

Introduction to Creative Writing CRW 3362-Spring 2023

I. Course Information:

- **CRN:** 21833
- **Day/Time/Room:** Monday & Wednesday 9:00-10:20 AM/EDUC 108
- **Instructor:** Diana Esparza Lara
- **Contact Information:**
dvesparzalara@utep.edu
- **Office Hours:** Wednesday 12:00-2:00 pm
in EDUC 907 (by appointment)

II. Texts and Materials:

- You will find the readings and materials on Blackboard. Make sure to check the reading schedule and print the readings to be discussed in class.
- Throughout the semester you will have to choose a book to read and present to the class with a partner.

III. Overview

This course is intended to promote in students a serious and creative practice of reading and writing through the analysis, discussion, and practice of techniques and forms for the creation of poetry, short fiction, and non-fiction.

IV. Goals

This class's goals are to teach students a series of concepts related to the writing and reading process, as well as techniques and resources which will help them to:

- Analyze the literary works by recognized authors and discuss forms and techniques.
- Work consciously in their own creation of literary texts.
- Be able to build a serious and enriched critique of the texts written by classmates during the course.

V. Course Expectations

This is a reading and writing-intensive course; therefore, the student must be committed to:

- Read and analyze the texts previously selected to work in class which will be available on Blackboard.
- Write and submit creative exercises.
- Read, analyze, and prepare a series of comments for the texts presented by classmates.
- Give an oral presentation for the book they picked at the beginning of the semester.

VI. Evaluation: This course will evaluate the following components: workshops, creative exercises, participation/attendance, portfolio, and presentations as follows:

25 % Workshops: Students will participate in a workshop by receiving and providing feedback. Make sure that your feedback is constructive and engaging. They will submit new creative work that will be part of their final portfolio at the end of the semester. These creative pieces must have a unifying component and be thought of as works in progress for the purpose of publication in the future.

20% Creative Exercises: These will be done and submitted in class. They can be the draft or the beginning of the pieces to be workshopped.

15% Participation/Attendance: All students must be prepared to discuss all readings. Taking notes on both the readings and classmates' texts is required since you may be asked to lead discussions. Prepare by annotating your texts ahead of time. **Attendance:** This is a discussion/workshop class, not a lecture class. All students are expected to attend and be on time for every class. Arriving to class late or leaving early 3 times will equal one absence. You may miss up to 3 classes without penalty. Missing more than 3 classes will affect your grade and will put you at risk of being dropped from the class. You must attend each class period to participate in group activities, discussions, workshops, and in-class writing. Please share contact information with a classmate to keep up with what was missed in an absence, and check Blackboard for the slides covered during class. **Late work is not accepted, nor makeup work is given.**

20% Portfolio: A printed and edited version of your workshopped texts, and the exercises written in class must be submitted in your portfolio. You will also be asked to include a Writer's Statement. It must include the old version of all workshopped texts.

20% Presentations: In partners, you will choose a book that you want to read and will do a presentation about its literary elements. Specific instructions will be provided by your instructor.

GRADING SCALE:

A	100-90%
B	89-80%
C	79-70%
D	69-60%
F	59% and below
W	This grade will only be assigned if you drop this course before the university's drop deadline.

VII. Grading, Assignments, & Deadlines: It is the responsibility of each student to turn in all assignments by the due dates, regardless of any absences. **Late work is not accepted.**

- **Preparing for Class:** Students must come to class prepared. This means having read the required texts for the day, as well as having completed the homework. Students must bring materials to every class. They are also expected to be polite and respectful of others during workshops, discussions, and lessons.
- **Blackboard and Email:** You must check your UTEP-assigned email and Blackboard every day. The materials will mostly be on Blackboard, and I might post homework updates and clarifications there and send them through email. In addition, some classes might be held through a Discussion Forum. You will be notified in advance when this is the case. You may contact me with any questions or concerns at my UTEP email; avoid using your personal email or Blackboard messages. Please allow 24-48 hours for a response.

