the Fall Semester. (Can be taken as a recorded course anytime.)*

*\* This is a two-part course; take the Essentials 3 and 4 courses together to receive one full semester of credit (14 weeks of classes).*

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

**Total Classes:** 6

**Class dates and starting times:**

Mondays, January 8, 15, 22, 29; February 5, 19; 2018 (No class Feb. 12)  
11:30 AM (10:30 Central; 9:30 Mountain; 8:30 Pacific)

**OR**

Mondays, January 8, 15, 22, 29; February 5, 19; 2018 (No class Feb. 12)  
2:00 PM (1:00 Central; 12 noon Mountain; 11:00 Pacific)

**Or**

Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31; February 7, 21, 2018 (No class Feb. 14 for Ash Wednesday)

10:00 AM EDT (9:00 Central; 8:00 Mountain; 7:00 Pacific)

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Required: *HIGH SCHOOL SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (HS 9-2). Can be taken as live or recorded classes. Your student will need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

**Suggested grade level:** 9<sup>th</sup> grade; however, all students are welcome

**Suggested credit:** ½ semester Writing or English. Combine with High School Simplified Writing 2 for a full semester credit.

**Fee:** \$99 on or before November 15, 2017; \$119 after Nov. 15 for all 6 classes. (\$139 after Dec. 31)

**Instructor:** Sharon Hamric-Weis, BSEd, JD

**Course description:** This is an essential writing course for all high school students, to make sure that your student has critical high school writing foundations in place for writing well-crafted sentences and paragraphs—including the absolute “must-have” knowledge, review, and practice for the use of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions and prepositional phrases, and compound sentence structures, as well as transitions and connectives, the use of quoted material, summary, and paraphrase. Even if your student has learned foundational concepts before, the approach in his class is to use high school vocabulary and structures that are more complex and needed for upper-level writing. From mastering the details that are holding your student back from writing well to providing much-needed practice, help your student perfect the essential tools for high school writing.

**Course outline:**

*Class 1:* Using strong nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs in well-constructed sentences

*Class 2:* Capitalization, punctuation, and using quotation marks in dialogue and academic writing; prepositions and prepositional phrases

*Class 3:* Linear writing, transitions, and connectives in sentences and paragraphs

*Class 4:* Writing with summary and paraphrase

*Class 5:* Answering essay questions: structure, form, and content I

*Class 6:* Answering essay questions: structure, form, and content 2

**Course materials:** Word 2007 or later version. eBook: Simplified Writing Essentials for High School Students, by EB Conroy. Ordering information forthcoming.

**Homework:** Estimated three to five hours per week for homework outside of class time, depending on the student’s ability. Writing assignments graded by the instructor.

**HS 9-4**

**HIGH SCHOOL SIMPLIFIED WRITING 2:**

**Beyond the Five-Paragraph Essay**

*\* This course is scheduled during three time slots in the Spring Semester only; the course will not be offered live in the Fall Semester. (Can be taken as a recorded course anytime.)*

*\* This is a two-part course; take courses 9-3 and 9-4 to receive one full semester of credit (14 weeks of classes).*

**Total Classes:** 8

**Class dates and starting times:**

Mondays, February 26; March 5, 12, 19; April 2, 9, 16, 23; 2018 (No class Mar. 26 for Holy Week)

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

**OR**

Mondays, February 26; March 5, 12, 19; April 2, 9, 16, 23; 2018 (No class Mar. 26 for Holy Week)

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

**Or**

Wednesdays, February 28; March 7, 14, 21; April 4, 11, 18, 25; 2018  
(No class Mar. 28 for Holy Week)

10:00 AM EDT (9:00 Central; 8:00 Mountain; 7:00 Pacific)

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Required: *HIGH SCHOOL SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (HS 9-2). Students can take the prerequisite course live or recorded 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:** This critical course is open to all students who have the prerequisites complete, no matter the grade level. Because the content of this course is foundational for all high school essay writing, it is highly suggested that students enroll in this course.

**Suggested credit:** ½ semester Writing or English. Combine with High School Writing Essentials 2 for a full semester.

**Fee:** \$157 if you register on or before November 15, 2017; \$177 after Nov. 15 for all 8 classes (\$197 after Feb. 18)

**Instructor:** Fall Semester instructor: Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA; Spring Semester instructor: Sharon Hamric-Weis, BSEd, JD

**Course description:** The Five Paragraph Essay has been the standard for essay writing for years. This course helps your student understand and practice writing essays in the Five Paragraph Essay form – as well as learning what makes an essay exceptional. Students will craft essays and practice becoming comfortable with thinking quickly in creating, drafting, and polishing essays. Special attention will be paid to how to write essays that capture the attention and flow from beginning to end, with meaning.

