

FALL 2022 | T-TH 12 p.m.-1:20 p.m. | CRN 11643

# CRW 3362

Instructor: Claudia Flores

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Office Hours: By appointment only

Introduction to Creative Writing

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Believe it or not, we are surrounded by creative writing. From your favorite TV show, movies, music, commercials, and books, among other outlets, creative writing takes part in every single one of them. This course is designed to introduce you to the basic elements and techniques required to start your journey as a writer. We will begin the course by looking at different ways poetry and fiction employ common elements, such as image, voice, character, and setting. It is through workshop sessions, readings, and assignments that you will strengthen and develop your own employment of them, as well as your writing style. Writers from all backgrounds are welcomed to enroll in this introductory course.

## GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through this course, students will:

- Recognize literary devices used in poetry and fiction and apply them to their work.
- Provide and receive professional criticism of peers' poetry and short story submission.
- Produce a final portfolio with a critical preface and revised versions of the students' work.
- Most importantly, this course is for you to learn the basics to achieve your best writing and experiment with narratives that are important to you, so have fun!

## COURSE MATERIALS

All course materials will be available through blackboard.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

*Readings and Critical responses*

These will be assigned once every other week. Students are required to read the weekly material and submit a critical response via Blackboard **every Sunday by 12 pm. The response must be at least 300 words and no more than 400. Students are expected to come prepared to class, have read the material assigned for class discussion.** You are expected to pick something from the reading and puzzle over it.

Please do not summarize what you read, because I've already read it. I want to know what you think about something specific about the reading in question.

### *Creative exercises*

Students will be assigned creative exercises where they will implement the material and elements learned in class. There will be five poetry and five fiction exercises that we will work on throughout the semester. Most exercises will be individual; some group exercises might be assigned during the class period.

#### *Poetry Exercises*

These will be assigned on a weekly basis. You can write on the topic of your choice; however, you are required to use one or more of the elements seen in class. While poetry is a very free genre, be mindful and turn in a well-executed exercise, this is our craft, and we must put some effort in creating new material.

#### *Fiction Exercises*

These will be assigned on a weekly basis. You can write on the topic of your choice; however, you are required to use one or more of the elements seen in class, such as form or literary elements. Fiction pieces must be at least 3 pages long at double space. Be mindful and turn in a well-executed exercise, this is our craft, and we must put some effort in creating new material.

#### *Events*

I am making mandatory to attend one literary event by the Creative Writing Department, this is not only a way for you to learn about our faculty but is a way for you to support our writing community. You will attend the event and write a 250-word summary about the event. For every extra event you attend you'll be able to get 5 points. For the extra events you attend be sure to send me your paper via email.

### **WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

Each student will turn in one poetry piece (one-page max.) and one fiction piece (three-page max.) For the workshop session students will both give and receive critical feedback to their poetry and fiction pieces. Students are expected to have read their peers' work and must come ready to engage in the workshop discussion. Full credit will be given to those who turn in work on time, but poor grammar, evident lack of effort and /or failure to follow guidelines will affect grading.

Students will be assigned another student's work (workshop schedule will be assigned for this). Carefully read assigned poem/ fiction piece **BEFORE THE WORKSHOP SESSION**. While one student will be leading the workshop, all students are expected to read the piece and come prepared to class to give feedback. Write down your observations, what are some strengths? Do you see any literary devices? What is the poetic voice trying to accomplish? Is the rhythm working? Finding weaknesses is also helpful. What adjustments can we make? How can we improve this poem? If it's a great poem, what else would you like to know or see in the piece? All these elements contribute to a workshop session.

Usually during workshops, authors are not allowed to respond to questions, however I want to give authors the opportunity to answer some questions from their peers and comment further on their work. Further instructions will be provided in class.

ONE TIP: Read the piece more than once. The more you read the more details you'll see and the more feedback you'll be able to provide.

## FINAL PORTFOLIO

Remember the workshop pieces? Well these will be part of your final portfolio. Students are expected to create a portfolio containing a two-page critical preface about their work and how they applied the elements learned in class during the semester. For this assignment students are required to revise their pieces and make meaningful changes to their work before turning them in. Changing a few words, the title, etc. will affect grading. Further instructions will be given during class. I will provide a guideline sheet later.

## FORMAT

All assignments must be turned in via Blackboard in 12pt Palatino. Poems can be in single or double space. Short stories must be double spaced and page number at the bottom of the page. Every assignment must be turned in as followed:

ClaudiaFlores\_Poem(story)1\_week1

The first page of every assignment must contain on the upper right corner: name, date and assignment name.

