

CRW 3362
 FALL 2024 | EDUC 108
 M&W 10:30-11:50 AM
 CRN 10759

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 office hours. Monday 4-6 pm & by appointment

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 3363 for majors and minors.

Course Description

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. The course will feature lecture, class discussions, and workshop components.

Learning 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.

This course is also designed to promote your overall success, inside and outside the classroom. The coursework will help you improve in key areas such as communication, confidence, and critical thinking.



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.

Course Materials & Technology Requirements

No textbook required; all course materials are available via the internet through Blackboard.

Ensure your UTEP email account is working and that you have internet access and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser. You will need to have access to a computer/laptop.

The following software is recommended: Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat Reader. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course. If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please avoid contacting me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

Course Assignments

CRW 3362 is graded on a scale of 0-1000. The course assignments are outlined below. Please note that specific instructions will be provided on Blackboard.



Syllabus Scavenger Quiz: You will complete a quiz testing your knowledge about the course requirements and the design of your Blackboard shell. This activity ensures you read the syllabus carefully—instead of going over it during the hectic first week of class— and navigate Blackboard at your own pace. Due date: Monday, September 2 by 10:30 am. *30 points*

Reading Journals (RJ): The purpose of this weekly assignment is to process the material by yourself to then engage in conversation with your classmates and instructor. To write mindful reading journals please read the materials carefully before class, think about what you read and how it made you feel, then answer the prompts as best as you can— there are no right or wrong answers (only unsubstantiated and underdeveloped ones!). There are two types of RJs:

Grade Distribution
1000-900 = A
899-800 = B
799 -700 = C
699- 600 = D
599 and below = F

circumstances that affect your ability to attend class. **Course drop deadline is Friday, November 1, 2024.**

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 Name. For example: Alessandra_CRW3362_RJ 1.

Please note that while assignments will be submitted electronically to Blackboard, I will also request a print copy of some CEs to ease physical discomforts associated with the use of the computer screen and keyboard. I ask for your understanding. In turn, I know 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 CEs 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/Ms. Narváz 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>Netiquette.

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.

ADA: The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations & Support Services (CASS) at (915)747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal. 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.

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 with enough notice, 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 8/26	Introductions & Course Highlights Read Syllabus Explore Blackboard
Wed 8/28	Read "How to Read a Poem" (Edward Hirsch) "Introduction to Poetry" (Billy Collins) Due By End of Day on Bb CE 1 Go to Blackboard>Weeks> Week 1> CE 1. (For the following CEs go to the corresponding week).
Week 2	
"Awful" poems and Imagery	

Due by Mon 9/2 @ 10:30 am on Bb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o RJ1 BB (Blackboard): Go to Blackboard> Weeks>Week 2> RJ1 BB + Response (For the following RJ BBs go to the corresponding week). o Syllabus Scavenger Quiz: Go to Blackboard> Weeks> Week 2>Syllabus Scavenger Quiz o Extra Credit Discussion Board: Go to Blackboard> Weeks> Week 2>Extra Credit: Tips from You!
Mon 9/2	Labor Day: NO CLASS
Wed 9/4	<p>Read</p> <p>"Awful Poems" (Steve Kowitz)</p> <p>"Images" (Kim Addonizio and Dorianne Laux)</p>
Week 3	
Imagery cont'd	
Due by Mon 9/9 @ 10:30 am on Bb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o CE 2 o RJ 2 BB
Mon 9/9	<p>Read</p> <p>"Dim Lady" (Haryette Mullen)</p> <p>"Elliptical" (Haryette Mullen)</p>
Wed 9/11	<p>Read</p> <p>"Negative" (Kevin Young)</p> <p>"Gate C-22" (Ellen Bass)</p>
Week 4	
Mapping + Prosody	
Due by Mon 9/16 @ 10:30 am on Bb	CE 3
Due on M or W	RJ3 TK (Talk): Participate in class, no BB post due. Sign RJ TK sheet by the end of class to account for your participation.
Mon 9/16	<p>Read</p> <p>Read</p> <p>"Beneath Me" (Jericho Brown)</p> <p>"Family Stories" (Dorianne Laux)</p> <p>"Salvador" (Tim Z. Hernandez)</p> <p>"Move" (Lucille Clifton)</p> <p>"The Terrorist Shaved His Beard" (Christopher Soto)</p> <p>"The Colonel" (Carolyn Forché)</p> <p>"We Die" (Carmen Tafolla)</p>
Wed 9/18	<p>Read</p> <p>Prosody handout</p> <p>"Line Breaks" (Steve Kowitz)</p> <p>"Paramour" (Rosa Alcalá)</p>
Week 5	
Prosody (cont'd) + Introduction to Conferences & Workshop	
Due by Mon 9/23 @ 10:30 am on Bb	Extra Credit RJ
Due on M or W	RJ4 TK
Mon 9/23	Read

	"El Gordo" (Jaime Cortez) "Yaiza" (Brenda Peynado)
Wed 10/23	Read "Bigfoot Stole My Wife" (Ron Carlson) "Corzo" (Brenna Gomez)
Week 10	
Point of View	
Due by Mon 10/28 @ 10:30 am on Bb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o RJ6 BB o Extra Credit CE
Mon 10/28	Read "All at One Point" (Italo Calvino) "Hills Like White Elephants" (Ernest Hemingway) "Blackberries" (Leslie Norris)
Wed 10/30	Read "Girl" (Jamaica Kincaid) "Powder Puff" (Estella Gonzalez)
Course Drop Deadline: Friday, November 1, 2024	
Week 11	
Dialogue & Verisimilitude	
Due by Mon 11/4 @ 10:30 am on Bb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o CE 7 o Dialogue Rules Quiz o Extra Credit RJ
Due on M or W Mon 11/4	RJ7 TK Read "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been" (Joyce Carol Oates) "A Perfect Day for Bananafish" (J.D. Salinger)
Due by Wed 11/6 @ 10:30 am	CE 8 (Bb + physical copy)
Wed 11/6	Read Dialogue Rules Handout ! Attendance important: After class discussion, you will be meeting with your 2 small groups.
Week 12	
Individual Conferences	
Mon 11/11	Individual Conferences: 11 students Due by end of day on Bb CE 9
Wed 11/13	Individual Conferences: 10 students Due by end of day on Bb CE 9
Fri 11/15 @	Short story for Small Group Fiction Workshop

