

CRW 3362

SPRING | T-TH 1:30 p.m.– 2:50 p.m. | CRN 24470

Instructor: Claudia Flores

Email: cvfloresramirez@utep.edu

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 **175 pts ea**
- 1 Portfolio **200 pts ea**

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 dropped 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. 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 SPRING/ CRW 3362/ CLAUDIA FLORES

Syllabus is subject to change

WEEK 1

P O E T R Y

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
January 17	Welcome to the class! Syllabus Reading + In class activity		N/A
January 19	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 Jan 22 at 12 pm MST Monday Jan 23 at 12 pm MST

WEEK 2

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
January 24	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 Jan 29 by 12 pm MST
January 26	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 Jan 30 at 12 p.m. MST

	In Class Exercise 2		
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WEEK 3

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
January 30	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 Feb 5 by 12 pm MST
Feb 2	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 Feb 6 by 12 pm MST

WEEK 4

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Feb 7	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 Feb 12 by 12 pm
Feb 9	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 Feb 13 by 12 pm MST Tuesday Feb 7 by 10 pm

WEEK 5

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Feb 14	<p>Intro to Docupoetry class</p> <p>Read “Where poetry meets journalism”</p> <p>“Book of the dead” selected poems by Muriel R.</p> <p>“Central American book of the dead” Selected poems by Rodrigo Balaam</p> <p>“Antigona” selected poems by Sara Uribe</p> <p>In class exercise 5</p>	Upload creative Exercise to Blackboard	Monday Feb 20 at 12 p.m. MST
Feb 16	POETRY WORKSHOP		

WEEK 6

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Feb 21	POETRY WORKSHOP		
Feb 23			

WEEK 7

F I C T I O N

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Feb 28	<p>Read “The Golden rules to show don’t tell”</p> <p>Read “Inside 217 and Dreamland” from The Shining” page selection.</p>	Critical response 5 upload to bb	Sunday March 5 by 12 pm MST

March 2	Read "Point of view" selected pages from Essential Literary Terms Read "Axolotl" by Julio Cortazar In Class Exercise 6	Upload Creative 6 exercise to blackboard	Monday March 6 by 12 pm MST
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WEEK 8

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
March 7	Read Characterization Excerpts from Essential Literary Terms Read Character by Lamott Read Flat vs Round Characters	Upload Critical Response 6 on Characterization and Dialog	Sunday March 12 by 12 pm MST
March 9	Read Dialogue Lamott page selection "Hills like white elephants" "Defending Jacob" Excerpts In class Exercise 7	Upload creative exercise to BB	Monday March 13 by 12 pm MST

WEEK 9

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Mar 14	<h1>Spring Break, have fun!</h1>		
Mar 17			

WEEK 10

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
March 20	<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>	<p>Upload Critical Response 7 on Place, atmosphere and Summary scene, and flashback</p>	<p>Sunday March 26 by 12 pm MST</p>
March 21	<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>	<p>Upload creative exercise 8 to BB</p>	<p>Monday March 27 by 12 pm MST</p>

WEEK 11

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
March 28	<p>Read “Plot” by Anne Lamott</p> <p>Watch Prisoners</p>	<p>Upload Critical Response 8 on Plot and Plot twists</p>	<p>Sunday April 2 by 12pm MST</p>
March 30	<p>Read “Align people with your conflicts” from Mastering Plot Twists</p> <p>Watch Parasite and The Invisible Guest</p> <p>In class Exercise 9</p>	<p>Upload creative exercise to BB</p> <p>Upload Fiction Workshop Piece</p>	<p>Monday April 3 by 12 pm MST</p> <p>Monday April 3 by 10 pm.</p>

WEEK 12

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
April 4	<p>Read “The importance of Genre” and “Forms of Creative Writing”</p> <p>Read “Finding your voice” by Anne Lamott</p> <p>Read “Ars Poetica” Excerpt</p>	Upload Critical Response 9 on other genres and your voice	Sunday April 9 by 9 am MST
April 6	<p>INTRO TO NONFICTION and Memouir</p> <p>Read “What is Creative Nonfiction”</p> <p>“The Good War: John Garcia Excerpt” by Studs Terkel</p> <p>Citizen Excerpts by Claudia Rankine</p>		

WEEK 13

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
April 11	<p>NONFICTION and MEMOIR CONTINUES</p> <p>Read “The importance of diaries, memoirs etc”</p> <p>Read “Born a Crime” Excerpts</p> <p>In class Exercise 10</p>	<p>Upload Critical Response 10 on Nonfiction</p> <p>Upload creative exercise 10 to BB</p>	<p>Sunday April 16 by 12 pm MST</p> <p>Monday April 17 by 12 pm MST</p>
April 13	<h1>FICTION WORKSHOP</h1>		

WEEK 14

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
April 18	FICTION WORKSHOP		
April 20			

WEEK 15

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
April 24	No class work on your portfolios!		
April 25			

WEEK 16

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Final portfolio due Wednesday May 3rd by 10 pm MST			