For example

Claudia Flores

August 23, 2022

Critical Response1

## 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.

## GRADE DISTRIBUTION BY POINT

### GRADE DISTRIBUTION BY POINTS.

Students can earn a total of 1,000 points in this course:

1000-900 = A

899-800 = B

799-700 = C

699-600 = D

599 & below = F

### Grading Policy

- 10 Critical Responses **15pts ea**
- 5 Poetry Exercises **30 pts ea**
- 5 Fiction Exercises **30 pts ea**
- 2 Workshops **150 pts ea**
- 1 Portfolio **200 pts ea**
- Attending an event or reading by the CRWD **50 pts**

## CLASSROOM POLICIES

### *Attendance:*

You may miss up to **THREE CLASSES** without penalty. Missing more than three classes will affect your participation grade. Arriving to class late three times will equal one absence. Each extra absence will diminish your final grade by half a letter grade (50pts).

### *Participation:*

It is imperative that you read the assigned texts, and that you actively engage in all class discussions, group activities and workshops.

### *Late Work:*

Failing to submit CR and CE on time will immediately drop the initial grade up to 7 points for a CR and 15 pts for a CE. Workshops (Poetry and Fiction) and the Final Portfolio are excluded from late work policies. In a case of emergency, please contact me at least 24 hours before the assignment deadline. Workshops and the Final Portfolio have specific deadlines as well (please consult the course schedule for exact deadlines and due date)

### *Netiquette:*

Please include a subject when writing an email to me, and follow this template:

Dear

Ms.Flores or Claudia,

I'm \_\_\_your name\_\_\_ from your CRW3362 Class on MW. Write your email. Make sure you proofread for proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Try to use formal language.

Sincerely or Best,

Your name

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Any form of plagiarism (or any 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.

The use of information, wording, or work in a paper without giving the proper credit to the original source is not acceptable. You are expected to produce and turn in your own original work, and you are expected to appropriately identify any portion of your work that is collaborative, borrowed, or your own from different contexts. Work that has been produced for another class will not be accepted. Provide proper citations and give credit where it is due. Please refer to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for further information.

### **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.

## 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 is trained to assist you

CLASS CALENDAR FALL 2022/ CRW 3362/ CLAUDIA FLORES

Syllabus is subject to change

WEEK 1

P O E T R Y

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
August 23	Welcome to the class! Syllabus Reading + In class activity		N/A
August 25	Read Mary Oliver's selection on Imagery "The Fish" by Elizabeth Bishop, "The Round" by Stanley Kunitz In class Exercise 1	Critical Response 1 due on BB  Upload revised creative exercise to Black Board	Sunday August 28 at 12 pm MST  Monday August 29 at 12 pm. MST

WEEK 2

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
August 30	Read Poet's companion chapter on Images  "Where you go when she sleeps" by T.R. Hummer  "Oranges" by Gary Soto  "How many times" by Marie Howe  "Persimmon" by Li-Young-Lee	Write critical response 2 on Imagery on Black Board	Sunday Sep 4 by 12 pm MST
Sept 1	Read Poet's companion chapter on Simile and Metaphor  "Feared Drowned" Sharon Olds  "Finding something" and "Michiko Dead" by Jack Gilbert  Read Symbolism from Essential literary terms  Read "Notes on the seasons" by Raquel Salas R.	Upload Creative Exercise 2 to Blackboard	Monday Sept 5 at 12 p.m. MST

	In Class Exercise 2		
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### WEEK 3

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
<b>Sept 6</b>	Read article "The Words that stretch how we think" Read "Song" by H.D. "Lady Lazarus" by Sylvia Plath "The Flea" by John Donne	Write critical response 3 on Simile and Metaphor	Sunday Sept 11 by 12 pm MST
<b>Sept 8</b>	Read Rhyme from Essential Literary Terms "The naming of Cats" by T.S Elliot Sound Mary Oliver's More devices of sound "Ossuary III" by Dionne Brand In class Excercise 3	Upload creative Exercise 3 to Blackboard	Monday Sept y 12 by 12 pm MST

### WEEK 4

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
<b>Sept 13</b>	Read "Verse that is free" from Mary Oliver's Poet handbook "A Dream" by Lang Leav Read Sonnet from Essential Literary Terms "130 Sonnet "by Shakespeare "Sonnet 17" by Pablo Neruda	Critical Response 4 on Form, Rhyme and Sounds devices	Sunday Sept 18 by 12 pm
<b>Sept 15</b>	Voice and Style chapter from A poets Companion Tone in Writing Creative Exercise 4	Upload Creative Exercise 4 to BB Upload Poetry piece for workshop	Monday Sept 19 by 12 pm MST Friday Sept 16 by 5 pm



