

Tompkins Cortland Community College

Master Course Syllabus

Course Discipline and Number: ENGL 227
Course Title: Fundamentals of Creative Writing

Year: 2022-2023
Credit Hours: 3

Attendance Policy: *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

Services for Students with Disabilities: *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

Course Description

In this Creative Writing Course, students write in the four genres: fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction and drama. Students learn to read to study the craft of writing, practice the art of imitation, and develop a sustainable writing practice. Students also learn the art of effective participation in writers' workshops and in literary citizenship. ENGL 227 fulfills the SUNY General Education requirement in the Humanities.

Prerequisites: Prior completion or concurrent enrollment ENGL 100; RDNG 116 if required by placement testing. 3 Cr. (3 Lec.) Fall and spring semesters.

Course Context/Audience

Designed for undergraduate students interested in exploring creative writing as well as those expecting to transfer to a four-year institution to continue studies in the Creative Writing, humanities, fine arts or education. Open to non-matriculating students interested in creative writing.

Basic Skills/Entry Level Expectations

- Writing:** WC College level writing skills are required. See course co-requisites or pre-requisites.
- Math:** M0 Course requires very little or no math.
- Reading:** R4 Before taking this course, students must satisfactorily complete RDNG 116 or have assessment indicating that no reading course was required.

Course Goals

Students will learn a variety of techniques and strategies for writing and rewriting creative works of short fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction and drama.

Course Objectives/Topics

| Objective/Topic | % Course |
|---|----------|
| Students will write, and revise assigned exercises in short fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction or drama. | 10-60-% |
| Students will be prepared to share their writings, orally and textually. | 10-60 % |
| Students will read, listen to and discuss one another's work. | 10-60 % |
| Students will become familiar with literary devices and techniques used in the genres. | 10-60 % |
| Students will experiment with specific discipline of a genre. | 10 -40 % |
| Students will develop oral and written communication skills re: literary works, uses of literary devices and techniques. | 10% |
| Students will write and revise, assess, and submit a body of work in short fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction and drama. | 20-30% |

General Education Goals - Critical Thinking & Social/Global Awareness

| CRITICAL THINKING OUTCOMES | HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes) |
|--|--|
| <p>Students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ develop meaningful questions to address problems or issues. ➤ gather, interpret, and evaluate relevant sources of information. ➤ reach informed conclusions and solutions. ➤ consider analytically the viewpoints of self and others. | <p>The craft of writing and reading requires practitioners to both develop and answer questions in order to address issues of plot, character, setting, tone, imagery, prosody, structure etc.</p> <p>Works of literature (fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction and drama) must be grounded in concrete detail of the physical world, historical truths, accurate or believable characters and dialogue all of which require students to gather, interpret and evaluate relevant sources of information to create effective fictional worlds.</p> <p>Writers create a sense of wholeness and completion in fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction and drama by making sure all the parts fit; conclusions and solutions must be derived from the components of the written work set up by the author.</p> <p>Readers consider the various viewpoints of characters and authors (both published and classmates) as an integral part of understanding the work. Students also strengthen their ability to consider other viewpoints through regular workshop participation, which requires careful listening and speaking.</p> |

| SOCIAL/GLOBAL AWARENESS OUTCOMES | HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes) |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Students will begin to understand how their lives are shaped by the complex world in which they live. ➤ Students will understand that their actions have social, economic and environmental consequences. | <p>Literature is a means of understanding the world we live in and its subject matter whether naturalistic or not, is more often than not -- real life, and an important aim of literature (poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction and drama) is to discover both the obvious and deeper processes at work in the complex worlds in which we all live.</p> <p>Participating in a workshop format course draws attention to the ways our actions: our presence, what we say and how we communicate have social consequences. Economic and environmental consequences may or may not be supported depending on the student's specific interests.</p> |

Instructional Methods

Workshop, discussion, student presentations

Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

| Method | % Course Grade |
|---|-----------------------|
| Students will write creatively on a number of assigned topics in short fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction or drama. | 30-60% |
| Students will re-work assignments in short fiction, and poetry and creative nonfiction or drama and submit a body of work at the conclusion of the course. | 10-30% |
| Students will-write at least one literary review on a book or literary journal of their choice in either contemporary fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction or drama. | 10-20% |

Text(s)

A Poetry Handbook – by Mary Oliver

The Best American Poetry, 2015 – Sherman Alexie, guest editor

Best American Essays, 2015

The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction, Richard Bausch and R.V. Cassill, eds.

The Best Ten-Minute Plays by Lawrence Harbison

Bibliography

Creative Nonfiction Magazine

Tell it Slant: Creating, Refining and Publishing Creative Nonfiction by Brenda Miller and Suzanne Paola

The Art of the Personal Essay, Phillip Lopate, ed.

Norton Anthology of Drama, (shorter second edition), J. Ellen Gainor, ed.

The Best American Short Plays 2013-14, William W. Demastes, ed.

On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction (On Writing Well (Paper) 25th Anniversary Ed.) -- by William K. Zinsser

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft -- by Stephen King

Writing to Save Your Life: How to Honor Your Story Through Journaling -- by Michele Weldon

The Chicago Manual of Style: The Essential Guide for Writers, Editors, and Publishers (14th Edition) -- by John Grossman

Creating Writers Through 6-Trait Writing Assessment and Instruction (3rd Edition) -- by Vicki Spandel

Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft (5th Edition) -- by Janet Burroway

Self-Editing for Fiction Writers by -- Renni Browne, Dave King

The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative -- by H. Porter Abbott

Other Learning Resources

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|------------------------|
| Audiovisual |
| No resources specified |
| Electronic |
| No resources specified |
| Other |
| No resources specified |