**Course outline:**

*Class 1: Essay types and differences, and where you'll write them*

*Class 2: The traditional five paragraph essay*

*Class 3: What makes an essay great – Research an essay and brainstorming with the "then what?" question; taking your thoughts "to the end of the line"*

*Class 4: What makes an essay great – Writing an essay and examples and analysis of form, parallelism, and rhythm*

*Class 5: What makes an essay great – Transitional tricks, answering the reader's questions, making cohesive decisions, and bookending*

*Class 6: What makes an essay great – Storytelling and creative elements*

*Class 7: What makes an essay great – Analyzing three essays*

*Class 8: Revising and editing your essays*

**Course materials:** All materials are provided free by the instructor.

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

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## SUGGESTED 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YEAR

### VOCABULARY & WRITING

*The following courses further students' writing skills with practice and build the critical vocabulary skills necessary for college and career success.*

#### HS 10-1

#### **VOCABULARY AND WRITING: Vocabulary and Writing, Part One**

*\* This course is scheduled during two time slots in the Fall Semester only; the course will not be offered live in the Spring Semester. (Can be taken as a recorded course anytime.)*

*\* Parts One and Two can be taken interchangeably.*

*\* This is a two-part course; it is expected that students will enroll in both semesters.*

**Total Classes:** 14

**Class dates and starting times:**

Wednesdays, September 6, 13, 20, 27; October 4, 11, 18, 25; Nov 8, 15, 29; Dec 6, 13, 20  
(No class Nov. 1 for All Saints Day or Nov. 22 for Thanksgiving week)

1:00 PM Eastern (Noon Central; 11:00 Mountain; 10:00 Pacific)

**OR**

Fridays, September 8, 15, 20, 27; October 6, 13, 20, 27; Nov 3, 10, 17; Dec 1, 15, 22;  
2017 (No class Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving week or Dec. 8 for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception)

12:00 PM noon Eastern Time (11:00 Central; 10:00 Mountain; 9:00 Pacific)

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (HS 9-1). Recommended: *HIGH SCHOOL SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (HS 9-2). Your student will need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

**Suggested grade level:** 10<sup>th</sup> grade; however, all students are welcome

**Suggested credit:** 1 full semester Vocabulary & Writing, Writing, or English.

**Fee:** \$197 if you register on or before July 15, 2017; \$217 after July 15 for all 14 classes. (\$237 after Aug. 29)

**Instructor:** Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA (Wednesdays) Sharon Hamric-Weis, BSEd, JD (Fridays)

**Course description:** In this course (the first of two successive courses), your student will learn to use the upper-level vocabulary words related to writing that are needed for high school advanced writing, Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Composition courses, the ACT and SAT, advanced writing courses, and all of college writing—and an introduction of the concepts associated with the terms.. Over 350 words will be learned and practiced this semester. Course work will be simple yet critical for your student's future success. Because vocabulary is the #1 indicator of success on college entrance testing, if you want your student to not only score well on testing but also be able to be prepared for college writing and vocabulary, this course is for you.

**Course outline:**



- Class 1: Writing for a Purpose and Audience*
- Class 2: Worldview, Critical Thinking, & Passive/Active Voice*
- Class 3: Writing Effective Sentences; Diction & Syntax*
- Class 4: Writing Effective Paragraphs: Structure, Linear Writing, Active writing, Transitions and Connectives*
- Class 5: Punctuation and its Effect on Writing*
- Class 6: Grammar, Usage, & Mechanics for Clarity*
- Class 7: Types of Writing*
- Class 8: Point of View, Tone, & Voice*
- Class 9: Style*
- Class 10: Techniques & Devices of Organization for Coherence*
- Class 11: More Techniques & Devices of Organization*
- Class 12: Composing Methods*
- Class 13: Characteristics of an Effective Argument*
- Class 14: Research Methods*

**Course materials:** Word 2007 or later version. Book: *EB Conroy's Simplified Vocabulary Guide*. Ordering information is forthcoming.

**Homework:** Studying for tests on the vocabulary identification and use. Students will take weekly in-system quizzes and complete weekly writing assignments using the new vocabulary. Assignments are graded by the instructor.

## **HS 10-2**

### **VOCABULARY AND WRITING: Vocabulary and Writing, Part Two**

*\* This course is scheduled during two time slots in the Spring Semester only; the course will not be offered live in the Fall Semester. (Can be taken as a recorded course anytime.)*

*\* This is a two-part course; it is expected students will enroll in both semesters.*

**Total Classes:** 14

**Class dates and starting times:**

Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31; February 7, 21, 28; March 7, 14, 21; April 4, 11, 18, 25; 2018 (No class Feb. 14 for Ash Wednesday or Mar. 28 for Holy Week)

1:00 PM Eastern (Noon Central; 11:00 Mountain; 10:00 Pacific)

**OR**

Fridays, January 12, 19, 26; February 2, 9, 16, 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23; April 6, 13, 20; 2018 (No class Mar. 30 for Good Friday)