**WEEK 5**

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Sept 20	Intro to Docupoetry class Read “Where poetry meets journalism” “Book of the dead” selected poems by Muriel R. “Central American book of the dead” Selected poems by Rodrigo Balaam “Antigona” selected poems by Sara Uribe In class exercise 5	Upload creative Exercise to Blackboard	Monday Sept 26 at 12 p.m. MST
Sept 22	<h1>POETRY WORKSHOP</h1>		

**WEEK 6**

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Sept 27	<h1>POETRY WORKSHOP</h1>		
Sept 29	<h1>POETRY WORKSHOP</h1>		

**WEEK 7**

**F I C T I O N**

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
OCT 4	Read “The Golden rules to show don’t tell” Read “Inside 217 and Dreamland” from The Shining” page selection.	Critical response 5 upload to bb	Sunday October 9 by 12 pm MST

<b>Oct 6</b>	<p>Read “Point of view” selected pages from Essential Literary Terms</p> <p>Read “Axolotl” by Julio Cortazar</p> <p>In Class Exercise 6</p>	Upload Creative 6 exercise to blackboard	Monday Oct 10 by 12 pm MST
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## WEEK 8

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
<b>OCT 11</b>	<p>Read Characterization Excerpts from Essential Literary Terms</p> <p>Read Character by Lamott</p> <p>Read Flat vs Round Characters</p>	Upload Critical Response 6 on Characterization and Dialog	Sunday October 16 by 12 pm MST
<b>Oct 13</b>	<p>Read Dialogue Lamott page selection</p> <p>“Hills like white elephants”</p> <p>“Defending Jacob” Excerpts</p> <p>In class Exercise 7</p>	Upload creative exercise to BB	Monday Oct 17 by 12 pm MST

## WEEK 9

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
<b>OCT 18</b>	<p>Read “Writing Fiction: place and atmosphere” page selection</p> <p>“The face night up” by Julio Cortazar</p> <p>“The fall of the house of Usher” by Edgar Allan Poe</p>	Upload Critical Response 7 on Place, atmosphere and Summary scene, and flashback	Sunday October 23 by 12 pm MST
<b>Oct 20</b>	<p>Read “Writing Fiction: Summary, Scene and Flashback” page selection</p> <p>“The Prince’s Tale” from Harry Potter and the deadly hallows</p> <p>Watch Nocturnal Animals</p> <p>In class Exercise 8</p>	Upload creative exercise 8 to BB	Monday Oct 24 by 12 pm MST

## WEEK 10

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
OCT 25	Read "Plot" by Anne Lamott Watch Prisoners	Upload Critical Response 8 on Plot and Plot twists	Sunday October 30 by 12pm MST
Oct 27	Read "Align people with your conflicts" from Mastering Plot Twists  Watch Parasite and The Invisible Guest  In class Exercise 9	Upload creative exercise to BB	Monday Oct 31 by 12 pm MST

## WEEK 11

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
NOV 1	Read "The importance of Genre" and "Forms of Creative Writing" Read "Finding your voice" by Anne Lamott Read "Ars Poetica" Excerpt	Upload Critical Response 9 on other genres and your voice	Sunday Nov 6 by 9 am MST
NOV 3	INTRO TO NONFICTION Read "What is Creative Nonfiction" "The Good War: John Garcia Excerpt" by Studs Terkel Citizen Excerpts by Claudia Rankine	Upload fiction workshop	Friday Nov 4 by 5 pm MST

**WEEK 12**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>NOV 8</b>	NONFICTION and MEMOIR CONTINUES  Read "The importance of diaries, memoirs etc"  Read "Born a Crime" Excerpts  In class Exercise 10	Upload Critical Response 10 on Nonfiction  Upload creative exercise 10 to BB	Sunday Nov 13 by 12 pm MST  Monday Nov 14 by 12 pm MST
<b>NOV 10</b>	<b>FICTION WORKSHOP</b>		

**WEEK 13**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>NOV 15</b>	<b>FICTION WORKSHOP</b>		
<b>NOV 17</b>			

**WEEK 14**

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
NOV 22	“Let’s chill for a bit: poetry and Fiction Reading:”  For this class bring one of your favorite poems or one short story to read in class and share with your peers!	N/A	N/a
NOV 24	<b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>		

**WEEK 15**

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
NOV 29	<b>No class work on your portfolios!</b>		
DEC 1			

**WEEK 16**

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
DEC 6	<b>Final portfolio due Tuesday Dec. 6 by 9 pm</b>		
DEC 9			