VIII. Extra credit: You will be given the opportunity to attend literary and academic events that will both enrich your knowledge and will hopefully boost your grade. Depending on the event, you might be asked to write and submit a one-page response.

IX. Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty

Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source, and it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.html> for further information.

IX. Disabilities Statement

Your instructor will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including physical, emotional, and learning disabilities. Please, email me during the first two weeks or make an appointment to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require special accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services located in the East Union Building, Room 106. Refer to: <http://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass>

****This syllabus including the course calendar is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. ****

X. Course Calendar

Date	Topics/Reading
Week 1 1/18	1) Icebreaker 2) Class introduction 3) Exercise 1
Week 2 1/23 & 1/25	1) Syllabus/ Syllabus quiz 2) The Writer in the World 3) Image and Imagination Read: Billy Collins “Snow Day” and Jamaica Kincaid “Girl”
Week 3 1/30 & 2/1	1) Concrete and Significant Details 2) Figures of speech 3) Find a partner and pick your book 4) Exercise 2 Read: “One of These Days” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez/ “Eleven” by Sandra Cisneros
Week 4 2/6 & 2/8	NARRATIVE: FICTION 1) What is fiction? 2) Building Characters Read: “The Black Cat” by Edgar Allan Poe/ “The Mark on the Wall” by Virginia Woolf/ “The Red Convertible” by Louise Erdrich
Week 5 2/13 & 2/15	1) Narrator and POV 2) Dialogue 3) Exercise 3 Read: “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” by Joyce Carol Oates/ “The Werewolf” by Angela Carter
Week 6 2/20 & 2/22	1) Plot: story, conflict, and situation 2) Setting 3) Exercise 4

	Read: “At the Dam” by Joan Didion/ “Fish Cheeks” by Amy Tan/ “Her” by Crista Parravani (excerpt)/ “The Book of Jon” by Eleni Sikelianos
Week 7 2/27 & 3/1	NARRATIVE: NON-FICTION 1) What is Creative Nonfiction? 2) Memoir 3) Personal Essay 4) Workshop 1: Guidelines Read: “Dismantling” by Merrill Leffler/ “On Modern Poetry,” by Wallace Stevens/ “Mushrooms” by Sylvia Plath/ “Salutation” by Ezra Pound
Week 8 3/6 & 3/8	POETRY 1) What is Poetry? 2) Reading Poems 3) Annotating of a Poem 4) Exercise 5 Read: Coming of Age Poems (on Blackboard)/ “Cool” by Gwendolyn Brook/ Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” by Robert Frost/ “Because I could not stop for death” by Emily Dickinson
3/13-3/17	Spring Break- No class
Week 9 3/20 & 3/22	1) Voice & Speaker 2) The Line 3) Language, Rhythm, and Sound 4) Workshop 2: Guidelines 5) Workshop 1: Submit to Blackboard Read: “Covering the Mirrors” by Carol V. Davies/ “For a Father” by Elise Partridge/“Facing it” by Yusef Komunyakaa and “War Bonds” by Sandra Rose Maley
Week 10 3/27 & 3/29	1) Verse That is Free 2) Imagery 3) Exercise 6 Read: Your classmates’ stories for workshop 1
3/30	Last day to drop with a “W”
Week 11 4/3 & 4/5	1)Workshop 1: Fiction/ non-fiction-Part 1 2) Workshop 2: Submit to Blackboard Presentations: Guidelines
Week 12 4/10 & 4/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop 1: Fiction/ non-fiction-Part 2 • Portfolio: Guidelines • Writer’s Statement Read: Your classmates’ poems for workshop 2
Week 13 4/17 & 4/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop 2: Poetry-Part 1
Week 14 4/24 & 4/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop 2: Poetry-Part 2
Week 15 5/1 & 5/3	1) Presentations 2) Submit your portfolio with your revised texts
Week 16 5/12-5/18	Finals Week