12:00 PM Eastern Time (11:00 Central; 10:00 Mountain; 9:00 Pacific)

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (HS 9-1). Recommended: *HIGH SCHOOL SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (HS 9-2). Also, it is preferred that students take *Vocabulary and Writing Part One* first, but it is not required. Your student will need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

**Suggested grade level:** 10<sup>th</sup> grade; however, all students are welcome

**Suggested credit:** 1 full semester Vocabulary & Writing, Writing, or English.

**Fee:** \$197 if you register on or before November 15, 2017; \$217 after Nov. 15 for all 14 classes (\$237 after Jan. 4)

**Instructor:** Sharon Hamric-Weis, BSEd, JD

**Course description:** In this course (the second of two successive courses), your student will learn to use upper-level vocabulary words related to writing that are needed for high school advanced writing, Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Composition courses, the ACT and SAT, advanced writing courses, and all of college writing—and an introduction of the concepts associated with the terms. Over 350 words will be learned and practiced this semester. Course work will be simple yet critical for your student’s future success. Because vocabulary is the #1 indicator of success on college entrance testing, if you want your student to not only score well on testing but also be able to be prepared for college writing and vocabulary, this course is for you.

**Course outline:**

*Class 1: Persuasion; Sources, Citations, & Plagiarism*

*Class 2: Research*

*Class 3: Critical Reading; Literary Forms & Genres I*

*Class 4: Literary Forms & Genres II*

*Class 5: Themes in Writing*

*Class 6: Rhetoric & Literary Techniques*

*Class 7: Rhetoric, Figures of Speech, & Devices I*

*Class 8: Rhetoric, Figures of Speech, & Devices II*

*Class 9: Narration; Dissecting Passages of Text I*

*Class 10: Description; Dissecting Passages of Text II*

*Class 11: Illustration, Exemplification, & Highly Effective Essays*

*Class 12: Comparison & Contrast in Writing*

*Class 13: Process Analysis & Context*

*Class 14: Division & Classification; Writing Cogent, Organized Essays I*

**Course materials:** Word 2007 or later version. Book: *EB Conroy’s Simplified Vocabulary Guide*. Ordering information is forthcoming.

**Homework:** Studying for tests on the vocabulary identification and use. Students will take weekly in-system quizzes and complete weekly writing assignments using the new vocabulary. Assignments are graded by the instructor.

## **SUGGESTED 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YEAR**

### **FICTION WRITING OR BUSINESS WRITING TRACKS**

*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 may choose the Fiction Writing track or Business Writing track; students may also take both tracks.*

## FICTION WRITING TRACK

### 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 7, 14, 21, 28; 2017

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (HS 9-1). Recommended: *SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (HS 9-2). 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:** 11<sup>th</sup> grade; however, all students are welcome

**Suggested 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 for all 4 classes. (\$119 after Aug. 31)

**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:** 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 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2017

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (HS 9-1). Recommended: *SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (HS 9-2). 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:** 11<sup>th</sup> grade; however, all students are welcome

**Suggested 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 for all 4 classes. (\$119 after Sept. 27)

**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:** 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 2, 9, 16; 30; 2017 (No class Nov. 23 for Thanksgiving.)

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (HS 9-1). Recommended: *SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (HS 9-2). 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:** 11<sup>th</sup> grade; however, all students are welcome

**Suggested 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 for all 4 classes. (\$119 after Oct. 25)

**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 11, 18, 25; February 1; 2018

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (HS 9-1). Recommended: *SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (HS 9-2). 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:** 11<sup>th</sup> grade; however, all students are welcome

**Suggested 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, 2017; \$99 after Nov. 15 for all 4 classes. (\$119 after Jan. 3)

**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 8, 15, 22; March 1; 2018

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (HS 9-1). Recommended: *SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (HS 9-2). 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:** 11<sup>th</sup> grade; however, all students are welcome. Your student will also need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

**Suggested 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, 2017; \$99 after Nov. 15 for all 4 classes (\$119 after Jan. 31)

**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 8, 15, 22; April 5; 2018 (No class March 30 for Holy Thursday)

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (HS 9-1). Recommended: *SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (HS 9-2). 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:** 11<sup>th</sup> grade; however, all students are welcome

**Suggested 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, 2017; \$99 after Nov. 15 for all 4 classes (\$119 after Feb. 28)

**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



## **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:** Thursdays, April 12, 19, 26; May 3; 2018

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Required: *WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (HS 9-1). Recommended: *SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (HS 9-2). 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:** 11<sup>th</sup> grade; however, all students are welcome

**Suggested 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, 2017; \$99 after Nov. 15 for all 4 classes (\$119 after Apr. 4)

**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:** Weekly writing assignments, with direct feedback from Professor Brown Conroy. Estimated one to three hours of homework outside of class time per class, depending on the student's ability.

