

# CRW 3363

## Foundational Techniques

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@sylviruk

Office Hours: TW, 10:00-11:50 AM and by appointment.

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### 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 animated 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; from the XIX to short story to the many variations of the forms and techniques we find in the XX century, to examine the evolution of this genre. We will learn and practice some of the most useful techniques for crafting fiction.

### Goals

The primary goals of this class are twofold.

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. To develop an investigative creative project.

A writer's most valuable tool after all, is his or her ability to read and learn from other writers.

### Material

- Hamilton Sharon. *Essential Literary Terms: A Brief Norton Guide with Exercises*. Norton.
- A selection of short-stories will be available as PDF in Blackboard.
- Sikelianos, Eleni. *The Book of Jon*. City Lights Publishers, 2004.

### Course Expectations

**1. Terminology Quizzes.** Students will take two quizzes on terminology learned through course readings, lectures and discussions. The first quiz take place at the end of Module 1, the second at the end of Module 2.

#### 2. Final Project

**Option A.** Based on *The Book of Jon* by Eleni Sikelianos and her exploration of form, 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 a reflection of the concepts discussed in class. Two documents are expected, 1) Proposal, and 2) Project.

**Option B.** Based on *The Book of Jon* you will write a creative essay that analyzes the form and poetics of this book. Two documents are expected, 1) Outline, and 2) Essay. At least 4 sources are required, textbook included. Plagiarism is penalized with an F.

**4. Exercises.** We will be learning a lot of concepts, terms, and form, so I will select exercises from textbook to do in class or as homework.

**5. Participation.** It is imperative that you read the assigned texts, and that you actively engage in all class discussions. This will be a hybrid course, so make sure that you have access to Blackboard and participate in the online activities.

**6. 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. There is a 10 minute tolerance only.

## Evaluation

30% -- Final Project

30% -- Terminology Quizzes (15% each)

10% -- Group Presentation

20% -- Online activities/Exercises

10 % -- Participation

## 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.htm> for further information.

**Disabilities Statement:** I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including 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 Disable Student Services Office in the East Union Building, Room 106. Refer to: <http://www.utep.edu/dsso>

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

Week	Topics	Readings for This Session
1/ Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Class introduction & syllabus Literary Forms: Aristotle and Genres	1) Literary Forms, pages 1-5 in <i>Essential Literary Forms</i> . 2) "Mother to Son" by Langston Hughes (page 5 and also available in the poetry readings PDF).
2/Jan 29 <sup>th</sup>	Specialized forms Prosody	1) Three specialized forms: Dramatic monologue, epigram, satire, pages 4-13. 2) Meter, Metrical Feet, and Rhyme, pages 219-240 AND Stanzas, 252-257
3/Feb.4 <sup>th</sup>	Poetry Forms: The Sonnet	1) The Sonnet, 257-260 2) Selection of sonnets by Petrarch, Shakespeare, Edna St.Vincent Millay, and Bernardette Mayer (PDF)
4/Feb. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Verse and Shaping Forms	1) Villanelle, sestina, ballad 2) Ode, elegy, pastoral
5/ Feb. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Tropes of Thought	1) Free Verse 2) Blank Verse 261-27. Selection of poems by Robert Frost, Yusef Yumanyaka, (PDF). 3) Prepare presentations for next week
6 /Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Figurative Language	1) Tropes of Thought, pages 34-53 /Groups 1, 2, 3 2) Tropes of Meaning, pages 59-65 /Groups 4, 3) Figures of Speech, pages 67-71/ 5,6
7 /March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Rhetorical Strategies (Sara Uribe's workshop)	1) Rhetorical Strategies, pages 74-107 2) Analysis on assigned poem: Li-Young Lee's "Persimmons

		3) Figurative Language TRIVIA. 4) Review
8/ March 11th	Quiz	1) Quiz 1 2) What is Fiction?
9/March 18th	<b>Spring Break</b>	1) Work on your final project
10/ March 25th	Fiction Elements: Voice and POV	1) Fiction 2) Narrator and POV, pages 122-131 Orientation” by Daniel Orozco 3) Discussion and exercise with “Orientation” by Daniel Orozco
11/ April 1 <sup>st</sup> .	Fiction Elements: <b>Characterization &amp; Roles in the Plot</b>	1) Characters and Roles in the plot, pages 136-143 2) “Brownies” by ZZ Packer
12/April 8th	Fiction Elements: <b>Dialogue</b>	1) Dialogue, pages 144-156 2) “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” and “Hills Like White Elephants” by Ernest Hemingway 3) Instructions for Final Essay
13/ April 15th	Fiction Elements: <b>Setting</b>	1) Setting, pages 162-166 2) “Incarnations of Burned Children” by David Foster Wallace
14/ April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Fiction Topics: <b>Theme &amp; Tone</b>	1) Theme and Tone. Pages 167-174 2) “Everything That Rises Must Converge” by Flannery O’Connor 3) Bring or send draft of your final project to your teammates
15/ April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Fiction Topics: <b>Structure</b>	1) Structure, pages 180-195 2) “You Never Know How the Waters Run So Cruel So Deep” by Roxane Gay 3) Quiz 2
16/ May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Workshop for Final Project	

Submit your project by May. 13<sup>th</sup> before midnight