

CRW 3362

Introduction to Creative Writing

SPRING 2022 | M—W 12 P.M.-1:20 P.M.
CRN 21832

Instructor: Iliana Pichardo Urrutia

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Office Hours: Tuesdays from 12:00 — 1:20
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!

GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through this course, students will:

- Write in order 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

Readings and Critical responses

These will be assigned once every week. Students are required to read the weekly material and submit a critical response via Blackboard every Sunday by 12 pm. The response must be at least 300 words and no more than 400. Students are expected to come prepared to class, have read the material assigned for class discussion. You are expected to pick something from the reading and puzzle over it.

Creative Exercises

Students will be assigned creative exercises where they will implement the material and elements learned in class. There will be five poetry and five 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 via email.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Each student will turn in one poetry piece (three-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

- 10 Critical Responses **15pts ea**
- 5 Poetry Exercises **30 pts ea**
- 5 Fiction Exercises **30 pts ea**
- 2 Workshops **150 pts ea**
- 1 Portfolio **200 pts ea**
- Attending an event or reading by the CRWD **50 pts**

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Attendance:

You may miss up to **THREE CLASSES** without penalty. Missing more than three classes will affect your participation 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 Critical Response (CR) and Creative Exercise (CE) will immediately drop the final initial grade up to 7 points for a CR and 15 points for a CE. 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.

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 SPRING 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
January 18	Welcome to class! Syllabus + in class activity		
Week 2			
Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
January 23	What is poetry? 1. Read: Excerpt of <i>Speaking in Tongues</i> , by Gloria Anzaldúa. 2. Read: <i>How to Read a Poem</i> , by Edward Hirsch.	Critical Response 1 due on BB	Sunday January 29 at 12 pm

January 25	The Elements of Craft: Image and imagination 1. Read: <i>Ode to Cheese Fries</i> , by José Olivarez.	Upload revised Creative Exercise 1 to BB	Sunday January 29 at 12 pm
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Week 3

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
January 30	Strangement / 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.	Critical Response 2 due on BB	Sunday February 5 at 12 pm
February 1	On Sound Read: "Awful Poems", by Steve Kowitz and "Turning the Line", by Mary Oliver from <i>A Poetry Handbook</i> . Read: "Wade in the Water", by Tracy K. Smith and "The Kiss", by Sasha Pimentel.	Upload revised Creative Exercise 2 to BB	Sunday February 5 at 12 pm

Week 4

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
February 6	The Elements of Craft: Voice /Persona/ Point of View Read: <i>Girl</i> , by Jamaica Kincaid and "Dear Melissa" by TC Tolbert.	Critical Response 3 due on BB	Sunday February 12 at 12 pm
February 8	Poetic Voice Poetic Action Read: Excerpts from <i>Stag's Leap</i> and "The One Girl at the Boy's Party", by Sharon Olds.	Upload revised Creative Exercise 3 to BB	Sunday February 12 at 12 pm

Week 5

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
February 13	In Form: haiku, sonnet, ode, free verse, performance. Read: Selection of Haikus by Basho, 130 Sonnet by Shakespeare, "Ode to Masturbation", by Ocean Vuong.	Critical Response 4 due on BB	Sunday February 19 at 12 pm
February 15	Poetic prose Read: Excerpts from <i>Citizen</i> , by Claudia Rankine	Upload revised Creative Exercise 4 to BB	Sunday February 19 at 12 pm

Week 6

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
February 20	Documentary Poetry Read "Where Poetry Meets Journalism." "Book of the Dead" selected poems by Muriel Rukeyser.	Critical Response 5 due on BB	Sunday February 26 at 12 pm
February 22	Documentary Poetry "Central American Book of the Dead" Selected poems by Balam Rodrigo and "Antígona González" selected poems by Sara Uribe.	Upload revised Creative Exercise 5 to BB	Sunday February 26 at 12 pm

Week 7

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
February 27	P O E T R Y		
March 1	W O R K S H O P		

Week 8

FICTION

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
March 6	The Elements of Craft: Character Character as: desire, image, voice, action, thought.	Critical Response 6 due on BB	Friday March 10 at 12 pm

	Read: Excerpt from <i>The Confederacy of Dunces</i> , by John Kennedy Toole		
March 8	Dialogue Film: <i>Coffee and Cigarettes</i> , by Jim Jarmusch Read: <i>Hills Like White Elephants</i> , by Ernest Hemingway	Upload revised Creative Exercise 6 to Black Board	Friday March 10 at 12 pm

Week 9

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
March 13	S P R I N G		
March 15	B R E A K		

Week 10

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
March 20	Setting Read: <i>The School</i> , by Donald Barthelme and <i>Aubade with Burning City</i> by Ocean Vuong.	Critical Response 7 due on BB	Sunday March 26 at 12 pm
March 22	Conflict Read: Excerpts from <i>Art of Dramatic Writing</i> , by Lajos Egri.	Upload revised Creative Exercise 7 to Black Board	Sunday March 26 at 12 pm

Week 11

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
March 27	Story and Plot Read: Excerpt from <i>The Story</i> , by Robert McKee.	Critical Response 8 due on BB	Sunday April 2 at 12 pm
March 29	The Elements of Craft: Techniques for writing fiction Scene, summary, backstory, flashback, text and subtext.	Upload revised Creative Exercise 8 to Black Board	Sunday April 2 at 12 pm

	Read: Excerpt from "Fiction", by Janet Burroway's <i>Imaginative Writing</i> .		
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Week 12

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
April 3	The Hero's Journey Read: Excerpt from <i>The Hero with a Thousand Faces</i> , by Joseph Campbell.	Critical Response 9 due on BB	Sunday April 9 at 12 pm
April 5	A Writers Room	Upload revised Creative Exercise 9 to Black Board	Sunday April 9 at 12 pm

Week 13

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
April 10	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.	Critical Response 10 due on BB	Sunday April 16 at 12 pm
April 12	Creative non-fiction Read: <i>It Begins with Neon Lights</i> , by Liz Scheid.	Upload revised Creative Exercise 10 to Black Board	Sunday April 16 at 12 pm

Week 14

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
April 17	F I C T I O N		
April 19	W O R K S H O P		

Week 15

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
April 24	I N S P I R A T I O N		
April 26	L A B		

Week 16

Dates	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
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May 1	SUBMIT PORTFOLIO
May 3	BY DEC. 5