

CRW 3362
FALL 2022 | FOXA A458
12-1:20 PM
CRN 14996

instructor. Alessandra Narváez Varela
email. anarvaez2@utep.edu
office hours. by appointment
(virtual or in person)

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.

before class, take notes, and make lists of observations and/or questions you'd like to share in your posts or during class. Reading poetry and/or short stories can be challenging at first, so simply start by thinking about what you read and how it made you feel. There are two types of RJs:

RJ BB (Blackboard) due on Mondays by 12 pm, to be posted on Blackboard; RJ BBs also include responding to one of your classmates' posts.

RJ TK (Talk) due orally during class on Monday or Wednesday.

Participating during class regardless of RJ TKs also ensures the class is dynamic. *Ongoing, poor class participation* when RJ TKs are due will result in requiring all RJs be posted to Blackboard. *160 points/ 8 RJs= 16 points each*

In-Class Assignments (ICAs): You will address specific prompts provided by the instructor. The purpose of these activities is to apply/test concepts related to the writing of poetry or short stories, and to generate material that will be workshopped and included in your final portfolio. Due date: Mondays by 12 pm. *200 points/ 8 ICAs=25 points each*

Small Group Workshop: You will participate in two small group workshops where you'll share a poem (1 page) and a short story (5-8 pages), and follow a workshop prompt provided by the instructor to discuss what works and what needs improvement (for specific dates please go to the course calendar). *400 points/ 200 each*

Poetry Factory: You will participate in a class reading of the poems produced during the semester (date TBA). Alternatively, you can submit an individual video/audio clip that features you reading your poem out loud, due Wednesday, December 7 by 11:59 pm. *45 points*

Final Portfolio: You will produce a final portfolio that contains a critical preface, and revised versions of the poem and short story submitted during workshop. Due date: Wednesday, December 7 by 11:59 pm. *165 points*

Classroom Policies



Attendance: Attending class is mandatory. Students are allowed to miss four classes without penalty; every additional absence will lower the final grade by one letter grade. If more than 5 classes are missed without communicating with the instructor, the student might be dropped from the course. *Please notify me as soon as possible* if you encounter extraordinary circumstances that affect your ability to attend class.

Communication: Maintaining constant, open lines of communication between students and instructors is key to a productive and enjoyable learning experience. This is especially the case as we continue adapting 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 committed 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:

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_14996.

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.

Tech Etiquette: As a courtesy to your classmates and instructor, please refrain from using cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc. for recreational purposes while class is ongoing. Creative writing courses are taught in small classrooms, not in large auditoriums where non-academic use of technology goes unnoticed.

COVID-19 Precautions: Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your result to covidaction@utep.edu so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

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. 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

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

Week 15	
Revision, Review and Poetry Factory	
Due by Mon 11/28 @ 12 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Feedback posts for 4 short stories
Mon 11/28	Read "And Furthermore, Part I: Door Shut, Door Open" (Stephen King)
Wed 11/30	Class Review Activity (Bring your class notes!) Poetry Factory: Location and Time (TBA)
Due by Fri 12/1 @ 11:59 pm	ICA 8
Week 16	
Finals Week	
Due by Wed 12/7 @ 11:59 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Final Portfolio o Poetry Factory (individual video)
Congratulations! You read this far 😊 	For Syllabus Scavenger Hunt Last Question due Mon 8/29 by 12 pm  <p>What did the chair say when it left the room? SILLA!</p> <p>Some bilingual humor for you: silla (chair) sounds very similar to see ya!</p>