



eDynamicLearning

— CAREER & ELECTIVE COURSES —



Course Syllabus



Creative Writing

Course Description

For many hundreds of years, literature has been one of the most important human art forms. It allows us to give voice to our emotions, create imaginary worlds, express ideas, and escape the confines of material reality. Through creative writing, we can come to understand ourselves and our world a little bit better. This course provides students with a solid grounding in the writing process, from finding inspiration to building a basic story to using complicated literary techniques and creating strange hybrid forms of poetic prose and prose poetry. By the end of this course, students will learn how to discover their creative thoughts and turn those ideas into fully realized pieces of creative writing.

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Unit 1: Pre-Writing Strategies

Unit Summary

In this unit, you will learn about the differences among creative writing and other forms of writing, pre-writing strategies we can use in order to stimulate creativity, the characteristics of various literary forms, and how to begin reading like a writer.

Learning Objectives

- Effectively stimulate your creativity by using established methods such as freewriting, brainstorming, translitics, and writers' journals.
- Demonstrate awareness of the characteristics of a poem, short story, novel, play or screenplay, novel, and creative nonfiction.
- Begin to understand the creative process and how it is often spontaneous and not logically considered.
- Explain why a poem or short story achieves the effects it does through specific word choice.
- Create a piece of writing that is not just factual but also expresses your own personal feelings on a subject.

Assignments

Unit 1 Creative Writing Assignment #1.1	Homework	10 points
Unit 1 Creative Writing Assignment #1.2	Homework	10 points
Unit 1 Creative Writing Assignment #1.3	Homework	10 points
Unit 1 Creative Writing Assignment #1.4	Homework	20 points
Unit 1 Online Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 1 Discussion Assignment 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 1 Discussion Assignment 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 1 Quiz	Quiz	15 points



Unit 2: Building a Story

Unit Summary

In this unit, you will learn about the most important features of the story: its characters, plot, setting, and point of view. You will learn how to develop these aspects individually and how to use them together to create an engaging and expressive narrative.

Learning Objectives

- Explain the difference between stereotypes and archetypes, as well as how to avoid the use of stereotypes while using archetypes as the basis for characters.
- Explain how to create characters that are consistent and believable.
- Explain how to fit a character into a plot, as well as how to allow that character to inform plot.
- Describe the seven basic plot types and explain how to use unique versions of these in your own writing.
- Explain the importance of setting, as well as how to narrow the setting down to its most important features.
- Explain the importance of point of view.

Assignments

Unit 2 Creative Writing Assignment #2.1	Homework	10 points
Unit 2 Creative Writing Assignment #2.2	Homework	10 points
Unit 2 Creative Writing Assignment #2.3	Homework	10 points
Unit 2 Creative Writing Assignment #2.4	Homework	5 points
Unit 2 Creative Writing Assignment #2.5	Homework	10 points
Unit 2 Creative Writing Assignment #2.6	Homework	5 points
Unit 2 Creative Writing Assignment #2.7	Homework	10 points
Unit 2 Online Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 2 Discussion Assignment 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 2 Discussion Assignment 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 2 Quiz	Quiz	15 points



Unit 3: Constructing a Poem

Unit Summary

In this unit you will learn how to begin interpreting poetry and how to use your interpretations to begin writing your own poems. We'll discuss imagery, personification, simile, and metaphor in depth, and by the end of the unit, you should feel comfortable using all of these techniques.

Learning Objectives

- Read poetry closely and interpret the poet's intentions.
- Define imagery and demonstrate an understanding of the effect it creates in a poem.
- Utilize images in your own creative writing.
- Define personification and demonstrate an understanding of the effect it creates in a poem.
- Define simile and metaphor and explain the difference between the two.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the different effects created by simile and metaphor.
- Create your own simple and effective similes and metaphors.

Assignments

Unit 3 Creative Writing Assignment #3.1	Homework	5 points
Unit 3 Creative Writing Assignment #3.2	Homework	15 points
Unit 3 Online Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 3 Discussion Assignment 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 3 Discussion Assignment 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 3 Quiz	Quiz	15 points



Unit 4: Blurring the Boundaries

Unit Summary

In this unit, you'll learn how to use sound in both prose and poetry to convey emotions and ideas, and how to interpret the sounds of both forms of writing for the poet's intentions. You'll also learn about the hybrid forms of writing, poetic prose and narrative poetry, as well as how to compose pieces of writing in both of these forms.

Learning Objectives

- Recognize and notate the rhyming scheme of a poem.
- Recognize when a poem has and does not have a specific rhyming scheme.
- Recognize some of the different types of rhyme including perfect rhyme and alliteration.
- Explain why a writer chooses to repeat certain sounds or words.
- Explain how rhythm is created and how to notate the rhythm of a poem.
- Use both rhythm and rhyme to create your own desired effects.
- Demonstrate the use of poetic techniques in prose writing, and narrative techniques in poetry.

