Pittsburg State University
Spring 2019

INTRO TO CREATIVE WRITING--ENGL 250.03
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General Education.
This course counts toward the requirements in General Education for your degree program. General Education is an important part of your educational program at Pittsburg State University that has been designed to implement the following Philosophy of General Education:

> General education is the study of humans in their global setting. The General Education curriculum, therefore, acts as the heart of a university education by developing the capacities that typify the educated person and providing a basis for life-long learning and intellectual, ethical, and aesthetic fulfillment. General education examines the world around us and fosters an understanding of our interactions with the world and our place in the universe. General education celebrates the creative capacities of humankind and helps to preserve and transmit to future generations the values, knowledge, wisdom, and sense of history that are our common heritage.

Goals of General Education for this Course
This course will help you accomplish several General Education goals and objectives, including applying the principles of effective oral communication either in group or individual presentations (Goal 1.1), articulating a problem and developing a logical and reasonable response to it using appropriate sources (Goal 2.2), demonstrating the ability to analyze and synthesize information (Goal 2.4), understanding the relationship between the arts and society in a multicultural environment (Goal 3.v.3), recognizing the value of diverse cultural, national, and ethnic backgrounds (Goal 3.vi.1), and demonstrating an understanding of gender, race, and class within and across cultures (Goal 3.vi.3).

Goals
ENGL 250 places special emphasis on helping you:
• apply the principles of effective writing (Goal 1.2),
• distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information in solving problems (Goal 2.1),
• apply generalizations, principles, theories, or rules to the real world (Goal 2.3),
• demonstrate an understanding of the creative process, both practical and theoretical, and its relationship to an audience or viewers (Goal 3.v.1), and
• make informed critical responses when exposed to artistic endeavors (Goal 3.v.2).

Student Learning Outcomes
(Pitt State Pathway Core Milestone I) Explains evidence-based ideas and reviews a written document used to convey a message.

Course Objectives.
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
- successfully define fiction and poetry terms and concepts,
- apply conventions of literary poetry and fiction, including short story, flash fiction, narrative poetry, closed form, and open form,
- apply process of drafting and revision to create interesting and entertaining poetry and fiction which will appeal to a reading audience,
- create literary fiction and poetry using a variety of forms, styles, and techniques,
- apply the concept of reading like a writer,
- evaluate peers' literary fiction and poetry as well as professional and other published work,

- <mark>identify their own writing voices and goals.</mark>

Required Texts

Primary Text: *Creative Writing: An Introduction to Poetry and Fiction* by David Starkey. ISBN 978-1457661679.

The textbook is required for the class. It's available through the university bookstore. Please let me know as soon as you can if you're having difficulty getting the textbook so that we can make other arrangements until your textbook arrives.

The primary textbook covers the basics of reading and writing fiction and poetry. It includes poems and short stories and checklists to help develop your craft. The text is divided into two sections, both of which we'll read for the class. The textbook gives a quick overview, while the lectures will delve deeper on certain topics. Readings are required, as not everything from the textbook will be covered in lectures.

Required Materials

(1) Textbook, (2) access to Canvas.

You are expected to have access to Canvas in order to upload assignments and collect peer work. Please let me know if you have trouble navigating Canvas. If you haven't already, you will be learning about Canvas in Freshman Experience. There are several computer labs across campus. Please don't use computer malfunction as an excuse for missing assignments.

Technology Requirements

Canvas requires online access and the following:
Updated web browser
Internet Explore 10 or 11
Chrome 40 or 41
Firefox 36 or 37
Safari 7 or 8
Updated Adobe Flash Player
Flash 15 or 16
PDF Reader
Adobe Reader or Apple Preview

Students should have general computer skills including:
Using Canvas
Downloading files
Word processing (i.e. Microsoft Word)
Saving files
Uploading files
Copying & pasting
Using spell check and grammar check

Course Description & Delivery Method

This course covers methods of writing contemporary poetry and fiction and reading poetry and fiction as a writer. The course also gives an introduction to submitting publishable work.

Prerequisite for the course is ENGL 101 English Composition.

Lectures, tests, quizzes, reader responses, and writing prompts and peer workshops will take place on Canvas. You'll submit your work on Canvas. Homework will consist of reading the textbook, supplemental creative work, writing prompts, peer feedback, and writing poetry and fiction. It is very important to keep up with the assigned readings. I expect you to read each assigned section from the textbook; homework, creative writing, reading questions, writing prompts, and midterm and final will address information from the lectures and from the textbook.

Communication with the instructor may be online, through discussion board posts or messages, as well as on-campus before or after class and during my listed office hours.

Accessibility

If you have a disability that might affect your performance in this class, please notify me as soon as possible so we can make appropriate arrangements. For more information, you can get in touch with the Center for Student Accommodations (in person at 218 Russ Hall MWF 8:00–4:30, by phone at (620) 235-4309, or through email at csa@pittstate.edu).

I will make every attempt to provide accessible content. Please don't hesitate to ask if you need any assistance. Canvas supports screen readers, including VoiceOver for Safari, JAWS for Internet Explorer, and NVDA for Firefox. I will be happy to help you with these tools, if needed.

The LMS used for this course is Canvas. The accessibility statement from Canvas can be found here: http://www.instructure.com/accessibility.