## **HS 11-8**

## **FICTION WRITING 8: *Authoring a Book, Part 2: 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:** For the 2017/2018 school year, this course is only available as a recorded course through Unlimited Access. (Instructor Access is also available)

**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:** 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Suggested credit:** 1/3 semester Fiction Writing, Creative Writing, or English. Combine with other fiction-writing courses for a full credit.

**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:** Weekly writing assignments, with direct feedback from Professor Brown Conroy. Estimated one to three hours of homework outside of class time per class, depending on the student's ability.

## **BUSINESS WRITING TRACK**

### **HS 11-9**

#### **BUSINESS WRITING 1: Professional Business Writing Essentials**

**Series description:** There are currently two one-semester courses in the *Business Writing* series. Students can take the Business Writing courses in any order.

**Total Classes:** 8

**Starting time:** For the 2017/2018 school year, this course is only available as a recorded course through Unlimited Access. (Instructor Access is also available)

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Required: *HIGH SCHOOL SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (HS 9-2). Students should be able to competently use Microsoft Word. Your student will need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

**Suggested grade level:** 11<sup>th</sup> grade; however, all students are welcome

**Suggested credit:** 2/3 a semester's credit; add the composition of your own documents from the coursework to create a full semester credit.

**Instructor:** Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

**Course description:** Learn how to present yourself professionally in multiple areas of writing! Because business writing is distinctive from academic or creative writing, writing powerfully in your dealings with others in any organization, mastering business writing is essential. In this course, you'll write letters and professional correspondence, create a professional resume, and write pieces critical to getting a job. Whether you plan on entering college, getting a job right out of high school, or building your own business as an entrepreneur right now, this course is for you.

**Course outline:**

*Class 1: What is business writing? (Business Writing Overview)*

*Class 2: Writing business reports (business writing vs. academic writing), entrepreneurial writing, and professionalism in writing for business*

*Class 3: Writing formal letters: letters of complaint, opinion letters/letters to the editor, and letters of request*

*Class 4: Resumes: What they're for, who uses them, and why you need one (writing to get a job)*

*Class 5: Resumes: Your Resume's form, structure, and content*

*Class 6: Cover letters – what they are and how to write them*

*Class 7: Marketing writing – what it is, who uses it, and an introduction of how to write a text to sell*

*Class 8: "Little Writing Tasks" that are really big: social media and business; the business email; inter-office communication including the memo, organizational texts, and agendas; and organizational writing to keep on task*

**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, including reading, writing, and responding to feedback.

## **HS 11-10**

### **BUSINESS WRITING 2: Foundations of Journalism**

**Series description:** There are currently two one-semester courses in the *Business Writing* series. Students can take the Business Writing courses in any order.

**Total Classes:** 8

**Starting time:** For the 2017/2018 school year, this course is only available as a recorded course through Unlimited Access. (Instructor Access is also available)

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Required: *HIGH SCHOOL SIMPLIFIED WRITING 1: Strong Foundational Writing Skills* (HS 9-2). Students should be able to competently use Microsoft Word. Your student will need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

**Suggested grade level:** 11<sup>th</sup> grade; however, all students are welcome

**Suggested credit:** 2/3 a semester's credit; add the composition of your own documents from the coursework to create a full semester credit,

**Instructor:** Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

**Course description:** Full of information *and* hands-on writing, this course introduces journalism in a sturdy overview, helping your student both understand and practice his or her writing skills in the genre of reporting writing. Whether you're interested in learning about how the news that you read is created or in becoming a writer of news stories yourself – look over the course outline below. If you see yourself enjoying all that's here, sign up for this course today.

**Course outline:**

*Class 1: What is a journalist? (Journalism Overview), a brief history of journalism, and First Amendment Freedoms*

*Class 2: Ethics in Journalism, quoting and Interviewing, and how journalists can shape a message*

*Class 3: News Today – what it is, how it's reported and written, news leads, and headlines and bylines*

*Class 4: Features: multiple feature news stories, people, ideas, and trends; and investigative reporting*

*Class 5: Writing editorials and columns*

*Class 6: How reviews and opinion writing are a part of journalism today*

*Class 7: News magazines and writing news articles, online journalism, and broadcast journalism*

*Class 8: The brilliance of advertising, page layout, and graphic design in journalism*

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

**Homework:** Weekly writing assignments, with direct feedback from the instructor with an estimated three to four hours per week for homework outside of class time, including reading, writing, and responding to feedback.

