CRW 3362

SPRING 2024 | QUINN 203

12-1:20 PM

CRN 21667

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office hours. 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 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.

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. The course will feature lecture, discussion, and workshop components.

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.

Grade Distribution

1000-900 = A

899-800 = B

799 -700 = C

699- 600 = D

599 and below = F

Syllabus Scavenger Quiz: You will fill out 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: Tuesday, January 23 by start of class. *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 ones!). There are two types of RJs:

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Communication: Maintaining constant, open lines of communication between students and instructors is key to a productive and enjoyable learning experience. 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 reach out and keep me updated.

There are several ways in which communication will take place:

> **Email:** Contact me at **anarvaez2@utep.edu** using your UTEP email. My response time for emails sent Monday through Friday 12-5pm is 48 hours; for emails sent on weekends, I will respond until the next day of business (i.e. Monday). Please **do not** use Blackboard messages. Note: As a UTEP alumna, I used to have a student email with the domain @miners.utep.edu, which was recently erased; however, to prevent any issues, the first time you write to me, please type my email as given and don't rely on the automatic feature of the electronic directory.
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> **Announcements**: I will send weekly communications 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.
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> **Office Hours**: There are no set hours, so please schedule an appointment through email with at least one week of notice, and state your preference (virtual or in-person). The best time for me to meet in person is on Mondays after 1 pm at my office in University Towers 510 F; virtually, I can meet on Mondays and Wednesdays, after 1 pm as well.
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> **Assignment Feedback**: I will provide you with personalized commentary—written or recorded—on selected assignments through Blackboard, so make sure to check "My Grades." My response time for grading and feedback is within 1 week for short assignments and up to 2 weeks for longer assignments.

Late Work: I do not accept late work, unless there are extenuating circumstances, and only if the student contacts me through email within 48 hours before or after 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. As stated previously, if you encounter technological issues, please contact UTEP's Help Desk as soon as possible. If the issue is not fixed, then email the assignment as an attachment to anarvaez2@utep.edu to protect your grade.

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

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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.

> **ChatGPT Use:** Because of the rapid pace of change represented by ChatGPT and similar programs, it is necessary to set clear standards regarding their use in a creative writing class: *all* assignment submissions *must* constitute original pieces of writing composed by the student-author *without* the assistance of AI text generators. I recognize ChatGPT can be a valuable generative tool, if a writer is experienced, and has a clear

idea of how to use it to further their creative goals. For an introductory course, however, it's vital that students rely on their original ideas, process and creativity to generate creative work. The same policy applies to reading journals.

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 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	
Tue 1/16	Introductions & Course Highlights **Read** Syllabus **Explore** Blackboard
Thurs 1/18	**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 Tue 1/23 @ 12 pm on Bb	○ **RJ1 BB (Blackboard):** Go to Blackboard> Weeks>Week 2> RJ1 BB + Response (For the following RJ BBs go to the corresponding week). ○ **Syllabus Scavenger Quiz:** Go to Blackboard> Weeks> Week 2>Syllabus Scavenger Quiz ○ **Extra Credit Discussion Board:** Go to Blackboard> Weeks> Week 2>Extra Credit: Tips from You!
Tue 1/23	**Read** "Awful Poems" (Steve Kowit)
Thurs 1/25	**Read** "Images" (Kim Addonizio and Dorianne Laux) "Dim Lady" (Harryette Mullen)
Week 3	
Imagery cont'd	
Due by Tue 1/30 @ 12 pm on Bb	○ CE 2 ○ RJ 2 BB
Tue 1/30	**Read** "Gate C-22" (Ellen Bass) "Negative" (Kevin Young) "Elliptical" (Harryette Mullen)
Thurs 2/1	**Read** "Beneath Me" (Jericho Brown) "Family Stories" (Dorianne Laux) "Salvador" (Tim Z. Hernandez) "Move" (Lucille Clifton) "The Terrorist Shaved His Beard" (Christopher Soto) "We Die" (Carmen Tafolla)
Week 4	
Prosody (Musicality) in Free Verse Poetry	
Due by Tues 2/6 @ 12 pm on Bb	CE 3
Due on Tues or Thurs	**RJ3 TK (Talk):** Participate in class, no BB post due. Sign RJ TK sheet by the end of class to account for your participation.
Tues 2/6	**Read** Prosody handout "Line Breaks" (Steve Kowit) "Paramour" (Rosa Alcalá)
Thurs 2/8	**Read** "Rhumba" (Rita Dove) "The Sawgrass Women Make Me Nervous" (Lauren Berry)