Support Services
We at PSU want you to succeed. If you are struggling in some way, you will find support through the Student Success Programs, which help students with social, personal, and academic concerns. You may contact them in person at 113 Axe Library, by phone at (620) 235-6578, or by email at studentsuccess@pittstate.edu. Here's the website for Student Success (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site..
Everyone has technical difficulties at times. Gorilla Geeks can help with any technical issues that arise during the semester. You can find them at 109 Whitesitt Hall, (620) 235-4600, or at geeks@pittstate.edu. Here is the Gorilla Geeks website (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site..
For technical problems with Canvas, please visit: https://help.instructure.com/home.
Just because you're writing creatively in this class doesn't mean you couldn't benefit from expert assistance. The Writing Center offers consultation for all writing at any point in the process. Make an appointment at the Writing Center at this address (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site..

Attendance Policy
Since this is an online course, you will be expected to check Canvas at least daily.
If something occurs that requires an extended absence, you may contact Student Life at (620) 235-4231. This department will contact necessary instructors.
Additionally: Quizzes cannot be made up; tests can be made up only if you've contacted me in advance and we've arranged a time for you to take a make-up test. Make-up tests will be different from the original test.

Academic Ethics
Anyone caught plagiarizing or otherwise cheating may receive an automatic F for the course and be subject to appropriate administrative actions at the university level. Plagiarism is representing another's work as your own or using another's work in lieu of your own. In this class, self-plagiarism is also grounds for receiving an F for the assignment. Self-plagiarism is recycling work from one class to another.

Also, please familiarize yourself with the University's academic misconduct policy.

Class Policies
Maintain appropriate etiquette in all online communications. Students should never begin an email to an instructor with "Hey" or anything similar. Use proper spelling, punctuation, and grammar in online posts and communications, including written answers. Texting styles are not appropriate in an academic or professional setting.

Assignments
All assignments are due on the date indicated and will be posted on Canvas and in the class schedule. I do reserve the right to change due dates as necessary. You will be given plenty of notice if this is the case. Late work isn't accepted. Please do not expect or ask for extensions.

Please review the Academic Ethics section above.

For more information on institutional policies, please visit the online University Catalog, specifically the section on "Academic Regulations," which covers attendance and grading policies.

Contact with the Instructor
My contact information is listed above, including email, phone numbers, and office hours. Please feel free to contact me using any of these means. If I receive your email during regular weekdays, I will aim to reply within 3 hours. If

you send an email at other times, I may take a bit longer to reply, but will still do so in as timely a manner as possible. On weekends, I check my email twice a day.

The emails I send you will come through Canvas and I expect you to also send all emails through Canvas. If you use another email service, I will remind you gently to use Canvas instead. I would expect you to be consistently using Canvas for email by the second week of class. Please check Canvas often, as I will post information critical to your success in the class.

Course Grade
The course grade is organized this way:

Module 1	Poetry	25 percent
Module 2	Fiction	25 percent
Module 3	Publishing	10 percent
Essay		10 percent
Attendance & Participation		20 percent
Midterm & Final		10 percent

The first assignment is a quiz covering the syllabus for the course. Make sure to read the syllabus and ask questions, if you have any.

Discussions & Online Submissions
Often when we have readings, I will ask you to submit a reader's response to either the discussion board or to the assignment posting. Instructions for each assignment will be included--expectations and rubric.
You will submit your creative work for workshop on the discussion board.

Additionally, you will submit your writing prompts to either the discussion board or to the assignment posting, as indicated in the directions. Parameters for the writing prompt will always be included.

Literary and Craft Analysis Essay
A final essay will be due _____. This essay will be a three to four page reflection discussing your relationship as a developing writer to the strategies used in at least three of the _____ published stories we read this semester. Your essay will follow MLA guidelines. The assignment details and rubric are on Canvas.

Midterms & Finals
Midterms and finals will be given in the class and will mostly consist of matching vocabulary words with some multiple choice and short answer. At least a few days before the tests, I will let you know what to expect. Attendance is required for the tests. We do have makeups, but the test will be different from the regular exams.

Workshops & Submission of Creative Work
Each module, you will have at least one culminating creative assignment, which will be workshopped in class. You, as part of the creative community, will give feedback to others in the class. We will follow the class rubrics for feedback. Your culminating assignment for Module 1 is three poems; for Module 2 one short story; for Module 3 submission to a literary magazine and a creative portfolio.

When your creative work is due, you will post your work on the indicated discussion board and we will spend time, as a class, workshopping it. You'll receive feedback from me on Canvas, in the workshop, and in a separate meeting with me.

Extra Credit
I do give extra credit, but it's limited to 1/2 a grade point. You can earn extra credit by attending literary events on campus, including Distinguished Visiting Writers' events (an extra event); plays; student readings; and so on. In order

to get the extra credit, you must complete the Writers' Reaction to an Event form. Preview the document and turn it in within one week of the performance.

Grading Policy
I use the standard scale:
A = 90 to 100 percent
B = 80 to 89
C = 70 to 79
D = 60 to 69
F = 59 and below

All grades will be posted on the grades section on Canvas as soon as possible. Tests will be graded and posted within one week of the test date.

Syllabus Supplement
Please read the Syllabus Supplement for Spring 2019, which is found here:
https://www.pittstate.edu/registrar/_files/documents/syllabus-supplement-spring-2019-updated-10-5-18-.pdf

Notice
The list of required assignments and the class schedule are subject to change, as needed. Any changes will be announced and posted to Canvas,.
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