## **SUGGESTED 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YEAR**

### **COLLEGE PREP WRITING**

*The following courses cover critical writing skills for college, teach all forms of necessary college writing, and provide significant feedback and practice of those skills.*

**HS 12-1**

## **ADVANCED RHETORIC & WRITING 1: *Rhetoric, Figures of Speech, Essays, & Papers***

**\* Foundational for All High School Students and Essential for College-Bound Students**

**\* This class is only offered in the Fall Semester.**

**Total classes:** 10

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

**Fall class dates:** Wednesdays, Sept. 20, 27; Oct 4, 11, 18; 25; Nov. 8, 15, 29, Dec. 6; 2017  
(No class Nov. 1 for All Saints Day and Nov. 22 for Thanksgiving week)

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** 9-1 through 9-4 writing courses are required prerequisites (live classes or Unlimited Access). *Exceptions are granted only with written permission from the instructor.* 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:** 12<sup>th</sup>; however, all students with the prerequisites complete are welcome

**Suggested credit:** 1 semester Writing or English

**Fee:** \$217 if you register on or before July 15, 2017. \$237 after July 15 for all 10 classes.  
(\$257 after Sept. 12)

**Instructor:** Sharon Hamric-Weis, BSEd, JD

**Course description:** This course content is known as a prerequisite for many colleges for college-bound students. Designed to give the teen skills that make writing strong and clear, your student will learn methods of rhetoric and how to use the skills in all of the main conventions of writing used in college—including in-depth use of nine basic forms of rhetoric (rhetorical modes); be able to identify and use major rhetorical strategies and figures of speech; and pre-write, draft, and edit a comparison and contrast paper, including use of the hook, thesis, introduction construction, conclusions, and rewriting with specific, individual feedback from the instructor. Vocabulary related to upper-level writing will be introduced and integrated into the learning. Specific class time will be used to show how to edit and revise upper-level work.

### **Course outline:**

*Class 1:* The academic paper; advanced academic writing with strong thesis construction, hooks, and introductions

*Class 2:* Rhetorical Mode 1: Narration; rhetorical strategies and figures of speech (tropes, aposiopesis, apostrophe, chiasmus, epithet)

*Class 3:* Rhetorical Mode 2: Comparison and Contrast; creating a thesis and hook for your paper

*Class 4:* Rhetorical Mode 3: Illustration and Exemplification; rhetorical strategies and figures of speech (litotes, zeugma, euphemism, idiom)

*Class 5:* Rhetorical Mode 4: Description; drafting your paper's outline

*Class 6:* Rhetorical Mode 5: Process Analysis; rhetorical strategies and figures of speech (hyperbole, metonymy, metaphor, mixed metaphor, extended metaphor); prewriting for papers

*Class 7:* Rhetorical Mode 6: Definition; rhetorical strategies and figures of speech (bathos, caricature, deus ex machine, epiphany)  
your paper's rough draft

*Class 8:* Rhetorical Mode 7: Cause and Effect; advanced methods of draft revision 1

*Class 9:* Rhetorical Mode 8: Division and Classification; advanced methods of draft revision 2; formatting advanced academic works (brief style guide introduction)

*Class 10:* Rhetorical mode 9: Argumentation; integrating rhetorical strategies into upper-level writing

**Course materials:** Word 2007 or later version. *Simplified Writing 101: Top Secrets for College Success*, by Erin Brown Conroy:

[www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00B7AB90W/catholictreas-20](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00B7AB90W/catholictreas-20). (Download the Kindle app for free to easily read on your computer, tablet, or mobile device.) Also required is 2) *Simplified Writing 102: EB Conroy's Top 10 Tips for Using the Rhetorical Modes in Academic Writing*. Ordering information for 102 is forthcoming.

**Homework:** Students will have weekly writing assignments with grading and direct feedback from the instructor. Estimate four to five hours per week for homework (outside of class time); this includes reading, writing, and responding to instructor feedback.

## HS 12-2

### ADVANCED RHETORIC & WRITING 2: Research Writing (College Prep)

*\* Essential for College-Bound Students*

*\* This class is only offered in the Spring Semester.*

**Total classes:** 10

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

**Class dates:** Wednesdays, January 17, 24, 31; February 7, 21, 28; March 7, 14, 21; April 4; 2018 (No class February 14 for Ash Wednesday or March 28 for Holy Week)

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Prerequisite:** Required: *ADVANCED RHETORIC & WRITING 1: Rhetoric, Figures of Speech, Essays, & Papers* (HS 12-1) May be taken as a live course or through Unlimited Access. *Exceptions are granted only with written permission from the instructor.* Your student will need Word 2007 or later version or the ability to convert a document to a Word-compatible document.

**Suggested grade level:** 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Suggested high school credit:** 1 semester Writing or English

**Fee:** \$210 if you register on or before November 15, 2017; \$230 after Nov. 15, for all 10 classes (\$250 after Jan. 9)

**Instructor:** Sharon Hamric-Weis, BSEd, JD

**Course description:** This course will cover advanced research and writing methods for argumentative research writing, how to craft an advanced research paper, and understanding style guides (APA, CMS/Turabian, MLA, AP). A bibliography and research paper will be written during the course.

