

## **CRW 3363: Foundational Techniques** *Spring 2023*

### **I. Course Information**

- **CRN:** 23742
- **Day/Time/Room:** Monday & Wednesday 10:30-11:50AM/EDUC 202
- **Instructor:** Diana Esparza Lara
- **Contact Information:**  
dvesparzalara@utep.edu
- **Office Hours:** Wednesday 12:00-2:00 pm in EDUC 907 (by appointment)

### **Texts and Materials:**

- Hamilton, Sharon. *Essential Literary Terms: A Brief Norton Guide with Exercises*. Norton, 2007.
- A selection of poems and short stories will be available as PDF on Blackboard.

### **III. Overview**

This course examines the foundational forms, tech contemporary practices of creative writing, in both Fiction and Poetry. In addition, we will learn the most common terminology used in literary discussions.

Beginning with fiction, we will analyze a variety of short stories. We will discuss the many variations of the forms and techniques we find in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to examine the evolution of this genre. We will learn and practice some of the most useful techniques for crafting fiction.

Then, we will turn our attention to poetry where we will study the traditional forms and the ideas that shaped this genre in the past. We will also learn and practice techniques for poetry writing.

### **IV. Goals**

The primary goals of this class are to:

1. Gain a perspective on the genres of poetry and fiction to see and understand how and why a writer chooses to employ different techniques and forms.
2. Through our intense study of significant texts, we will hone our reading skills, learning to read deeply and acknowledge the available forms and techniques for varying purposes.
3. Create a portfolio that reflects the students' application of the concepts practiced in class.
4. Provide opportunities to experiment with different forms in their own writing.

A writer's most valuable tool, after all, is his or her ability to read and learn from other writers.

### **V. Course Expectations**

Reading and writing are the two main activities of the course, therefore the student must be committed to:

- Read and analyze the texts previously selected to work in class available on the assigned book or on Blackboard.
- Prepare for discussion by annotated selected texts and be ready to participate.
- Write and submit creative exercises.

**VI. Evaluation:** This course will evaluate the following components: terminology tests, exercises and quizzes, participation/attendance, and portfolio as follows:

**30% Terminology Tests (10% each).** Students will take 3 tests on concepts learned through course readings, lessons, and discussions.

**30% Portfolio:** Students will gather the creative exercises done during class, edit them and compile them into a final portfolio by the end of class. They will also pick 2 or 3 pieces that they would like to continue working with and will come up with a book proposal that explains how this work can become a book in the future. Both the original and edited versions must be included.

**25% Exercises and Activities.** We will be learning a lot of concepts, terms, and forms, so I will assign exercises to do in class or as homework. To practice some of the topics of the course, you will be asked to analyze poems, and stories and write a few pieces.

**15% Participation/Attendance.** It is imperative that you read the assigned texts, and that you actively engage in all class discussions. Make sure that you have access to Blackboard to download any additional readings and participate in any online activities assigned to you. You may miss up to 3 classes without penalty. Arriving to class late or leaving early 3 times will equal one absence. Missing more than 3 classes will affect your participation grade and will put you at risk of being dropped from the class. Please share contact information with a classmate to keep up with what was missed in an absence and check out the materials posted for the lesson on Blackboard. **Late work is not accepted, nor make-up work is given.**

#### 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 absence. ***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 should bring materials to every class, and they are 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.

**VIII. 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 of that information or wording, 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.