Week 5	
Prosody (Musicality) CONT'd + Introduction to Conferences & Workshop	
Due by Tues 2/13 @ 12 pm on Bb	**Extra Credit RJ**
Due on Tues or Thurs	**RJ4 TK**
Tues 2/13	**Read** "(Citizen) (illegal)" (José Olivarez) "September 14, 2013…" (Patricia Smith)
Thurs 2/15	**CE 4:** Bring to class or in mailbox by 5 pm Introduction to Individual Conferences & Workshop: Etiquette & Guidelines ❗ **Attendance important**: We will be discussing how the next 2 weeks of class will work & you will be meeting with your 2 small groups.
Week 6	
Individual Conferences	
Tues 2/20	**Individual Conferences:** 11 students **Due by end of day on Bb** **CE 5**
Thurs 2/22	**Individual Conferences:** 10 students **Due by end of day on Bb** **CE 5**
Fri 2/23 @ midnight on Bb	**Poem** for Small Group Workshop
Week 7	
Small Group Workshop (Poetry)	
Tues 2/27	**Small Group Workshop**
Thurs 2/29	**Small Group Workshop**
Week 8	
Revision	
Due by Tues 3/5 @ 12 pm on Bb	**Feedback Posts for 4-5 poems**
Tues 3/5	**Read** "Poetry in Action" (*NY Times*) "Shitty First Drafts" (Anne Lamott) "Murder Your Darlings" (Seth Fried)
Thurs 3/7	Research
Spring Break: March 11-March15	
Week 9	
Character & Setting	
Due by Tues 3/19 @ 12 pm on Bb	**RJ5 BB**
Tues 3/19	**Read**

	"The Moths" (Helena Maria Viramontes)
Thurs 3/21	**Read** "The Flowers" (Alice Walker) "My Tocaya" (Sandra Cisneros) "Disappearing"(Monica Wood) "El Gordo" (Jaime Cortez) "Corzo" (Brenna Gomez)
Week 10	
Point of View	
Due by Tues 3/26 @ 12 pm on Bb	○ CE 6 ○ RJ6 BB ○ **Extra Credit CE**
Tues 3/26	**Read** "All at One Point" (Italo Calvino) "Hills Like White Elephants" (Ernest Hemingway) "Blackberries" (Leslie Norris)
Thurs 3/28	**Read** "Girl" (Jamaica Kincaid) "Powder Puff" (Estella Gonzalez)
Course Drop Deadline: Thursday, March 28	
Week 11	
Dialogue	
Due by Tues 4/2 @ 12 pm on Bb	○ CE 7 ○ **Dialogue Rules Quiz** ○ **Extra Credit RJ**
Due on Tues or Thurs	RJ7 TK
Tues 4/2	**Read** "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been" (Joyce Carol Oates) "A Perfect Day for Bananafish" (J.D. Salinger)
Thurs 4/4	**Read** Dialogue Rules Handout Dialogue Clinic
Week 12	
Verisimilitude & Deus Ex Machina	
Tues 4/9	**Read** "Orange World" (Karen Russell)
Thurs 4/11	CE 8: Bring to class or to mailbox by 5 pm ❗ **Attendance important**: You will be meeting with your 2 small groups.
Week 13	

Individual Conferences (Fiction)	
Tues 4/16	**Individual Conferences:** 11 students **Due by end of day on Bb** CE 9
Thurs 4/18	**Individual Conferences:** 10 students **Due by end of day on Bb** CE 9
Fri 4/19 @ midnight on Bb	**Short Story** for Small Group Workshop
Week 14	
Small Group Workshop (Fiction)	
Tues 4/23	**Small Group Workshop**
Thurs 4/25	**Small Group Workshop**
Week 15	
Revision, Final Portfolio & Poetry Factory	
Due by Tues 4/30 @ 12 pm on Bb	**Feedback posts for 4 short stories**
Tues 4/30	Discussion of Final Portfolio Requirements & Guidelines **Read** "And Furthermore, Part I: Door Shut, Door Open" (Stephen King)
Thurs 5/2	Class Review Activity (Bring your class notes!) **Poetry Factory** (class reading): Location and Time TBD
Week 16	
Finals Week	
Due by Tues 5/7 @ midnight	○ **Final Portfolio** ○ **Poetry Factory Video** (individual)
Congratulations! You read this far ☺	**Syllabus Scavenger Quiz's Last Question due Tues 1/23 by start of class** **This syllabus has been revised specifically for this semester. Two former students gave me amazing feedback so the class could be better 🤞.** **Their names are Carlos and Dalia** **Please send good vibes their way 🌟**