**Course outline:**

*Class 1: What is research writing? Terms and methods*

*Class 2: Advanced research methods: Using libraries and the Internet*

*Class 3: Style guides and citations*

*Class 4: Creating a bibliography*

*Class 5: Creating your outline and thesis: advanced methods*

*Class 6: Prewriting: styles and completeness*

*Class 7: Outline with rough-cut proofs*

*Class 8: The rough draft*

*Class 9: Revising and editing*

*Class 10: Final drafts*

**Course materials:** Word 2007 or later version. eBooks: 1) *Simplified Research Writing* by EB Conroy (ordering information forthcoming); and 2) *Simplified Writing 101: Top Secrets for College Success* by EB Conroy,

[www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00B7AB90W/catholictreas-20](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00B7AB90W/catholictreas-20). (Download the Kindle app for free to easily read on your PC, Mac, iPad, iPod, or mobile device).

**Homework:** Students will have weekly writing assignments and direct feedback from the instructor, with an estimated four to five hours per week for homework (outside of class time) that includes researching, reading, writing, and responding to feedback.

## WRITING EXCELLENCE COURSES

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### ADDITIONAL CREDITS

*The following courses are exceptional, additional courses that can be taken at any time during high school, if the student meets the prerequisite requirements.*

#### HS X-5

#### HIGH SCHOOL WRITING ESSENTIALS 5:

#### *Punctuation and Grammar II – College Preparatory Punctuation & Grammar*

*\* This course is for students who want to confirm and excel in their skills.*

**Total classes:** 6

**Starting time:** For the 2017/2018 school year, this course is only available as a recorded course through Unlimited Access. (Instructor Access is also available)

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Required. *HIGH SCHOOL WRITING ESSENTIALS 1: Essential Punctuation and Grammar I* (HS 9-1). Prerequisite can be taken as a live course or through 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:** 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Suggested credit:** 1/2 semester Writing or English. Add another course for full credit.

**Instructor:** Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

**Course description:** This course continues your student's understanding of punctuation and grammar with instruction and exercises taking your student to college-level understanding. Students will move beyond common understanding to mastering the skills. If you want your teen to never struggle with punctuation and grammar and be able to be skillful in upper-level, college-prep punctuation and grammar, this is the course for you.

**Course outline:**

*Class 1:* Understanding academic essays and papers; type and style; outlining and creating a guide before you write

*Class 2:* Understanding college entrance essays; creating essay content that helps get you into the college of your choice

*Class 3:* Understanding competitive essays for prizes and scholarships; working with prescribed topics and meeting (and exceeding) guidelines

*Class 4:* Researching and expanding your essay or paper

*Class 5:* Rough drafting vs. revising vs. editing

*Class 6:* True revision and editing

*Class 7:* Following standard form; presentation guidelines for success

*Class 8:* Shortening your time in the process of writing; how to make writing easier

**Course materials:** Word 2007 or later version; all course materials provided FREE by the instructor

**Homework:** Students will have weekly writing assignments and direct feedback from the instructor, with an estimated four to five hours per week for homework (outside of class time) that includes researching, reading, writing, and responding to feedback.

## HS X-9

### **FICTION WRITING: *The Hero's Journey & Mythic Structure for Writers, Part One***

*Note: This is Part One of a 2-part course. Students are expected to register for Part Two in the spring semester. This course can be taken with any other fiction writing course.*

**Total classes:** 8

**Starting time:** Noon Eastern (11:00 Central; 10:00 Mountain; 9:00 Pacific)

**Class dates:** Thursdays, September 21, 28; October 5, 12, 19, 26; November 2, 9, 2017

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Because many of the concepts in this course dovetail into the Fiction Series courses, it is recommended to have taken or be enrolled in any of the 11-level fiction courses before or while taking this course, but it is not required. 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:** High school; however, those in middle school who have written or are writing their own fiction work are encouraged to enroll.

**Suggested credit:** 2/3 Creative Writing, Writing, or English. For a full credit keep writing daily and working your craft.



**Fee:** \$157 if you register on or before July 15, 2017; \$177 after July 15 for all 8 classes. (\$197 after Sept. 13)

**Instructor:** Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

**Course description:** This is an advanced fiction writing course that delves into the use of archetypes in what is called "The Hero's Journey," the mythic structure that many claim all stories follow. This course will cover the different kinds of typological characters who appear in stories, applying that knowledge to the crafting of your own fiction book and to upper-level literature. The course can be taken in conjunction with any of the other fiction writing courses offered with Homeschool Connections. Whether you plan on going into fiction writing (books, screenwriting, poetry) or simply want to expand your ability to write in advanced styles, this course is for you.

**Course outline:**

*Class 1:* Archetypes and story in fiction writing

*Class 2:* The Hero

*Class 3:* The Mentor: The Wise Old Man or Woman

*Class 4:* The Threshold Guardian

*Class 5:* The Herald

*Class 6:* The Shapeshifter and the Shadow

*Class 7:* The Ally

*Class 8:* The Trickster

**Course materials:** Word 2007 or later version. Book: *The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structures for Writers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*, by Christopher Vogler and Michele Montez (<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/193290736X/catholictreas-20>). NOTE: The same book is used in both of the Advanced Fiction I and II courses.