**X. Disabilities Statement**

I 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 schedule, is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. \*\***

**Course Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics/Readings</b>
<b>Week 1</b> 1/18	1) Icebreaker 2) Class introduction
<b>Week 2</b> 1/23 & 1/25	1) Syllabus/ Syllabus quiz <b>2) Fiction Creative Exercise 1</b> 3) What is Literature? Discussion 4) Literary Genres
<b>Week 3</b> 1/30 & 2/1	<b>FICTION</b> 1) Fiction Genres: Novel, Short Story, and Novella (pp. 8-12) 2) Fiction Elements: Voice, Narrator and POV (pp. 112-122) <b>3) Deadline to purchase your book</b> <b>4) Fiction Creative Exercise 2</b> <b>5) Portfolio Guidelines</b>
<b>Week 4</b> 2/6 & 2/8	1) Fiction Elements: Characters and Characterization (pp. 125-127)/ "Brownies" by ZZ Packer <b>2) Fiction Creative Exercise 3</b> 3) Fiction Elements: Dialogue (pp. 132-144)/ "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place" by Ernest Hemingway/ "A Temporary Matter" by Jumpa Lahiri 4) Fiction Elements: Setting (pp. 150-152)/ "Everything That Rises Must Converge" by Flannery O'Connor <b>5) Fiction Creative Exercise 4</b>

<b>Week 5</b> 2/13 & 2/15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Fiction Elements: Plot (pp. 129-132)</li> <li>2) Fiction Elements: Theme and Tone (pp. 154-162)</li> <li>3) Fiction Topics: Structure (pp. 167-178) / “You Never Know How the Waters Run So Cruel So Deep” by Roxane Gay</li> <li>4) <b>Test 1: Review</b></li> </ol>
<b>Week 6</b> 2/20 & 2/2/22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>Test 1: Fiction</b> <b>FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE/ RHETORICAL STRATEGIES</b></li> <li>2) Tropes of Thought (pp. 32-47)</li> <li>3) Tropes of Meaning (pp. 54-60)</li> </ol>
<b>Week 7</b> 2/27 & 3/1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Figures of Speech (pp. 62-66)</li> <li>2) Rhetorical Strategies (pp. 68-76)</li> </ol>
<b>Week 8</b> 3/6 & 3/8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>Test 2: Review</b></li> <li>2) <b>Portfolio Guidelines: Updated</b></li> </ol>
<b>3/13-3/17</b>	<b>Spring Break: No classes</b>
<b>Week 9</b> 3/20 & 3/22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>Test 2: Figurative Language and Rhetorical Strategies</b></li> <li>2) Stanzas: (226-234)</li> <li>3) Verse and Shaping Forms: Free Verse (pp. 239-242)/ “Facing It” by Yusef Yumanyaka</li> <li>4) <b>Poetry Creative Exercise 1</b></li> </ol>
<b>Week 10</b> 3/27 & 3/29	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Specialized forms: Three specialized forms: dramatic monologue, epigram, satire (pp. 15-24)</li> <li>2) <b>Poetry Creative Exercise 2</b></li> <li>3) Prosody: Meter, Metrical Feet, and Rhyme: (198-215)</li> </ol>
<b>3/30</b>	<b>Last day to drop with a “W”</b>
<b>Week 11</b> 4/3 & 4/5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Verse and Shaping Forms: Blank Verse (pp. 234-236)/ “Of Modern Poetry” by Wallace Stevens</li> <li>2) Verse and Shaping Forms: Elegy</li> <li>3) <b>Poetry Creative Exercise 3</b></li> </ol>
<b>Week 12</b> 4/10 & 4/12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Verse and Shaping Forms: Pastoral</li> <li>2) Verse and Shaping Forms: Ode</li> <li>3) <b>Poetry Creative Exercise 4</b></li> </ol>
<b>Week 13</b> 4/17 & 4/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>How to Write a Book Proposal/Preface/Introduction</b></li> <li>2) Verse and Shaping Forms: The Sonnet (pp. 231-234)/ Selection of sonnets by Petrarch, Shakespeare, Edna St.Vincent Millay, and Bernardette Mayer</li> </ol>
<b>Week 14</b> 4/24 & 4/26	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Verse and Shaping Forms: Villanelle, sestina</li> <li>2) Verse and Shaping Forms: Ballad (pp.73-100)</li> </ol>
<b>Week 15</b> 5/1 & 5/3	<b>Test 3: Review</b> Test 3: Poetry <b>Portfolio due</b>
<b>Week 16</b> 5/12-5/18	Finals Week