



**Catalog Entry**

Introduction to Creative Writing (3-0) Study and practice of essential techniques of creative writing in at least two genres. This course satisfies your liberal arts block elective or functions as a gateway course along with CRW 3364 for majors and minors.

**Course Description**

In order to respond to the call to write creatively, writers must learn the basic elements that inform his/her/their chosen medium—poetry or fiction—and read the work of authors that have mastered their craft. This course spearheads the knowledge that will be gradually acquired by creative writing majors, assist non-majors in their development of creative writing techniques, and provide every student, regardless of academic path, with a more comprehensive appreciation of creative work as readers of poetry and fiction throughout their lifetime.

**Course Delivery**

The course will be delivered online using Blackboard, Blackboard Collaborate and Zoom with synchronous (live) and asynchronous (recorded) components. Synchronous components include a Meet-and-Greet session, live lectures using Zoom, and weekly virtual office hours using Blackboard Collaborate. Attendance to the live lectures is optional, and live lectures will be recorded so students can access these at a later time. Asynchronous components include recorded lectures that can be accessed whenever the student chooses. This is not a self-paced class. The course is organized by weeks with corresponding assignments and deadlines. The course will feature lecture, discussion, and workshop components.

**Course Outcomes**

Throughout this course, students will:

- Recognize literary devices used in poetry and fiction, and apply them to their own work.
- Provide and receive professional criticism of peers' poetry or short story submissions.
- Produce a final portfolio with a critical preface and revised versions of a poem and short story.



**Classroom Policies**

**Late Work:** Assignments are due by 11:59 pm on Sundays with the exception of three assignments: feedback for small group workshops on Friday, October 9 and Friday, December 4, as well as the Final Portfolio due on Friday, December 11. I will only accept late work on a case-by-case basis, and only if the student contacts me at least 24 hours before the assignment deadline. Please keep in mind that technology is fallible, like all things man made. For this reason, avoid posting or uploading assignments at the last minute. If you encounter technological problems please contact UTEP's [Help Desk](#) as soon as possible.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be noted by your week-to-week performance. This means that if you persistently fail to turn in assignments or respect deadlines, you may earn a failing grade if you do not withdraw from the course. *The responsibility to withdraw from the course is yours*; I will not automatically withdraw you if your performance is unsatisfactory. Please notify me as soon as possible if you encounter extraordinary circumstances that affect your ability to attend class. **Course drop deadline is Friday, October 30th, 2020.**

**Withdrawals:** Each semester has a drop date beyond which an instructor can no longer drop a student with a "W." Students who fail to fulfill assignments after the drop date must necessarily receive an "F." However, in the event of exceptional circumstances, and with the approval of the instructor of the course and the academic dean, a grade of "W" may be obtained. The student is responsible for supplying written documentation to support the request for a "W." Acceptable reasons for a "W" include: personal or family emergencies, death of a family member, military leave, or an exceptional work schedule that prevents you from completing the course. Before you decide to withdraw from the course, please contact your academic advisor to discuss this option, and don't hesitate to contact me as well for input.

**Format:** All assignments will be turned in through Blackboard in 12-point Times New Roman or a font of similar size with your name on the upper left margin. For the poem, you may use single or double space; for the short story, it must be double spaced with page numbers. When naming files, please follow this to facilitate downloading and grading: First name\_CRW 3362\_Assignment\_CRN. For example: Alessandra\_CRW3362\_RJ 1\_12694.

**Quality:** While this is a writing class where creative pieces are produced, and credit is given for turning these and other assignments on time, (unjustified) poor grammar, evident lack of effort, and/or failure to follow guidelines will affect your grade.

**Netiquette:** Your conduct during class should always be respectful and professional towards your instructor and classmates alike. In an online class, this is especially true as we will mostly rely on electronic communication to interact with each other. For that reason, a professional tone should extend to *all* the writing you do for this class (posts, assignments, and emails). Therefore, please consider the template below when addressing me or your classmates through email or Blackboard, and don't forget to include a subject when writing an email.