**Homework:** Approximately two to four hours per week of reading and completing coursework, depending on your skills level coming into the course. All homework is graded with personal feedback given by the instructor.

## HS X-10

### **FICTION WRITING: *The Hero's Journey & Mythic Structure for Writers, Part Two***

**Note:** *This is Part Two of a 2-part course. Students are welcome to join us midyear as the two courses can be taken in any order. This course can be taken with any other fiction writing courses.*

**Total classes:** 8

**Starting time:** Noon Eastern (11:00 Central, 10:00 Mountain; 9:00 Pacific)

**Class dates:** January 11, 18, 25; February 1, 8, 15, 22; March 1, 2018

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Because many of the concepts in this course dovetail into the Fiction Series courses, it is recommended to have taken or be enrolled in any of the 11-level fiction courses before or while taking this course, but it is not required. 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:** high school; however, those in middle school who have written or are writing their own fiction work are encouraged to enroll.

**Suggested credit:** 2/3 Creative Writing, Writing, or English. For a full credit keep writing daily and working your craft.

**Fee:** \$157 if you register on or before November 15, 2017; \$177 after Nov. 15 for all 8 classes. (\$197 after Jan. 3)

**Instructor:** Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

**Course description:** This is an advanced fiction writing course that delves into the use of archetypes in what is called "the hero's journey," the mythic structure that many claim all stories follow. This course will cover the different kinds of typological actions and plot lines that appear in stories, to apply that knowledge to the crafting of your own fiction book. The course can be taken in conjunction with any of the other fiction writing courses offered with Homeschool Connections. Whether you plan on going into fiction writing (books, screenwriting, poetry) or simply want to expand your ability to write in advanced styles, this course is for you.

**Course outline:**

*Class 1:* Ordinary World

*Class 2:* The Call to Adventure

*Class 3:* The Refusal of the Call

*Class 4:* Meeting with the Mentor

*Class 5:* Crossing the First Threshold

*Class 6:* Tests, Allies, Enemies

*Class 7:* Approach to the Inmost Cave

*Class 8:* The Ordeal and the Reward

**Course materials:** Word 2007 or later version. Book: *The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structures for Writers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*, by Christopher Vogler and Michele Montez (<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/193290736X/catholictreas-20>). NOTE: The same book is used in both of the Advanced Fiction (Parts One and Two) courses.

**Homework:** Approximately two to four hours per week of reading and completing coursework, depending on your skills level coming into the course. All homework is graded with personal feedback given by the instructor.

## HS X-11

### **FICTION WRITING: Screenwriting, Part One**

*For students who want to excel in fiction writing skills and jumpstart college literature courses; this is both a college and career prep course.*

**NOTE:** *The Screenwriting series is offered live every other year, alternating with the Hero's Journey series.*

**Maximum number of students:** 25

**Total classes:** 8

**Starting time:** This school year the Screenwriting series is only offered as a recorded course through Unlimited Access. It will be offered again as a live course in the 2018/2019 school year.

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** A thirst to create and a love of story in movies! No HSC course prerequisites. However, it is helpful to either have completed some of the fiction writing courses or to be in any of the fiction courses while taking the Screenwriting course. 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:** 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Suggested credit:** 2/3 Screenwriting, Creative Writing, or English. For a full credit keep writing daily and working your craft.

**Instructor:** Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

**Course description:** As a fiction writing course, this is an Introduction to Screenwriting where students learn the foundations of screenwriting and creating scripts for movies. Students will learn how to design story for film, including character development and with a focus on story line. Students will also craft dialogue, discuss the conventions of good movies, and analyze classic and current movies, to be able to craft scenes and a screenplay. Students will also be expected to read through screenplays and watch films related to learning the craft.

**Course outline:**

**Week 1:** Screenplay fundamentals: What is a screenplay? How does a screenplay differ in story from other fiction?

**Week 2:** What is the format of a screenplay? (Foreword, Introduction)

**Week 3:** What is a logline? (Chapter One)

**Week 4:** Crafting loglines and reading scripts

**Week 5:** The Ten Genres of Film, Part 1 (Chapter Two)

**Week 6:** The Ten Genres of Film, Part 2 (Chapter Two)

**Week 7:** Archetypes and Film (Chapter Three)

**Week 8:** The Beat Sheet (Chapter Four)

**Course materials:** Word 2007 or later version. Book: *The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structures for Writers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*, by Christopher Vogler and Michele Montez (<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/193290736X/catholictreas-20>). NOTE: The same book is used in both of the Advanced Fiction (Parts One and Two) courses.

