INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING
(CRW 3362)

CRN: 22464                      T/R 10:30 am. - 11:50 a.m
SPRING SEMESTER 2022           Email: sagodoy@miners.utep.edu
Instructor: Sergio Andrés Godoy Prieto  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
In this class, students will engage in thoughtful conversations about the creative practice and the role of storytelling and poetry in our society. They will create their own understandings of the writer’s tools, and will experiment with the narrative and poetic techniques most important to them, nurturing their own authentic voices. They will read authors of color past and present, queer authors, and authors born in this border who are challenging our understanding of what stories can be told or what poetry can do. Students will also write a first draft of at least 10 pieces of Poetry and Fiction, and will be part of a creative community that will support their interests and offer substantial feedback.

COURSE OUTCOMES
In this course, students will:
- Write in order to achieve their best work
- Grow in confidence as writers
- Write weekly in their own voices and read their work aloud
- Experiment with narrative techniques most important to them
- Study their writing to identify habits both conscious and unconscious
- Nurture mindfulness
- Manage their ongoing development through regular self-assessment and reflection opportunities
- Curate their own literary anthologies with texts that appeal to their aesthetic preferences
- Engage in a supportive arts community
COURSE MATERIALS
No textbook required, all course materials are available through Blackboard.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

CREATIVE EXERCISES
The most important thing for this course is that you are present in your writing, that you show up for yourself and your voice and engage in writing practices that nurture your development as a writer. Your voice and your perspective is important, remember that! Over the course of the class you will engage in many different writing exercises and you will have a chance to work on them from the initial rough draft to a more developed first draft. You will turn in at least 10 pieces throughout the class for comments.

REFLECTIONS
Every two weeks, you will submit a short (350 word) reflection on BlackBoard talking about how you feel in the class, the changes you see in yourself and your writing practice, and advise that you might have for how the class is being taught or what interests you’d like to explore.

WORKSHOP
This class has one workshop at the end of the course. The workshop is a space for dialogue, to talk about craft, to make questions that could allow us to reach our goals in our writing. We will go more in depth about how we will run these workshops in class.

PORTFOLIO
At the end of the course will be required to turn in a portfolio with the most current drafts of the 10 creative pieces you submitted during the class and a reflection essay on your journey as a writer in the class. We will go more in depth about what this reflection essay is about during class.
GRADE DISTRIBUTION BY POINTS
Students can earn a total of 1,200 points in the course:

1200-1100 = A
1099-1000 = B
999-800 = C
799-700 = D
699 & below = F

Withdrawal (W): A student will receive this grade if they drop the course before the university’s drop deadline of 2022.

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 an F for the course, as I will not drop the course for you.

Grading Policy

- 10 Creative Exercises 50 pts/each 500
- 6 Reflections 20 pts/each -120
- 1 Workshop 200 pts
- 1 Portfolio 300 pts
- 1 Event hosted by the Creative Writing Department 80 points
CLASSROOM POLICIES & RESOURCES

Curriculum and classroom policies:

- You are expected to demonstrate the utmost respect and courtesy for your peers with differing writing styles, viewpoints, and/or experiences. Sexist, racist, homophobic, or other hateful speech will not be tolerated.

- As a general rule, always consider audience. Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading your work. When reacting to someone (verbal or written), address the manuscript/draft, not the person. All communication, including emails, should be professionally written, using a greeting, body with a clear purpose, and a closing. In short, be courteous and take pride in your work.

- Blackboard is not a public internet venue. If any discussions are conducted via Bb, all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space. If students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s).

Attendance: According to The University of Texas at El Paso’s catalog: The student is expected to attend all classes and laboratory sessions and attendance is mandatory for all freshman-level courses. It is the responsibility of the student to inform each instructor of extended absences. (For further information regarding excused absences refer to UTEP’s Catalog.) Since this class meets twice a week, if you are absent for more than four classes, you may be dropped from the course. In the event of an absence, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed by asking your peers. Persistent tardiness and early exits will count as absences.
Submitting Work: Late work is not accepted. Reflections and your Final Portfolios will be turned in on BlackBoard.

Since the Bb comment and grade function works best with Microsoft Word, you are required to submit all assignments as Microsoft Word or PDF documents, using a 12-pt. font, with one-inch margins and double-spaced, unless directed otherwise. I will not accept these assignments any other way. Microsoft Word is available to students at all campus computers and through the Cloud. Be sure to format each assignment heading in the upper, left hand corner of the document as follows:

Sandra Cisneros
CRW 3362
Aug 27, 2019
Poetry Exercise 1

A suggestion: Always save your work by naming each assignment with your first initial, last name, and an abbreviation of the assignment. For example, if your name is Sandra Cisneros, this is how you would name your file:

scisneros—exercise1
scisneros—poem1—draft

For Creative Exercises, you will type and print each creative exercise with the same format as the Reflections and turn them in at the beginning of class on Tuesdays.
UNIVERSITY POLICIES & SERVICES

Academic Integrity: An act of plagiarism (or 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. You should become familiar with the ethical guidelines for conduct spelled out in the Student Affairs section of the Handbook for Operating Procedures. Additionally, please be aware that you may not submit work for this class that was produced for another class. You must produce your own original work in this class and appropriately identify any portion of your work which is collaborative with others, borrowed from others, or which is your own work from other contexts. Always cite your information. If you have doubts as to whether or not you are using your own or others’ work legally and ethically, ask me or resource to the UTEP Writing Center. Follow this primary principle: Be upfront and honest.

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

University Writing Center (UWC): I encourage you to make use of the UWC during the planning, drafting, and/or revising phases of writing any assignment in this class. The trained writing consultants can help give you a fresh perspective on ideas and help you with things like correctness, formatting, etc. The UWC is located on the main floor of the library, to the right of the elevators and computer lab. This is especially important for the short story section; thus, if you know you struggle with grammar, please get help before sharing your work, so we can focus on the content of the story, not its grammatical mistakes.


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 are trained to assist you.