

INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING (CRW 3362)

CRN: 23387

SPRING 2023

M/W 10:30 AM - 11:50 AM

CHEMISTRY COMPUTER SCI BLDG 1.0204

INSTRUCTOR: MARISOL ADAME

EMAIL: MADAME4@MINERS.UTEP.EDU

OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

CATALOG ENTRY

Introduction to Creative Writing (3-0) Study and practice of essential techniques of creative writing in at least two genres. This course satisfies your liberal arts block elective or functions as a gateway course along with CRW 3364 for majors and minors.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Have you ever wondered what creative writing truly is? If you've ever been moved by a novel, a short story, a poem, a movie, a series, then you've interacted with creative writing. This course is designed to learn the importance of understanding the world through writing creatively. In this course you will be given the tools to learn the basic techniques and elements of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction genres. You will develop your own creative writing and literary analysis techniques throughout the semester with the help of the selected readings, discussions, exercises and workshops. Students from all writing backgrounds are invited to enroll in this introductory course.

GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Throughout and by the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Recognize literary devices found in poetry and fiction and apply them to their own work.
- Explore different creative processes through writing exercises.
- Effectively engage in workshop practices with their peers.
- Develop a portfolio which will include revisions of their work.
- Grow in confidence as writers

COURSE MATERIALS

No textbook is required; all course materials will be available through Blackboard.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

READINGS AND RESPONSES

These will be assigned weekly, except during workshop days when the reading will be another student's work. Students are required to read and submit a critical response via Blackboard BEFORE class. Students are expected to engage in discussion of that week's topic/chapter during class. The responses will be at least 200 words and no longer than 400 words. Please consult the course schedule for due dates and topics.

CREATIVE EXERCISES – POETRY AND FICTION

Writing exercises will be assigned throughout the semester. These exercises are meant to apply the learned concepts and devices in order to strengthen the student's writing skills. There will be five poetry and five fiction exercises assigned throughout the semester. Most will be individual exercises; some will be group exercises meant to be completed during class time.

WORKSHOPS

On or around Week 6, the first workshop will be conducted for the Poetry portion of the course and again on/around Week 14 for the Fiction portion of the course. During these workshop sessions students will both give and receive critical feedback to their poetry and fiction pieces. Students are expected to come prepared to actively participate and provide feedback for their fellow students' work. Credit will be given for turning work on time, but poor grammar, evident lack of effort, and/or failure to follow guidelines will affect grading.

During the workshop participation, each student must:

1. Upload the poetry or fiction pieces to Blackboard on the assigned dates. Failure to upload the piece on time will result in a missed opportunity to receive feedback during workshop sessions.
2. Each student will be assigned another student's work (students will be able to check the workshop schedule to see whose work they've been assigned to). Carefully read the assigned student's piece before the designated workshop day, annotate your observations about the poem or story's strengths/weaknesses, and provide constructive feedback on how the work can be improved.
3. On the day of the workshop, be prepared to comment over each poem or story, cite specific examples within the work, and defend your assertions. When reacting (whether verbal or written) to someone's writing, address the text, not the student.

All students are required to read and comment on all the uploaded poetry and fiction pieces. In addition, each student will be assigned one piece for the workshop session (this will be further explained during class). The workshop schedule will be available for students through Blackboard. If you are absent during a scheduled workshop day and/or fail to submit your piece, you will not earn credit.

READING EVENT

Each student will be required to attend at least one reading event hosted by the Creative Writing Department. The events will be posted on the UTEP Event Calendar and on the Department's Facebook Page. A written response of 200 words should be submitted in BB a week after attending the event. Any student who participates in more than one reading event will be given extra credit (15 pts).

FINAL PORTFOLIO

Each student will produce a final portfolio containing a critical preface and revised versions of the poetry and fiction pieces previously submitted, including the two workshop drafts (1 poetry, 1 fiction). Students are required to make meaningful revision to their work. Simplistic corrections such as deleting/inserting a couple of words or changing the title, etc. will affect grading. 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

Assignment	Number of Assignments	Points Individual Value	Points Total Value
Critical Responses	10	15	150
Workshop Responses	2	50	100
Workshops	2	100	200
Fiction Exercises	5	20	100
Poetry Exercises	5	20	100
Reading Event & Reflection	1	-	50
Portfolio	1	-	300
Total Points to Earn			1000

Withdrawal (W): A student will receive this grade if they drop the course before the university's drop deadline of 2020.

Please note: All grades will be posted to Blackboard. It is your responsibility to officially drop from the course if you feel you won't be successful in it, though you can ask me at any time about your current progress. If you do not officially drop, but you stop attending, you will receive and F for the course, as I will not drop the course for you.

Spring Drop/Withdrawal Deadline is Thursday, March 30th, 2022.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Attendance:

You may miss up to three (3) classes without penalty. Missing more than three classes will affect your overall grade in the course. Arriving to class late three times will equal one absence. Each extra absence will diminish your final grade by 50pts. If you are experiencing any personal or medical issues that may be interfering with your attendance and other course requirements, please reach out.

Participation:

It is imperative that you read the assigned texts, and that you actively engage in all class discussions, group activities and workshops.

Late Work:

Critical Responses are due by 5:59 pm on Sundays, while Creative Exercises are due by 11:59 on Wednesdays. Workshops and the Final Portfolio have specific deadlines as well (please consult the course schedule for exact deadlines and due dates). You have two (2) chances to turn in late work where you can obtain up to 80% credit as a grade. These chances **exclude** both workshops (Poetry and Fiction) and the Final Portfolio. In a case of emergency, please contact me at least 24 hours before the assignment deadline. Avoid turning in work and assignments at the last minute to prevent any technological issues.

Technical Support:

If you encounter any technological problems, The University of Texas at El Paso offers complete technical information and help desk support at: <http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=74092>

Format:

All assignments will be turned in through Blackboard in 12-point font. Poems may be in single or double space. Short stories must be double spaced with page numbers. Name files as followed: last name_first name_CRW3362_Week number

For example: Mary_Shelley_CRW3362_Week1

The first page should include on the upper left corner: name, date, and assignment's name. For example:

Elvira Sastre
June 29, 2021
Critical Response

Quality:

While this is a writing class where creative pieces are produced, and credit is given for turning these and other assignments on time, (unjustified) poor grammar, evident lack of effort, and/or failure to follow guidelines will affect your grade.

Netiquette:

Please include a subject when writing an email to me, and follow this template:

Dear Ms. Adame or Dear Marisol,

Write your email here. Make sure you proofread for proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Try to use formal, professional language.

Sincerely,
Your name

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. Students are responsible for presenting the instructor with any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.

Military Student Success Center: If you are a military student (veteran, dependent, active), consider visiting the Military Success Center at Library Room 205 or online at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/mssc/>. Please inform me if you need special accommodations. If you make me aware of a complication, I will work to assist you or put you in contact with university staff who is trained to assist you.

(This syllabus, including the course schedule, is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.)