**Homework:** Approximately two to four hours per week of reading and completing coursework, depending on your skills level coming into the course. All homework is graded with personal feedback given by the instructor.

## HS X-12

### **FICTION WRITING: Screenwriting, Part Two**

*For students who want to excel in fiction writing skills and jumpstart college literature courses; this is both a college and career prep course.*

**NOTE:** *The Screenwriting series is offered live every other year, alternating with the Hero's Journey series.*

**Total classes:** 8

**Starting time:** This school year the Screenwriting series is only offered as a recorded course through Unlimited Access. It will be offered again as a live course in the 2018/2019 school year.

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Prerequisite:** Screenwriting I or instructor permission, a thirst to create, and a love of story in movies! 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:** 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Suggested credit:** 2/3 Screenwriting, Creative Writing, or English. For a full credit keep writing daily and working your craft.

**Instructor:** Erin Brown Conroy, MA, MFA

**Course description:** As a fiction writing course, this is a continuation of the Introduction to Screenwriting, where students learn the foundations of screenwriting and creating scripts for movies. Students will learn how to design story for film, including character development and with a focus on story line. Students will also craft dialogue, discuss the conventions of good movies, and analyze classic and current movies, in order to be able to craft scenes and a screenplay. Students will also be expected to read through screenplays and watch films related to learning the craft.

**Course outline:**

**Week 1:** The Beat Sheet, Film Analysis, and Shorts (Chapter Four)

**Week 2:** Putting Ideas into Loglines and Beat Sheets

**Week 3:** The Beat Sheet as a Business Plan (Chapter Five) and More on Script Dialogue

**Week 4:** Crafting Scenes and The Hollywood Rules of Screenplays 1 (Chapter Six)

**Week 5:** Crafting Scenes and The Hollywood Rules of Screenplays 2 (Chapter Six)

**Week 6:** "Script Repair" (Chapter Seven)

**Week 7:** The Business of Screenwriting (Chapter Eight)

**Week 8:** Final Short Screenplay Discussions

**Course materials:** Word 2007 or later version. Book: *The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structures for Writers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*, by Christopher Vogler and Michele Montez (<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/193290736X/catholictreas-20>). NOTE: The same book is used in both of the Advanced Fiction (Parts One and Two) courses.

**Homework:** Students will read from the text, read posted articles, complete pre-scene exercises, and write loglines, outlines (beat sheets), and scenes. The final project is in the second semester is a short script (12 to 15 pages). Time spent working on homework varies between individuals and their writing skills and speed. Students can expect to spend an average of two and four hours a week on homework. For the final project, students may spend more time.

## HS X-13

### **FICTION WRITING: Introduction to Poetry**

**Total classes:** 14

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Prerequisite:** None

**Suggested grade level:** 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Suggested high school credit:** 1 full semester Poetry or Literature/ Creative Writing.

**Instructor:** Sally Thomas

**Starting time:** This course is only available as a recorded course through Unlimited Access

**Course description:** An introduction to reading and writing poetry, covering such literary devices as rhyme, meter, and figurative language, and the relationship of those elements to the overall meaning of a poem. Students will practice the art of close, critical reading, as well as experimenting with elements of poetry in their own writing. Introduction to Poetry plays a crucial function in the whole scheme of high-school literature, providing the student with a heightened understanding of this most mysterious literary form, as well as sharpening overall writing and critical-reading skills. Introduction to Poetry serves as pre-requisite for more advanced and specialized poetry-writing courses, including Creative Writing: Poetry and Introduction to Poetic Forms.

**Course materials:** *Sound and Sense, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition*, Lawrence Perrine. Out of print, but readily available used for as little as \$0.99 plus s/h.

(<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0155074946/catholictreas-20>)

**Homework:** One chapter per week in *Perrine*, with assigned poems. One poetry-writing exercise each week. (Approximately 4 hours total homework per week.)

## HS X-14

### **FICTION WRITING: Poetry I: Joining the Great Tradition**

**Total classes:** 14

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Prerequisite:** Introduction to Poetry

**Suggested grade level:** 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Suggested high school credit:** 1 full semester Poetry or Literature/ Creative Writing

**Instructor:** Sally Thomas

**Starting time:** This course is only available as a recorded course through Unlimited Access

**Course description:** An introduction to the craft of poetry writing, including examination of traditional English verse forms and free verse, and experimentation with rhetorical techniques. Though this is a writing-intensive class, students will also be immersed in the reading of poetry. Through their experiences in examining how poems work and putting their observations into practice, students will prepare themselves for the challenge of college by developing heightened sensitivity as close readers and a greater command of rhetoric in their own writing, whether poetry or prose.

**Course materials:** *Rhyme's Reason*, John Hollander. *A Poetry Handbook*, Mary Oliver

**Homework:** One chapter each in Hollander and Oliver each week, plus additional poetry readings, provided by the instructor. One poetry-writing exercise per week.

