

CRW 3363
Foundational Techniques
Fall 2022

I. Course Information

CRN 16227

MW 10:30-11:50 AM

LART 211

Diana Esparza Lara

Office Hours: MW 12:00-1:00

pm/Conference room-EDUC Bldg. 9th
floor (by appointment)

II. Texts and Materials:

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

III. Overview

This course examines the foundational forms, techniques, and ideas that provide the context for contemporary practices of creative writing, in both Fiction and Poetry.

Beginning with poetry, we will study the traditional forms and the ideas that shaped this genre in the past. We will also learn about the techniques and related terminology used in discussions of poetry.

We will then turn our attention to forms of fiction including 19th century texts, and a variety of short stories. In addition, we will analyze the many variations of the forms and techniques we find in the 20th century to examine the evolution of this genre. We will learn and practice some of the most useful techniques for crafting fiction.

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. Develop an investigative creative project, or an analytical essay.

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 books or on Blackboard.
- Write and submit creative exercises.
- Give an oral presentation for the topic assigned to them by the instructor.

- Read, analyze, and prepare a series of comments for the texts presented by classmates.
 - **Evaluation:** This course will evaluate the following components: terminology quizzes, final project, exercises and activities, participation/attendance, and group presentations as follows:

30% Terminology Quizzes (15% each). Students will take two quizzes on concepts learned through course readings, lessons, and discussions.

30% Final Project:

Option A. Each student will prepare a book that will research the figure of a member of his/her family. This book will include pieces in poetry, prose, or both, and should be an exploration of form that reflects the concepts discussed in class. Two documents are expected, 1) Proposal, and 2) Project.

Option B. You will write an analytical essay that analyzes the form and poetics of at least 3 short stories or 5 poems from the same author. You may choose to focus on discussing similarities or differences between them or both. Two documents are expected, 1) Outline, and 2) Essay. At least 4 sources are required; literary texts included. Plagiarism is penalized with an F.

20% Exercises and Activities. We will be learning a lot of concepts, terms, and form, 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, stories or write a few pieces.

10% 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. Missing more than 3 classes will affect your participation grade. Arriving to class late 3 times will equal one absence. 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.

10% Group Presentation. You will be assigned a topic from the figurative language section of your book "Essential Literary Terms," and will work in a group to give a 15–20-minute presentation. Additional details will be provided by your instructor later in 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 should 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) Literary Forms: Aristotle and Poetry Genres (pp. 1-3) /"Mother to Son" by Langston Hughes
Week 2 8/29 & 8/31	1) Specialized forms: Three specialized forms: dramatic monologue, epigram, satire (pp. 4-14) 2) Prosody: Meter, Metrical Feet, and Rhyme: (219-240) 3) Stanzas: (252-257) 4) Exercise 1: Prosody
Week 3 9/5	Labor Day Holiday-University Closed

9/7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Poetry Forms: The Sonnet (pp. 257-260)/ Selection of sonnets by Petrarch, Shakespeare, Edna St.Vincent Millay, and Bernardette Mayer Poems and Family: “In Dreams” by Kim Adonizio, “Three Words” by Li-Young Lee, and “A Prayer for My Daughter” by W.B. Yeats
Week 4 9/12 & 9/14	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Verse and Shaping Forms: Villanelle, sestina (pp. 5-41) Verse and Shaping Forms: Ballad (pp.73-100) <p>*Instructions for your group presentation</p>
Week 5 9/19 & 9/21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Verse and Shaping Forms: Ode (240-255) *Start working on group presentation
Week 6 9/26 & 9/28	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Verse and Shaping Forms: Elegy (167-206) Verse and Shaping Forms: Pastoral (207-239) Fiction and Family: “Scars” by Amy Tan Nonfiction: “Only Daughter” by Sandra Cisneros
Week 7 10/3 & 10/5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Verse and Shaping Forms: Blank Verse (pp.261-267)/ “Of Modern Poetry” by Wallace Stevens Verse and Shaping Forms: Free Verse (pp.267-271)/ “Facing It” by Yusef Yumanyaka <p>*Be ready for your presentations for next week</p>
Week 8 10/10 & 10/12 Presentations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Tropes of Thought, (pp. 34-53) /Groups 1, 2, 3 Tropes of Meaning, (pp. 59-65) /Groups 4 Figures of Speech, (pp. 67-71) / 5,6 4) Exercise 2: Figurative Language Activity “Rite of Passage” by Sharon Olds
Week 9 10/17 & 10/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Rhetorical Strategies (pp.74-107) Exercises 1-4 on pp. 85-86 Figurative Language: Kahoot Quiz 1
Week 10 10/24 & 10/26	<p>FICTION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fiction Genres: Novel, Short Story, and Novella (pp. 21-25) Fiction Elements: Voice, Narrator and POV (pp. 122-132) 3) Exercise 3: “Orientation” by Daniel Orozco <p>**Submit your proposal for your Final Project</p>
10/28	Last Day to drop with a W
Week 11 10/31 & 11/2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fiction Elements: Characters and Characterization (pp. 136-143) / “Brownies” by ZZ Packer Fiction Elements: Dialogue (pp. 144-156)/ “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” by Ernest Hemingway/ “A Temporary Matter” by Jumpa Lahiri
Week 12 11/7 & 11/9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fiction Elements: Setting (pp. 162-166)/ “Everything That Rises Must Converge” by Flannery O’Connor Fiction Topics: Theme and Tone (pp. 167-174) <p>**Bring copies of the draft for your final project next class</p>
Week 13 11/15 & 11/17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fiction Topics: Structure (pp. 180-195) / “You Never Know How the Waters Run So Cruel So Deep” by Roxane Gay How to Write a Preface <p>**Homework: read your classmates’ drafts and be ready to provide feedback</p>
Week 14 11/21 & 11/23	Workshop for Final Project (in groups)

Week 15 11/28 & 11/30	1) Review Module 2: Kahoot 2) Quiz 2
Week 16 Finals Week 12/5-12/9	Final Project due