*Hello or Dear [name of recipient; address me as Alessandra or Ms. (not Mrs) Narváez Varela],*  
*Write the content of your email here. Make sure you proofread for proper spelling, grammar, and*  
*punctuation. Try to use formal, professional language.*  
*Sincerely or Best [the sign off is up to you as long as you signal it is the end of your message],*  
*Your name*

For ore suggestions to communicate successfully and professionally in an online setting, please go to Blackboard>Weeks>Week 1>Read Me First.

**Workshop Etiquette:** You should take the literary critic role seriously, as your classmates' poems and short stories are highly personal pieces that deserve your careful reading, time and respect. If these are observed, then the critique of your work should never be taken personally. Also, I will defend your writing ferociously from disrespectful, pointless critique (which is a rare occurrence) so please enjoy writing creatively, sharing your work, and receiving feedback.

**Communication:** Maintaining constant, open lines of communication between students and instructor is key to every productive and enjoyable learning experience. This is especially the case for online courses, more so as we adapt to the challenges posed by the current global health crisis. For this reason, it is vital that you communicate with me as soon as possible about extenuating circumstances that affect your performance. I'm invested to help you navigate the course and succeed, but you have to communicate with me and keep me updated.

There are several ways in which communication will take place:

**Email:** Contact me at [anarvaez2@utep.edu](mailto:anarvaez2@utep.edu) using your UTEP email. The first time you write to me please type my email as given; don't rely on the automatic feature of the electronic directory because it will send your message to the wrong domain. My response time for emails sent Monday through Friday 9-5pm is 24-48 hours; for emails sent on weekends, I will respond until the next day of business.

**Announcements:** I will send weekly communication through the Announcement tool in Blackboard. Please check your UTEP email often for that is where Blackboard announcements are sent instantly. You can also read my announcements by going to "Announcements" on Blackboard's left-side menu.

**Virtual Office Hours:** I will have a Blackboard Collaborate "office" where you can visit me to ask questions in real time. Virtual office hours will take place on Mondays from 2-3:30 pm or by making an appointment (please note I'm in the Mountain Time Zone). You will access the virtual office by going to "Virtual Office" on Blackboard's left-side menu.

**Zoom Live Lectures:** I will host several live lectures to interact with students and to review certain elements of the writing of poems and short stories that are more complex. These lectures will take place on Tuesdays from 3-4:20 pm. Attendance is optional, and I will record these live lectures so students can access them at a later time. You will "join" these lectures by going to "Live Lectures" on Blackboard's left-side menu; alternatively, I might also send you a link to your UTEP email. Pre-recorded lectures will also be available for viewing. Pre-recorded lectures and recorded live lectures will be found in each week's "Lecture" folder. The course calendar and Blackboard include more information about specific dates.

**Blackboard comments:** I will give you feedback on your assignments by using Blackboard. Please make sure to read these as I provide personalized input designed to help you digest the content and improve your performance in the course. My response time for grading and feedback is within 1 week for short assignments and up to 2 weeks for longer assignments.

**University Policies and Services**

**University Writing Center (UWC):** I encourage you to make use of the UWC during the planning, drafting, and/or revising phases of writing any assignment in this class. The trained writing consultants can help give you a fresh perspective on ideas and help you with things like correctness, formatting, etc. The UWC is located on the main floor of the library, to the right of the elevators and computer lab. This is *especially important for the short story section*; thus, if you know you struggle with grammar, please get help before sharing your work, so we can focus on the content of the story, not its grammatical mistakes.

