



Course Syllabus

ENG 1350: Creative Writing

Division of Arts and Science

Class Days:

Class Time:

Location: Classroom:

Laboratory:

Credit Hours: 3

Contact Hours: 3

Lab Hours:

Lecture Hours: 3

Instructor: Kelly Alba

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Office Hours:

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Division Secretary: Pam Aldrich

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Course Description:

This course will explore the creative writing process through the reading and writing of poetry, fiction, drama, and creative nonfiction. We will discuss the fundamental elements of creative writing, and analyze contemporary models of each genre studied. Peer response groups will be used for revision of student writings. Finally, we will examine strategies for publication of final drafts.

Prerequisite(s): College Comp. I or Intro to College Comp. "C" or better in either.

Entry Level Skills and Knowledge: Students should have a good understanding of the writing process, sentence structure, basic grammar, and development of essays.

Required Texts, Supplies and Equipment:

- 1) King, Stephen. On Writing. New York: Pocket Books, 2000.
2) Peterson-Haddix, Margaret. Among the Hidden. New York: Aladdin, 1998.
3) Albom, Mitch. Tuesdays with Morrie. New York: Doubleday, 1997.
4) notebook for journal and folder for works in progress
5) a good dictionary
6) a good handbook such as:
Raimes, Ann. Keys for Writers. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005.

Grading:

Total possible points will be totaled and graded according to the following scale:

- 90% - 100% - A
80% - 89 % - B
70% - 79% - C
60% - 69% - D
59% and below - F

Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of and/or be able to

General Education

- Communicate effectively

Technical: N/A

Course:

This course is intended to offer the student instruction in the fundamental techniques involved in writing poetry, fiction, drama and creative nonfiction. The student will be able to identify those elements in published works, as well as aid other students in the use and development of the techniques in student-generated writings. Students will generate a series of drafts and revisions in various genres, including poetry, fiction, drama, and creative nonfiction. Students will discover the strategies used by professional writers for publication.

Assessment of Student Learning: N/A

Plan of Work:

- Week 1 -- I. Introduction to course
Writing exercise outside -- using the five senses
- II. Keeping a Journal
In class- Examine samples of lyrics to modern music, especially those which tell a story in a poetic style.
- Week 2 -- I. “Elements of Poetry.” Writing poetry based on art. In class writing.
- II. Poetry Problems -- In-class Villanelle poetry practice
Reading assignment: Begin reading second half of Stephen King’s On Writing, beginning on pages 95 – 131. Discussion in class next week.
- Week 3 -- I. **Draft of poem/lyrics due.** Workshop in groups.
- II. Discussion of On Writing, pages 95-131.
Reading assignment: Finish reading last part of On Writing, pp. 135-291. Discussion in class next week.
- Week 4 -- I. Workshop on **revision** of poems. **Bring journals to check progress.**
- II. Discuss “Elements of Fiction” and last part of On Writing.
- Week 5 -- I. Narration and Its Problems. Finish discussion of the last half of On Writing.
Final poems/lyrics due.
Reading assignment: Begin Among the Hidden book.
- II. Discussion of elements in stories. Exercises in fiction in class.

Week 6 -- I. Discussion of Among the Hidden

II. Finish discussion of Among the Hidden – Prepare for quiz.

Week 7 -- I. **Workshop fiction drafts** which may be rough, but complete. **Bring journals to check progress.**

II. Finish workshop on fiction drafts. Exercises in fiction. **Quiz over Among the Hidden.**

Reading assignment: Read first half of Stephen King's On Writing (pages 1-94).

Week 8 -- I. Discussion of elements of creative nonfiction. Exercises in nonfiction.

II. **Revisions of fiction due for peer response.**

Week 9 -- I. Discuss the autobiographical portion of On Writing, pages 1-94.

II. **Final drafts of fiction paper due.**

Finish discussion of On Writing.

Reading assignment: Read Tuesdays with Morrie

Week 10 -- I. Discussion of first half of Tuesdays with Morrie.

II. Discussion of second half of Tuesdays with Morrie. Prepare for quiz.

Week 11-- I. **Quiz over Tuesdays with Morrie.** Exercise in nonfiction writing.

II. **Creative nonfiction rough draft due** for workshop.

Week 12 – I. From Revision to Submission – Discussion of publication process and strategies.

II. **Workshop revisions of creative nonfiction.**

Week 13 – I. Discuss Elements of Drama and write and perform a commercial in groups.

II. **Final drafts due for creative nonfiction papers**

In groups, write one act plays and prepare to perform plays for class.

Week 14 – I. Groups perform plays for the class.

II. Finish one act plays and workshop revised nonfiction drafts.

Week 15 – I. Preparation of selected materials for the online literary journal. (Class decides which pieces will be best to publish.)

II. **Submit journals.** Wrap up decision-making for online journal entries and correct any errors.

Exam week: Return graded papers and journals and publish writings onto the web site.

Course Requirements:

All assignments must be submitted in order to pass the class.

***Journal entries** -- 3 per week -- at least one full page of writing per entry - 25%

***Participation in peer response workshops, discussions about assigned readings, and in-class writings** - 25%

***3 revised writings and quizzes:** 1 poem/lyric with at least four verses and refrain

(50% of grade)

1 short story or short drama --4-8 pages typed and double-spaced

1 creative nonfiction -- 4-8 pages typed and double-spaced
Quizzes over readings.

Policies:

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in automatic failure of the class as well as an official report to the Dean of Students. Please see the college catalog that outlines the college policy on handling incidents of plagiarism.

No cell phone calls.

Course Withdrawing: If for any reason you need to withdraw from this course, be certain that you do so according to College procedure. It is your responsibility to know and follow this procedure. If you simply stop coming to class, without officially withdrawing from the course, your grade is an automatic "F." Please follow official College procedure for withdrawing from this or any course.

College Academic Policies are located in the College Catalog. A copy of the current catalog may be picked up in any of the division offices or admissions. The list of college policies is also available online at <https://www.terra.edu/register/Collegecat/policies.asp>.

Support Services: The College offers a number of support services to assist in your success in this course and all courses. Among these services are the Writing & Math Center in B105, the Office of Learning Support Services, which coordinates the campus disability services and tutoring programs, the computer labs, and the computers in the atriums.

Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the documentation of a disability should contact the Office of Learning Support Services privately to discuss his/her specific issues. Please contact the OLSS at (419) 334-8400 X 208 or visit 100 Roy Klay Hall (Building A) to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

If you have a documented disability and are receiving academic accommodations through the Office of Learning Support Services, please schedule a meeting with your instructor in a timely manner so that we may discuss how these services will be arranged.

Tutoring services are available to students beginning the second week of every quarter. Students requesting tutoring services should obtain a tutor request form from the OLSS in 100 Roy Klay Hall (Building A) or online at the Terra website. Please note that instructor verification and acceptance of the Student Learner Agreement is necessary for all tutoring requests. All requests should be submitted to 100 Roy Klay Hall (Building A).