

ENG 2100—Intro to Creative Writing  
Language Bldg. 301  
TR 2:00-3:20pm

Fall 2025

Instructor: Brad Murff  
Email: [bradmurff@my.unt.edu](mailto:bradmurff@my.unt.edu)  
Office: GAB 515  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm or by appointment

Course Policies:

Grades are determined based on the scale below:

Poetry Unit— 20%  
Fiction Unit— 20%  
Nonfiction Unit— 20%  
Reading Quizzes — 10%  
Participation — 10%  
Office Visit — 10%  
Final Portfolio — 10%

Stories available online:

*Jesus' Son* by Denis Johnson  
"Araby" and "Eveline" by James Joyce  
"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" by Joyce Carol Oates  
"Vampires in the Lemon Grove" by Karen Russell  
"Pastoralia" by George Saunders  
"Hunters in the Snow" and "The Liar" by Tobias Wolff

Course Philosophy:

In this course, we will write short stories, essays, and poetry as we learn to read as writers and develop craft skills. Our textual analysis will provide a springboard for our own writing, with 'close reading' forming the principal method of critiquing both published works and the writing of classmates. Writing workshops will be nurturing and provide students with the perfect forum for collective and constructive critique. The approach will focus on close analysis, encouragement, and constructive criticism. By the end of the semester, students will have collected a portfolio of work consisting of three poems, one short story, and one nonfiction essay.

Final Portfolio:

During the course each student will write and workshop three poems, one short story of 2,000-2,500 words, and one nonfiction piece of 2,000-2,500 words. Revisions of the poems and stories will be included in a final portfolio, which is to be uploaded to

Canvas in a single Word document. For one of the poems and either the story or the essay, you are required to submit a 250 word revision letter explaining what changes you made based on workshop feedback. Final Portfolio must be turned in on Canvas on Thursday of Finals Week before midnight.

#### Assignments:

Poetry Unit — Three poems

Fiction Unit — Short Story (Fiction) (2,000-2,500 words)

CNF Unit — Literary Essay (Nonfiction) (2,000-2,500 words)

#### Attendance:

You are allowed up to four absences without penalty. For absences five and six, I will deduct five points from your final grade. If you miss more than six classes, you fail the course.

#### Participation:

Since this is a discussion and workshop-based course, attendance and participation are mandatory. All I ask is that you arrive on time having read the material and give thoughtful and considerate feedback to your peers. You are not expected to pipe up in every discussion, but it's important that I hear your voice and see your smiling face on a fairly regular basis. If you do not participate or clearly have not read the material assigned for each day, I may deduct all or part of the 10% of your participation grade.

#### Workshops:

On the class date **before** you are to be workshopped, you are to post your submission to Canvas. You must also bring me a hardcopy of your poem, story, or essay, no exceptions. Submissions must be numbered and titled according to MLA format. Students are required to read their classmates' submissions prior to class. I will post a signup sheet for workshop dates on Canvas.

Reading Quizzes: During the semester, we will have six pop reading quizzes over that days assigned readings. You may be quizzed on work submitted by classmates. This is to make sure you are reading your classmates' work before class. The quizzes are worth two points each on your final grade. I will drop your lowest quiz score.

#### Office Visits:

Office visits will be held in GAB 515 during my office hours (3:30-4:30) or by appointment. You are required to schedule and attend one meeting with me during the semester. Please schedule this visit with me as early as possible.

## UNT Policies:

(<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049>)

## Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences:

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. The decision of the instructor will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity, which is responsible for maintaining student conduct records. The incident may result in an official disciplinary record for the student(s).

Academic integrity violations can include copying a passage from a source verbatim, but they can also include improper or misleading citations. Please note that all source material must be acknowledged, even if the material is paraphrased. Be careful to always acknowledge the work of other writers, and take the time to work out your thoughts and arguments without copying the work of others.

## ADA Accommodation Statement:

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. 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. 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. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu).

## Emergency Notification & Procedures:

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify 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 Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials. II. Optional Statements.

## Retention of Student Records:

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written

papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

#### 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 notified verbally or in writing and may be directed to leave the classroom. Additionally, the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student 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 Code of Student Conduct can be found on the UNT Policy Page.

#### Generative AI and Statement:

Generative AI is not acceptable in this class. All work turned in must be the sole work of the author. If the student is deemed to have turned in AI generated work, the instructor may give the student an F for the assignment and/or for the course.

#### Work from Other Classes Unacceptable:

All work must not have been workshopped or submitted for other classes. It must be new material generated by the student. This includes all creative and academic work. If the student turns in work used for another class, the instructor may give the student an F for the assignment and/or course.

#### Access to Information:

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: <http://my.unt.edu>. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e- mail: <http://eagleconnect.unt.edu>

#### 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) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648.

#### Course Schedule:

##### Week 1:

*T*: Begin poetry unit. Please read “Ode to a Nightingale” by John Keats and “At the Fishhouses” by Elizabeth Bishop, both avail. on Poetry Foundation website.

*R*: Joshua Mehigan. Read his bio and all of his poems on Poetry Foundation website.

##### Week 2:

*T*: Natasha Trethewey. Read her bio and all of her poems on Poetry Foundation website.

*R*: Nick Flynn. Read his bio and all of his poems on the poetry foundation website.

##### Week 3:

*T*: Laura Kasischke. Read her bio and all of her poems on Poetry Foundation website.

*R*: Michael Dickman. Read all of his poems that I post on Canvas.

##### Week 4:

*T*: Poetry Workshop

*R*: Poetry Workshop

##### Week 5:

*T*: Poetry Workshop

*R*: Poetry Workshop

##### Week 6:

*T*: Poetry Workshop

*R*: Poetry Workshop

Week 7:

T: Begin Fiction unit. Read “Araby” and “Eveline” by James Joyce and “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” by Joyce Carol Oates

R: Read “The Liar” and “Hunters in the Snow” by Tobias Wolff, pdfs avail. online.

Week 8:

T: Read the first six stories from Denis Johnson’s *Jesus’ Son*: “Car Crash While Hitchhiking,” “Two Men,” “Out on Bail,” “Dun Dun,” “Work,” and “Emergency”.

R: Read the final five stories *Jesus’ Son*: “Dirty Wedding,” “The Other Man,” “Happy Hour,” “Steady Hands at Seattle General,” and “Beverly Home”.

Week 9:

T: Read “Pastoralia” by George Saunders, and Fiction Workshop

R: Read “Vampires in the Lemon Grove” by Karen Russell and Fiction Workshop

Week 10

T: Fiction Workshop

R: Fiction Workshop

Week 11

T: Fiction Workshop

R: Fiction Workshop

Week 12:

T: Begin CNF unit. Short essays (PDFs to be provided)

R: Short essays (PDFs to be provided)

Week 13:

T: Short essay (PDFs to be provided) and CNF Workshop

R: CNF Workshop

Week 14:

T: CNF Workshop

R: CNF Workshop

Week 15:

T: CNF Workshop

R: CNF Workshop