**Academic Integrity:** An act of plagiarism (or other form of academic dishonesty) will result in an 'F' for the course, and may include other University disciplinary action, such as suspension or expulsion. You should become familiar with the ethical guidelines for conduct spelled out in the [Student Affairs](#) section of the [Handbook for Operating Procedures](#). Additionally, please be aware that you may not submit work for this class that was produced for another class. You must produce your own original work in this class and appropriately identify and portion of your work which is collaborative with others, borrowed from others, or which is your own work from other contexts. Always cite your information. If you have doubts as to whether or not you are using your own or others' work legally and ethically, ask me or stop by the UTEP Writing Center. Follow this primary principle: Be upfront and honest.

**ADA:** The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. If you suspect that you have a disability and need accommodation, please contact The Center for Accommodations & Support Services (CASS) at (915)747-5148 or at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu). The CASS office is located in Room 106, Union East. Students are responsible for presenting the instructor with any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.

**Military Student Success Center:** If you are a military student (veteran, dependent, active), consider visiting the Military Success Center at Library Room 205 or online at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/mssc/>. Please inform me if you need special accommodations. If you make me aware of a complication, I will work to assist you or put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you.

**Calendar**

This calendar is subject to change. I will notify you about changes one week in advance, except for family or health emergencies that affect my ability to communicate with you promptly. Please check Blackboard and your email often.

*Optional synchronous (live) lectures are marked with an asterisk\* (relevant live lectures will be recorded).*

Reading key: **RJ**=Reading Journal; **ICA**=In-Class Assignment.

Week 1: 8/24-8/30	
Introductions, Syllabus and Blackboard	
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Read</b> Syllabus <b>Explore</b> Blackboard <b>Join</b> CRW 3362's Meet and Greet* (Tue 8/25 @ 3-4:20 pm) *=Attendance Optional
<b>Due by Sun 8/30 @ 11:59 pm</b>	Introduction post and response Syllabus Scavenger Hunt <b>ICA 1:</b> Go to Blackboard>Weeks> Week 1> ICA 1. For the following ICAs go to the corresponding week.
Week 2: 8/31-9/6	
Why...poetry? & What is an "awful" poem?	

<b>Activities</b>	<p><b>Read</b>                  “How to Read a Poem” (Edward Hirsch)                  “Awful Poems” (Steve Kowitz)                  “Introduction to Poetry” (Billy Collins)</p> <p><b>Join</b>                  Live Lecture * (Tue 9/1 @ 3-4:20 pm): Go to Blackboard&gt; Live Lectures                  *=Attendance Optional</p>
-------------------	--

<p><b>Due by Sun 9/6 @ 11:59 pm</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>RJ1:</b> Go to Blackboard&gt; Weeks&gt;Week 2&gt; RJ1 &amp;RJ1 Response for questions. For the following RJs go to the corresponding week.</li> <li>○ <b>RJ 1 Response:</b> Post a reply to one classmate; two sentences. minimum.</li> <li>○ <b>ICA 2</b></li> </ul>
---	---

**Week 3: 9/7-9/13**

**What is imagery in poetry? & What does it take to write “fresh” metaphors and similes?**

<b>Activities</b>	<p><b>Read</b>                  “Images” (Kim Addonizio and Dorianne Laux)                  “Gate C-22” (Ellen Bass)                  “Negative” (Kevin Young)                  “Dim Lady” (Haryette Mullen)</p> <p><b>Join</b>                  Live Lecture* (Tue 9/8 @ 3-4:20 pm)</p>
-------------------	--

<p><b>Due by Sun 9/13 @ 11:59 pm</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>RJ 2</b></li> <li>○ <b>RJ 2 Response</b></li> <li>○ <b>ICA 3</b></li> </ul>
--	---

**Week 4: 9/14-9/20**

**How is music created in free verse poems?**

<b>Activities</b>	<p><b>Read</b>                  Prosody handout                  “Line Breaks” (Steve Kowitz)                  “Paramour” (Rosa Alcalá)                  “The Sawgrass Women Make Me Nervous” (Lauren Berry)                  “Rhumba” (Rita Dove)</p> <p><b>Join</b>                  Live Lecture* (Tue 9/15 @ 3-4:20 pm)</p>
-------------------	---

