

CRW 3362

Intro to Creative Writing

FALL 2023 | T—R 9 -10:20 A.M.

CRN 10891 | Fox Fine Arts A458

Instructor: Iliana Pichardo Urrutia

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Office Hours: Tuesdays from 10:30 to 12:30 P.M. or via Zoom by appointment only.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Poetry and fiction give us the tools to perceive the world differently. Getting to know their forms and techniques will give us the freedom to find in the blank page a place to exercise our voice, tell our story, the stories of our communities, or create new fictional universes.

Although writing is done alone, it must be anchored in a safe workshop space that fosters creativity and empathy, where we can express ourselves without judgment. We will also engage in exciting readings from a diverse and international variety of authors that reflect our own creative processes or inspire us with new ideas. So, let's get to writing!



@Jonas Mekas

GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through this course, students will:

- Write to achieve their best work.
- Experiment with narrative techniques most important to them.
- Manage their ongoing development through regular self-assessment and reflection opportunities.
- Recognize literary devices used in poetry and fiction and apply them to their work.
- Grow in confidence as writers.

COURSE MATERIALS

All course materials will be available through Blackboard.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Morning pages

You will receive daily writing prompts in class. This will help you establish a consistent writing routine, which is essential for developing your skill and producing creative work. I take this idea from Julia Cameron and her book *The Artist's Way*: "Morning pages are a longhand, stream of consciousness writing, done first thing in the morning. There is no wrong way to do Morning Pages, they are not high art. They are about anything and everything that crosses your mind. Do not over-think Morning Pages."

Participation

This includes meaningful participating during in-class activities, peer reviews, conversations, group discussions, reading analysis and workshops in a supportive and interactive classroom environment. Sharing ideas and engaging in discussions with peers can spark new creative ideas that can help us combat writer's block and creative slumps. Also, engaging in discussions about writing techniques and literary concepts will enhance your ability to articulate your thoughts and ideas effectively—This skill is valuable not only in writing but also in various aspects of professional and personal life.

Creative Exercises

Students will be assigned creative exercises where they will implement the material and elements learned in class. There will be two poetry and two fiction exercises that we will work on throughout the semester. Poetry pieces must be between 1-2 pages long and Fiction pieces must be between 2-3 pages long at double space.

Events

I am making mandatory to attend one literary event by the Creative Writing Department, this is a way for you to support our writing community which you belong to. You will attend the event and write a 250-word impression about the event. Be sure to send me your paper through BB.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Each student will turn in one poetry piece (two-page max.) and one fiction piece (three-page max.) For the workshop session students will both give and receive craft-based feedback to their poetry and fiction pieces. While one student will be leading the workshop, all students are expected to read the piece and come prepared to class and engage in the workshop dialogue.

Further instructions will be provided in class.

FINAL PORTFOLIO

Workshop pieces will be part of your final portfolio. Students are expected to create a portfolio containing a one-page artist statement about their work, their inspiration, and their journey as writers during the semester. For this assignment students are required to edit and revise 1 piece of poetry and 1 piece of fiction and make meaningful changes that make sense in their writing process.

Further instructions will be given during class.

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

- Morning Pages **150 pts (7 points ea)**
- Participation **150 pts**
- 2 Poetry Exercises **40 points ea**
- 2 Fiction Exercises **40 points ea**
- 2 Workshops **150 pts ea**
- 1 Portfolio **200 pts ea**
- Attending an event or reading by the CRWD **40 pts**

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Attendance:

You may miss up to **THREE CLASSES** without penalty. Missing more than three classes will affect your Participation and Morning Pages 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).

Late Work:

Failure to submit a Creative Exercise (poetry or fiction) on time will immediately drop your grade to half the points (from 40 to 20 points). 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.

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.

GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT are NOT PERMITTED in this course, unless otherwise noted for specific assignments.

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.

CLASS CALENDAR FALL 2023 / CRW 3362 / ILIANA PICHARDO URRUTIA

(*Syllabus is subject to change so review it periodically on BB)

Week 1			
P O E T R Y			
Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
August 29	Welcome to class! Syllabus + in class activity		
August 31	What is poetry? 1. Read: Excerpt of <i>Speaking in Tongues</i> , by Gloria Anzaldúa. 2. Read: <i>Heartland</i> , by Edward Hirsch.	Morning Pages In class activity	
Week 2			
Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Sept 5	The Elements of Craft: Image and imagination 1. Read: <i>Ode to Cheese Fries</i> , by José Olivarez.	Morning Pages * Upload revised Creative Exercise (poem) 1 to BB	Friday September 8 at 12 pm
Sept 7	Estrangement / Figures of Speech: Metonymy, Synecdoche, Personification, Metaphor, Simile Read: "Instructions on How to Cry", by Julio Cortazar. Read: <i>Learning About Figurative Language</i> , by Rebecca Hazelton Read: "Orphelia Finds the Refrigerator Warranty", by Elisa Díaz Castillo.	Morning Pages In class activity	
Week 3			
Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Sept 12	On Sound & Rythm Read: "Sound", by Mary Oliver from <i>A Poetry Handbook</i> . Read: "Afeni Shakur: A Mother's Love", by Nayyirah Waheed.	Morning Pages In class activity	

