



0502E220

Creative Writing

Instructor: Dr. Richard (Rick) Vogel

Time: Monday through Friday (June 17, 2019 - July 19, 2019)

Office Hours: 2 hours (according to the teaching schedule)

Contact Hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Credits: 4

Location: MBA Center

Office: MBA Center 107

E-mail: TBA

Course Description

Creative writing, emphasis on composing creative nonfiction, fiction, and poetry. In other words, we will study the main genres of creative writing to prepare you for upper level creative writing courses in fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. After we go over the genre characteristics and you have read several examples, you will have the opportunity to write an example of that genre. So--you will write a piece of creative nonfiction, a piece of fiction, and two or three poems.

Required Textbook(s)

There is no required text for this class -- all class material will be via handouts and/or from material, which you will be able to access and/or copy from Blackboard. Your expense for this class won't be a textbook, but the copying costs for your workshops and your written critiques of the work of your classmates.

Reading is an important part of our course. Our course motto will be "The more you read, the more you will write. The better the stuff you read, the better the stuff you will write" (Annie Dillard).

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, you should understand the following:

- the basic techniques and terminology of fiction writing
- the basic techniques and terminology of creative non-fiction writing

- the basic techniques and terminology of poetry writing
- a workshop method of critiquing creative writing
- the importance of revision within the creative writing process

Course Hours

The course has 25 sessions in total. Each class session is 120 minutes in length. The course meets from Monday to Friday.

Course Schedule

Please note that the schedule is meant to give an overview of the major concepts of this course. Changes may occur in this calendar as needed to aid in the student's development.

Week 1 Structure of Creative Non-Fiction	
Monday	Discuss criteria of effective creative non fiction
Tuesday	Discuss topics, events, characters for student publication
Wednesday	Critique works distributed to class, what worked, what didn't
Thursday	Hand in stories, distribute to class, critique
Friday	Reflection on creative experience, comfort level with distribution

Week 2 Fiction Short Story	
Monday	Discuss criteria of effective fiction short story
Tuesday	Discuss topics, events, characters for student publication
Wednesday	Critique works distributed to class, what worked, what didn't
Thursday	Hand in stories, distribute to class, critique
Friday	Reflection on creative experience, comfort level with distribution, quiz

Week 3 Poetry	
Monday	Discuss types of poetry, what makes effective
Tuesday	Discuss topic, first draft of poem
Wednesday	Bring in a favorite poem and distribute it to classmates, analyze
Thursday	Distribute original poems to students, critique
Friday	Reflection on creative experience, comfort level with distribution

Week 4 Critique/Essay/Blog of Work of Specific Artist	
Monday	Share options for critique and essay/blog topics
Tuesday	Discuss criteria for successful critique essay/blog
Wednesday	Group critique of common piece to talk about organization
Thursday	Distribute original critiques and critique
Friday	Reflection on creative experience, comfort level with distribution, quiz

Week 5 Preparation of Portfolio	
Monday	Discuss elements of portfolio
Tuesday	Workshop individual elements of portfolio
Wednesday	Distribute and critique portfolios
Thursday	Hand in final portfolios; quiz
Friday	Feedback, class and individual critiques

Grading Policy

Your final grade is based on the following components:

Type	Percentage
Class Participation	10% of grade
In-Class Writing and Exercises	20% of grade
Workshop Critiques	20% of grade
Final Chapbook and Reading	50% of grade

Though judging creative writing is at least to some degree a subjective process, we will endeavor to make the grading as objective as possible. Your grade will be based on a total of **100 possible points**.

Participation (10 points): Participation is graded separately from attendance, and that is the 10 points referenced here (though, of course, if you were absent, you can't have participated, and so attendance will also have an effect on this grade). The separate attendance policy is clearly outlined below. It is possible to fail the class simply from excessive absences.

In-Class Writing and Exercises (20 points): Failure to turn in in-class exercises will lower your score. Attendance is also a factor here, as you obviously can't do an in-class exercise if you're absent. Class exercises for classes you miss will not be possible to make up. The value of each in-class writing exercise will vary, depending on how many we do during the semester. I would anticipate each one being worth at 10 - 15 points of the total.

Workshop Critiques (20 points):

For the workshop critiques, the grade will be based on the quality of the critiques you are handing in, as well as your spoken input during the workshop. I look here for insightful and valuable criticism that goes beyond a simple reaction to the work. Note, too, that if you're not in class, you can't participate in a workshop beyond posting your critique, and you will not receive full credit for that workshop. Attendance can affect this grade as well.

Final Chapbook and Reading (50 points): This is the heart of the class. At the final regular class of the semester, you will turn in a chapbook containing **poetry, a creative non-fiction essay, and a short story**, all of these revised from early drafts discussed in the workshops. The expectation here is that your 'final' revisions will be more substantial than simple proofing or correcting of spelling/grammatical mistakes. Failure to turn in your portfolio at all will obviously result in 0 points and failure of the course. I want to note that I will not be comparing your work to the work of anyone else in the class. I'm looking for the improvement you personally have made from the draft you turned in to the workshop to the final product, as well as seeing you integrate skills and knowledge gleaned from the material presented to you.

Grading Scale

The instructor will use the grading system as applied by JNU:

Definition	Letter Grade	Score
Excellent	A	90~100
Good	B	80~89
Satisfactory	C	70~79
Poor	D	60~69
Failed	E	Below 60

Class Policies & Expectations:

Attendance & Participation:

Attendance will be taken during each class session, and your attendance (or lack thereof) does significantly affect your grade.

Here's how the Attendance/Participation part of your grade works:

The attendance policy will be such as required by JNU for all classes. Any students with more than three unexcused absences will automatically fail the course. A missed class will mean you did not submit an assignment **and no late assignments are accepted without a doctor's excuse that specifies you were unable to come to class.**

In-class assignments and quizzes are not able to be made up.

Lateness and leaving class early will be considered partial absences. If you must leave early, please let me know before class begins.

Any student using a cell phone or computer for doing anything other than note taking while a classmate or the instructor are speaking will lead to the entire class immediately having a quiz that will count.

Academic Integrity

As members of the Jinan University academic community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities. Academic dishonesty, includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e., misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or a substantially similar paper, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; or sabotaging other students' work within these general definitions. Instructors; however, determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties that range from the lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.