

CRW 3362
Introduction to Creative Writing
Fall 2022

I. Course Information:

CRN 16227

MW 9:00-10:20 AM

Classroom Bldg. C304

Diana Esparza Lara

Office Hours: MW 12:00-1:00

pm/Conference room-EDUC Bldg. 9th
floor (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 be assigned to read one of the following books:

- “Ghostbread” by Sonia Livingston
- “The House on Mango Street” by Sandra Cisneros
- “The Crossover” by Kwame Alexander

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

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 books or 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 assigned to them by the instructor.

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

30 % Workshops: Students will participate in a workshop by receiving and providing feedback. They will submit new creative work that will be part of their final portfolio. These creative pieces must have a unifying component and be thought of as work 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 beginning for the pieces to be workshopped.

10% 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 in charge of leading discussions. Prepare questions and comments ahead of time. **Attendance:** This is a discussion/workshop class, not a lecture class. All students are expected to attend and be on time to every class. Arriving to class late 3 times will equal one absence. You may miss up to 3 classes without penalty. Missing more than three classes will affect your participation grade. You must attend each class period to participate in group activities, discussion, workshops, and in-class writing. If you know that you are going to be out on certain dates, it's always helpful to let me know ahead of time so we can plan or make arrangements for assignments. Please share contact information with a classmate to keep up with what was missed in an absence. I do not repeat lessons during office hours.

30% Portfolio: A printed and edited version of 3 exercises written in class must be submitted as well as a Writer's Statement. It must include the old version of all texts.

10% Presentations: You will pick from one of the following books: "Ghostbread" by Sonia Livingston, "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros, or "The Crossover" by Kwame Alexander and give a team presentation about it in which you will identify the elements of craft that we discuss throughout the semester.

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.

VIII. 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 completed the homework. Students must bring materials to every class. Students are expected to be polite and respectful of others during workshops, discussions, and presentations.
- **Blackboard and Email:** You must check your UTEP-assigned email and Blackboard messages frequently. I will post a lot of the materials on Blackboard, and I may send homework updates and clarifications through there and 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 to my UTEP email, or the Course Messages tool on Blackboard. Please allow 24-48 hours for a 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 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

Date	Topics/Readings
Week 1 8/22 & 8/24	1) Icebreaker 2) Class introduction & syllabus/ Syllabus quiz 3) The Writer in the World 4) Exercise 1 Read: Coming of Age Poems (on Blackboard)
Week 2 8/29 & 8/31	1) A Brief History of Genres 2) Elements of Craft: Language, Rhythm, and Sound 3) Exercise 2 4) Book Blurbs Read: “Cool” by Gwendolyn Brooks, “Mushrooms” by Sylvia Plath and “Supermarket” by Eleni Sikelianos (on Blackboard)
Week 3 9/5	Labor Day-No Class
9/7	1) Elements of Craft: Character and Voice 2) Exercise 3 3) Pick your book Read: “Covering the Mirrors” by Carol V. Davies, and “For a Father” by Elise Partridge (on Blackboard)
Week 4 9/12 & 9/14	1) Elements of Craft: Perspective and POV 2) Exercise 4 POETRY 1) What is Poetry? 2) Exercise 4 Read: “Dismantling” by Merrill Leffler and “On Modern Poetry,” by Wallace Stevens (on Blackboard)
Week 5 9/19 & 9/21	1) Reading Poems 2) Annotating of a Poem 3) The Line 4) Exercise 4 Read: “Salutation” by Ezra Pound, “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” by Robert Frost, and “Because I could not stop for death” by Emily Dickinson (on Blackboard)
Week 6 9/26 & 9/28	1) Verse That is Free 2) Imagery 3) Exercise 5 Read: “Facing it” by Yusef Komunyakaa and “War Bonds” by Sandra Rose Maley (on Blackboard) **Bring copies for workshop 1 next class
Week 7 10/3 & 10/5	FICTION 1) What is fiction? 2) Building Characters 3) Exercise 6 Read: “Girl” by Jamaica Kincaid (on Blackboard)

	Homework: Read your classmates' poems and be ready to provide feedback
Week 8 10/10 & 10/12	Workshop 1: Poetry
Week 9 10/17 & 10/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Conflict or Situation? 2) Story vs Plot 3) Exercise 7 4) Writer's Statement Read: "Binocular Vision" by Edith Pearlman (on Blackboard)
Week 10 10/24 & 10/25	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Narrator and POV 2) Exercise 8 3) What is Creative Nonfiction? Read: "On the Rainy River," by Tim O'Brien **Bring copies for workshop 2 next class
Week 11 10/31 & 11/2	NONFICTION <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Exercise 9 Read: "At the Dam" by Joan Didion, "Fish Cheeks" by Amy Tan, and "The Corner Store" by Eudora Welty (on Blackboard) Homework: Read your classmates' stories and be ready to provide feedback
Week 12 11/7 & 11/9	Workshop 2: Fiction **Bring copies for workshop 3 next class
Week 13 11/14 & 11/16	Other genres <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Drama 2) From Theater to Film Homework: Read your classmates' texts and be ready to provide feedback
Week 14 11/21 & 11/23	Workshop 3: Choose your genre
Week 15 11/28 & 11/30	Presentations
Week 16 Finals Week 12/5-12/9	Submit your portfolio with your revised texts