

**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 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 and developed by creative writing majors, assist non-majors in their understanding of creative writing techniques, and provide every student, regardless of academic path, with a more comprehensive appreciation of creative work as lifetime readers of poetry and fiction.

**Course Delivery**

The course will be delivered face-to-face and it will make use of Blackboard. For this purpose, students must have access to a computer and the internet. 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.









*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 28, 2022.***

**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, I suggest you follow the following to keep track of your assignments: First name\_CRW 3362\_Assignment\_CRN. For example: Alessandra\_CRW3362\_RJ 1\_11645.

Please note that while assignments will be submitted electronically, I will request a print copy of some assignments to ease physical discomforts associated with the use of the computer screen and keyboard. I ask for your understanding. In turn, I understand printing credits are limited (more importantly, our tree population is being decimated), so I will limit this request as much as possible. There will be a combination of icons— —at the bottom of ICAs to notify you of this requirement

**Quality:** While this is a writing class where creative pieces are produced, and credit is given for turning 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. For that reason, a professional tone should extend to *all* the writing you do for this class (posts and emails included). 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, Professor or Ms. 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 more 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. I will keep an eye on overly negative, aggressive critique, which is quite a rare occurrence, so please enjoy sharing your work and receiving feedback.



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.

**Creative Writing Undergraduate Advising and Resources Webpage:** Click [here](#) to find information about registration, advising, Wellness and Support Services, as well as Health and Covid-Related Services.

**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.

Week 1	
Introductions, Syllabus and Reading Poetry	
Mon 8/22	Introductions & Course Highlights <b>Read</b> Syllabus <b>Explore</b> Blackboard
Wed 8/24	<b>Read</b> "How to Read a Poem" (Edward Hirsch) "Introduction to Poetry" (Billy Collins)
Week 2	
"Awful" poems and Imagery	
Due by Mon 8/29 @ 10:30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>RJ1 BB (Blackboard):</b> Go to Blackboard&gt; Weeks&gt;Week 2&gt; RJ1 BB + Response (For the following RJ BBs go to the corresponding week).</li> <li>o <b>Syllabus Scavenger Hunt:</b> Go to Blackboard&gt; Weeks&gt; Week 2&gt;Syllabus Scavenger Hunt</li> <li>o <b>Extra Credit Discussion Board:</b> Go to Blackboard&gt; Weeks&gt; Week 2&gt;Extra Credit: Tips from You!</li> </ul>
Mon 8/29	<b>Read</b> "Awful Poems" (Steve Kowitz)
Wed 8/31	<b>Read</b> "Images" (Kim Addonizio and Dorianne Laux) "Dim Lady" (Haryette Mullen)
Week 3	
Imagery cont'd	
Due by Mon 9/5 @ 10:30 am	<b>ICA 1:</b> Go to Blackboard>Weeks> Week 3> ICA 1. (For the following ICAs go to the corresponding week).
Mon 9/5	Labor Day Holiday: NO CLASS
Wed 9/7	<b>Read</b>

	"Negative" (Kevin Young) "Gate C-22" (Ellen Bass) <b>Prepare</b> <b>RJ2 TK (Talk):</b> Participate in class, no BB post due.
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**Week 4**  
Prosody (Musicality) in Free Verse Poetry

<b>Due by Mon 9/12 @ 10:30 am</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>RJ 3 BB</b></li> <li>o <b>ICA 2</b></li> </ul>
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<b>Mon 9/12</b>	<b>Read</b> Prosody handout "Line Breaks" (Steve Kowitz) "Paramour" (Rosa Alcalá)
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<b>Wed 9/14</b>	<b>Read</b> "Rhumba" (Rita Dove) "The Sawgrass Women Make Me Nervous" (Lauren Berry)
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**Week 5**  
Prosody (Musicality) in Free Verse CONT'D

<b>Mon 9/19</b>	<b>Read</b> "Ode to the Beloved's Hips" (Natalie Diaz) "(Citizen) (illegal)" (José Olivarez) "September 14, 2013..." (Patricia Smith) <b>Prepare</b> <b>RJ4 TK</b>
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<b>Wed 9/21</b>	<b>Mental Health Day:</b> NO CLASS
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**Week 6**  
Introduction to Workshop