Assignments

Unit 4 Creative Writing Assignment #4.1	Homework	5 points
Unit 4 Creative Writing Assignment #4.2	Homework	5 points
Unit 4 Creative Writing Assignment #4.3	Homework	10 points
Unit 4 Creative Writing Assignment #4.4	Homework	10 points
Unit 4 Creative Writing Assignment #4.5	Homework	10 points
Unit 4 Online Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 4 Discussion Assignment 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 4 Discussion Assignment 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 4 Quiz	Quiz	15 points



Midterm Exam

Learning Objectives

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from the first four units in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

Assignments

Midterm Exam	Exam	50 points
Midterm Discussion Assignment	Discussion	5 points



Unit 5: Understanding Your Audience

Unit Summary

In this unit, you will learn to take the reader's expectations into account in your writing. We'll look at different types of writing and the different reader expectations that go along with them, and consider the question of whether or not to confound readers' expectations. We'll look at who writers address in their writing, who they exclude, and whether or not this is appropriate. We'll then begin to look at how to find your own unique voice.

Learning Objectives

- Assess the assumptions a writer makes about their readership.
- Assess who the writer chooses to exclude from their writing.
- Describe your ideal reader.
- Describe the reader's expectations for various forms of fiction and creative non-fiction.
- Alter your style and tone according to your intended readership.
- Identify a writer's individual "voice."

Assignments

Unit 5 Creative Writing Assignment #5.1	Homework	20 points
Unit 5 Creative Writing Assignment #5.2	Homework	10 points
Unit 5 Creative Writing Assignment #5.3	Homework	5 points
Unit 5 Creative Writing Assignment #5.4	Homework	10 points
Unit 5 Online Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 5 Discussion Assignment 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 5 Discussion Assignment 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 5 Quiz	Quiz	15 points



Unit 6: Finding Your Voice

Unit Summary

In this unit, you'll learn how to examine writing for the characteristics of style, how to use the imitation of other writers in order to inform and inspire the development of your own style, how to identify your own strengths as a writer, and how to transcend imitation to develop your own unique and highly recognizable individual voice.

Learning Objectives

- Identify a writer's style and its unique characteristics.
- Imitate the styles of various writers.
- Synthesize various influences in order to create a unique style.
- Make choices about the voice that is appropriate for your writing.
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of other writers.
- Identify your own strengths and weaknesses as a writer.

Assignments

Unit 6 Creative Writing Assignment #6.1	Homework	10 points
Unit 6 Creative Writing Assignment #6.2	Homework	10 points
Unit 6 Creative Writing Assignment #6.3	Homework	10 points
Unit 6 Creative Writing Assignment #6.4	Homework	15 points
Unit 6 Online Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 6 Discussion Assignment 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 6 Discussion Assignment 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 6 Quiz	Quiz	15 points



Unit 7: Editing

Unit Summary

In this unit, you'll learn about the various types of editing, including content editing, line editing, copy editing, and proofreading. You'll learn how to critically examine the work of other writers in order to learn to apply these same techniques to your own work.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the different types of editing and the differences among them.
- Assess the effectiveness of the various elements of a piece of writing, including its plot, characterization, themes, atmosphere, language, and use of literary techniques.
- Assess the overall success of a piece of writing when all of these elements are put together.
- Examine and improve the word choice in a piece of writing and avoid clichés.
- Explain when fact-checking is necessary and how to check the facts of a piece.
- Examine your own work critically using editing techniques.

Assignments

Unit 7 Creative Writing Assignment #7.1	Homework	10 points
Unit 7 Creative Writing Assignment #7.2	Homework	10 points
Unit 7 Creative Writing Assignment #7.3	Homework	10 points
Unit 7 Online Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 7 Discussion Assignment 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 7 Discussion Assignment 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 7 Quiz	Quiz	15 points



Unit 8: Peer Review & Publishing

Unit Summary

In this unit, you'll build on what you have learned about editing, taking your skills as a content editor into the workshop to help others develop their creative writing. You'll learn all about how to conduct a workshop effectively, including how to make comments that are productive, relevant, and qualified, and finally, create a publication of your own to showcase your writing.

Learning Objectives

- Be an effective participant in a creative writing workshop.
- Make constructive, relevant, and qualified comments.
- Frame comments so that they are productive.
- Organize your thoughts in effective note form to give to your peers.
- Explain comments on your own work and learn from them.
- Publish your own work in print or online form.

Assignments

Unit 8 Creative Writing Assignment #8.1	Homework	10 points
Unit 8 Online Lab Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit 8 Discussion Assignment 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 8 Discussion Assignment 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 8 Quiz	Quiz	15 points



Final Exam

Learning Objectives

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from units five to eight in this course – the last four units. (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

Assignments

Final Exam	Exam	50 points
Class Reflection Discussion Assignment	Discussion	10 points