ENG2100: Intro to Creative Writing

Time: MW 12:30PM – 1:50PM

Office Hours: Thursday 11:30PM – 1:30PM; or by appointment

Office Location: GAB 515

**Overview:**

Creative writing is more than just crafting a story, telling someone about yourself in a way that is interesting, or rhyming in poetry. Creative writing is of course made up of those elements, but to do each well requires an understanding and knowledge of the basic practices of each genre’s craft techniques. In this course we will cover three genres: fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. We will focus on the basic elements of each, including but not limited to: plot, structure, POV, form, and theme. We will also be reading and discussed short pieces of each genre as we explore and learn about them.

**Required Texts:**

I will provide all texts via Canvas and/or handout. There is no textbooks required for this course.

**Course Policies:**

**Attendance and Participation:**I expect you to come to class on-time and to participate. Participation varies from class to class, instructor to instructor, and I get that; for this class it means discussing the readings, sharing your work, listening thoughtfully to other’s work and providing feedback (I will go over expectations for that). If you miss more than **four classes**, you will lose one whole letter grade. At **six missed classes**, you will drop two full letter grades. In the unfortunate event you **miss more than 6 classes, you will fail.**

As far as absences go, I accept only UNT-authorized excuses for absences; I require documentation in all cases. If you have any questions or concerns about that, please meet with me as soon as possible – do not wait until after the fact to come discuss this with me.

**Late Work and Extensions:** *I don’t except late work. Period.* In the event that something catastrophic or life-altering happens, reach out to me as soon as you are able to; I understand that reaching out to your instructors in moments like those isn’t the first thing that pops into your mind, but if you do, you never know how accommodating someone might be before something is missed rather than after the fact.

*I do offer extensions on certain assignments, but that doesn’t mean I will approve them.* If you know that something (assignment or final) is conflicting with something else, or life is just unreasonably busy for you at that time: *let me know before something is due.* (Length of extension is limited to one-to-two days after initial due date)

**Grading:**

**Scale:**

90-100%........................A

80-89.99%.....................B

70-79.99%.....................C  
 60-69.99%.....................D

Less than 60%...............F

**Assignment Breakdown:**

Weekly Writings, Readings, Discussion………15%

Attendance………………………………………25%

Workshops……………………………………….25%

Essays (two)………………………………………35%

**Attendance (Absences and Grade):** Please see above policy on attendance.

**Assignments:**

*Weekly Writings* – These will be quick journal like entries about what you liked about the reading for the week. These will be discussion style posts on Canvas – however, you won’t be required to reply to other student’s responses, these are merely to track that you have read what is assigned. These will be around 100-250 words.

*Attendance:* Show up and participate. Simple as that.

*Workshops:* We will workshop and write continually. Each week we will workshop – you will only be responsible for 3 pieces of writing per genre. We will go over workshop expectations separately and in-class.

*Essays:* There will be two essays for this course. One will be a midterm essay where you do a close reading and offer your thoughts about a reading that is assigned for this class. The second essay will be part of your final. It will be a reflective essay about you and your writing process; this will be accompanied with a final portfolio of your work. We will discuss all of this later in class and there will be handouts that better highlight the guidelines and requirements.

**University Policies**

All students and faculty are required to follow the policies below.

**Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences**

According to UNT Policy 06.003, [Student Academic Integrity](https://vpaa.unt.edu/fs/resources/academic/integrity), academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to:

* Cheating--submitting work that is not your own (This include using ChatGPT)
* Fabrication--pretending you are writing about a real interview when you really made it up
* Facilitating academic dishonesty--helping someone else cheat
* Forgery--pretending your work is someone else's
* Plagiarism--using someone else's published work without citing it correctly
* Sabotage--setting someone else up to fail

A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. I am obligated to report any academic dishonesty.

**Acceptable Student Behavior**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT.

Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct). The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

The [Dean of Students Office (opens in a new window)](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) enforces the [Code of Student Conduct (opens in a new window)](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012). The Code explains:

* What conduct is prohibited
* The process the DOS uses to review reports of alleged misconduct by students
* The sanctions that can be assigned

When students may have violated the Code, they meet with a representative from the Dean of Students Office to discuss the alleged misconduct in an educational process.

**ADA Accommodation**

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. To receive accommodation, follow these steps:

1. Register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility.
2. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs.
3. Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation.
4. Students must obtain a new letter of accommodation every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website](https://disability.unt.edu/). You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

**Sexual Assault Prevention**

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance.

The Survivor Advocates can be reached at:

* [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu)
* Dean of Students Office: 940-565-2648

Visit [Title IX Student Information (opens in a new window)](https://edo.unt.edu/title-ix-student-information) for more resources.

**Undocumented Students**

Please see UNT'S [Resources for DACA Students](https://www.unt.edu/daca) web page for more information.

**Emergency Notification & Procedures**

UNT uses a system called [Eagle Alert](https://www.unt.edu/eaglealert) to quickly provide students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

**Reading List**

Fiction:

Toni Morrison – “Recitatif”

Miranda July – “The Metal Bowl”

Tobias Wolff – “Bullet in the Brain”

Jhumpa Lahiri – “Mrs. Sen’s”

Adam Johnson – “Trauma Plate”

Joseph Scapalleto – “Horseman Cowboy”

Non-fiction:

Eula Biss – “The Pain Scale”

Roxanne Gay – “There are Distances Between Us”

J.D. Schraffenberger – “Dropping Babies”

Carmen Maria Machado – “A Few Words in Praise of Eggnog”

Sonja Livingston – “Nota Bene: On the Bodies of Poor Boys”

Barry Lopez – “On the Border”

Poetry:

James Wright – “Lying in a Hammock at William Duffy’s Farm”

Louise Glück – “The Silver Lily”

Danez Smith – “Dinosaurs in the Hood”

Ocean Vuong – “Aubade with Burning City”

John Ashbery – “Farm Implements and Rutabagas in a Landscape”

Percy Bysshe Shelley – “Ozymandias”

Terrance Hayes – “American Sonnet for My Past and Future Assassin [“I lock you in an American sonnet that is part prison”]”

Patricia Smith – “Hip-Hop Ghazal”

Elizabeth Bishop – “One Art”