<b>Due by Mon 9/26 @ 10:30 am</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>ICA 3</b></li> <li>o <b>Extra Credit RJ</b></li> </ul>
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<b>Mon 9/26</b>	Introduction to Workshop: Etiquette & Guidelines (Attendance important! Students will be discussing group's guidelines ☺)
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<b>Wed 9/28</b>	<b>Write + Chat + Interact</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ask questions</li> <li>o Bring writing materials</li> <li>o Bring headphones</li> </ul>
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<b>Due by Fri 9/30 @ 11:59 pm</b>	<b>Poem first draft</b> for Small Group Poetry Workshop
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<b>Workshop Prep</b> (over the weekend)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Read 4 classmate poems (2 on 10/3; 2 on 10/5)</li> <li>o Read workshop questionnaire</li> <li>o Make notes for in-person discussion based on questionnaire</li> <li>o Optional: Get started on your four, 200-word feedback posts, due on Mon 10/10</li> </ul>
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**Week 7**





	"A Perfect Day for Bananafish" (J.D. Salinger) <b>Prepare</b> RJ7 TK
Wed 11/2	<b>Read</b> Dialogue Rules Handout
<b>Week 12</b>	
<b>Setting and Flashbacks</b>	
Due by Mon 11/7 @ 10:30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ICA 6</li> <li>○ <b>Dialogue Rules Quiz</b></li> <li>○ Extra Credit RJ</li> </ul>
Mon 11/7	<b>Read</b> "The Flowers" (Alice Walker) "Currents" (Hannah Bottomy Voskuil) <b>Prepare</b> RJ8 TK
Wed 11/9	<b>Mental Health Day:</b> NO CLASS
<b>Week 13</b>	
<b>Suspension of disbelief and Verisimilitude</b>	
Due by Mon 11/14 @ 10:30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ICA 7</li> <li>○ Extra Credit RJ</li> </ul>
Mon 11/14	<b>Read</b> "Corzo" (Brenna Gomez) "The School" (Donald Barthelme)
Wed 11/16	<b>Write + Chat + Interact</b> (Attendance important! Students will be discussing group's guidelines before writing and revising session)
Due by Fri 11/18 @ 11:59 pm	<b>Short story first draft</b> for Small Group Fiction Workshop
<b>Workshop Prep</b> (over the weekend)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Read 4 short stories (2 on 11/21; 2 on 11/23)</li> <li>○ Read workshop questionnaire</li> <li>○ Make notes for in-person discussion based on questionnaire</li> <li>○ Optional: Get started on your four, 200-word feedback posts, due on Mon 11/28</li> </ul>
<b>Week 14</b>	
<b>Small Group Workshop (Fiction)</b>	
Mon 11/21	<b>Small Group Workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Share feedback with 2 peers in your small group</li> <li>○ BB post due on 11/28</li> </ul>
Wed 11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Share feedback with 2 peers in your small group</li> <li>○ BB post due on 11/28</li> </ul>

Week 15	
Revision, Review and Poetry Factory	
Due by Mon 11/28 @ 10:30 am	○ Feedback posts for 4 short stories
Mon 11/28	<b>Read</b> "And Furthermore, Part I: Door Shut, Door Open" (Stephen King)
Wed 11/30	Class Review Activity (Bring your class notes!) <b>Poetry Factory</b> : Location and Time (TBA)
Due by Fri 12/1 @ 11:59 pm	<b>ICA 8</b>
Week 16	
Finals Week	
Due by Wed 12/7 @ 11:59 pm	○ Final Portfolio ○ Poetry Factory (individual video)
<b>Congratulations!</b> You read this far 😊 	For Syllabus Scavenger Hunt Last Question due Mon 8/29 by 10:30 am  <b>What did the chair say when it left the room?</b> <b>SILLA!</b> Some bilingual humor for you: silla (chair) sounds very similar to see ya!