<p><b>Due by Sun 9/20 @ 11:59 pm</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>RJ 3</b></li> <li>○ <b>RJ 3 Response</b></li> </ul> <p>No ICA Due</p>
--	---

**Week 5: 9/21-9/27**

**How is music created in free verse poems? CONT'D**

<b>Activities</b>	<p><b>Read</b>                  “Shadi” (Fatima Asghar)                  “Never After” (Evie Shockley)</p> <p><b>Watch</b>                  Recorded Lecture</p>
-------------------	--

<p><b>Due by Sun 9/27 @</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>ICA 4</b></li> </ul>
---------------------------------	--



**Week 10: 10/26-11/1**

**How does literary dialogue differ from daily, human dialogue? CONT'D**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Read</b> “Fat” and “Popular Mechanics” (Raymond Carver) <b>Watch</b> Recorded Lecture
<b>Course Drop Deadline:</b> Friday, October 30	
<b>Due by Sun 11/1 @ 11:59 pm</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ICA 7</li> <li>○ Extra Credit RJ</li> </ul>

**Week 11: 11/2-11/8**

**Why does it matter “who” tells a story and from “what distance?”**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Read</b> “All at One Point” (Italo Calvino) “Hills Like White Elephants” (Ernest Hemingway) “Blackberries” (Leslie Norris) “Girl” (Jamaica Kincaid) <b>Watch</b> Live Lecture* (Tue 11/3 @ 3-4:20 pm) *SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO RECORDED LECTURE
<b>Due by Sun 11/8 @ 11:59 pm</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RJ 7</li> <li>○ RJ 7 Response</li> <li>○ ICA 8</li> </ul>

**Week 12: 11/9-11/15**

**Isn’t setting just background? & Why so many flashbacks?!**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Read</b> “The Flowers” (Alice Walker) “Currents” (Hannah Bottomy Voskuil) <b>Watch</b> Recorded Lecture
<b>Due by Sun 11/15 @ 11:59 pm</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RJ 8</li> <li>○ RJ 8 Response</li> <li>○ ICA 9</li> </ul>

**Week 13: 11/16-11/22**

**What is suspension of disbelief and verisimilitude? What is an unreliable narrator?**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Read</b> “Corzo” (Brenna Gomez) “The School” (Donald Barthelme) <b>Join</b> Live Lecture* (Tue 11/17 @ 3-4:20 pm)
<b>Due by Sun 11/22 @ 11:59 pm</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RJ 9</li> <li>○ <b>Short story first draft</b> for Small Group Fiction Workshop</li> </ul> <p>No RJ Response Due</p>

**Week 14: 11/23-11/29**

**Thanksgiving**



Enjoy your break!

**Week 15: 11/30-12/6**

**Small Group Workshop (Fiction) & Revision**

<b>Activities</b>	<p><b>Read</b> 2 short stories from the classmates in your small group "And Furthermore, Part I: Door Shut, Door Open" (Stephen King)</p> <p><b>Watch</b> Recorded Lecture</p>
-------------------	--



Due by Fri 12/4 @ 11:59 pm	<b>Feedback for 2 short stories</b>
----------------------------	-------------------------------------

Due by Sun 12/6 @ 11:59 pm	<b>ICA 10</b>
----------------------------	---------------

**Week 16: 12/7-12/11**

**Finals Week**

Due by Fri 12/11 @ 11:59 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Final Portfolio</li> <li>○ Virtual Poetry Factory</li> <li>○ Extra Credit ICA</li> </ul>
-----------------------------	---

<p>Congratulations 😊 You made it this far!</p>	<p>For Syllabus Scavenger Hunt Extra Credit Question due Fri 8/30 by 11:59 pm</p>
	
<p>What did one balloon say to another balloon when flying in the desert? <i>Watch out for the cac-tussss!</i></p>	