Sept 14	Poetic Action & Form: Free Verse Read: "Someday I'll love Ocean Vuong", and "The Seventh Circle of Earth", by Ocean Vuong.	Morning Pages In class activity	
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Week 4

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Sept 19	Poetic prose & Documentary poetry Read: Excerpts from <i>Citizen</i> , by Claudia Rankine Read "Book of the Dead" selected poems by Muriel Rukeyser. "Central American Book of the Dead" Selected poems by Balam Rodrigo "Antígona González" selected poems by Sara Uribe.	Morning Pages * Upload revised Creative Exercise (prose poem) 2 to BB	Friday September 22 at 12 pm
Sept 21	The Elements of Craft: Voice /Persona/ Point of View Read: excerpts from "Voice and Style" Chapter from <i>The Poet's Companion</i> by Kim Addonizio and Dorianne Laux. Read: Selected poems by Laia Sales Merino.	Morning Pages In class activity	

Week 5

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Sept 26	Form: haiku, sonnet, ode. Read: Selection of Haikus by Basho, <i>130 Sonnet</i> by Shakespeare, "Ode to the Onion", by Pablo Neruda.	Morning Pages * Upload revised poem for Workshop to BB	Friday September 29 at 12 pm
Sept 28	On performance, music, collaboration and poetry outside the page.	Morning Pages In class activity	

	Special guest: Zazil Collins		
Week 6			
Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Oct 3	P O E T R Y W O R K S H O P		
Oct 5			
Week 7			
Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Oct 10	P O E T R Y W O R K S H O P		
Oct 12	Setting Read: <i>The Werewolf</i> , by Angela Carter & "Setting" from <i>Imaginative Writing</i> by Janet Burroway.	Morning Pages In class activity	
Week 8 F I C T I O N			
Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Oct 17	The Elements of Craft: Character Character as: desire, image, voice, action, thought. Read: Excerpt from <i>The Confederacy of Dunces</i> , by John Kennedy Toole Excerpt: <i>The Big Lebowski</i> , by the Coen Brothers.	Morning Pages * Upload revised Creative Exercise (fiction) 1 to Black Board	Friday October 20 at 12 pm
Oct 19	Dialogue Film: <i>Coffee and Cigarettes</i> , by Jim Jarmusch Read: <i>Hills Like White Elephants</i> , by Ernest Hemingway	Morning Pages In class activity	

Week 9			
Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Oct 24	Point of View Read: <i>Gril</i> , by Jamaica Kinkaid.	Morning Pages In class activity	
Oct 26	Story and Plot Read: "Story & Plot", by Janet Burroway and <i>This is How I Remember It</i> , by Elizabeth Kemper	Morning Pages In class activity	
Week 10			
Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Oct 31	Conflict Read: <i>Fiesta 1980</i> , by Junot Diaz.	Morning Pages * Upload revised Creative Exercise (fiction) 2 to Black Board	Friday November 3 at 12 pm
Nov 02	Conflict Case study: <i>Howl's Moving Castle</i> by Hayao Miyazaki.	Morning Pages In class activity	
Week 11			
Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Nov 07	The Elements of Craft: Techniques for writing fiction Scene weave, backstory, flashback, text and subtext. Revision & Editing Read: <i>Currents</i> , by Hannah Bottomy Read: Excerpt from "Fiction", by Janet Burroway's <i>Imaginative Writing</i> .	Morning Pages In class activity	
Nov 9	Read: " Archetypes " from <i>Anatomy of Story</i> , by John Truby.	Morning Pages In class activity	

Week 12			
Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Nov 14	The Hero's Journey Read: Hero's Journey Arch, Christopher Vogler	Morning Pages * Upload revised fiction piece for Workshop to BB	Friday November 17 at 12 pm
Nov 16	Creative non-fiction Read: <i>The Pain Scale</i> , by Eula Biss and Excerpt from <i>The Situation and the Story</i> , by Vivian Gornick. Read: <i>It Begins with Neon Lights</i> , by Liz Scheid.	Morning Pages In class activity	
Week 13			
Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Nov 21	FICTION	WORKSHOP	
Nov 23	*Thanksgiving Holiday!		
Week 14			
Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Nov 28	FICTION WORKSHOP		
Nov 30			
Week 15			
Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
Dec 5	Last class		
Dec 7	SUBMIT PORTFOLIO BY DECEMBER		12