

ENGL 2100: Introduction to Creative Writing

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course serves as an introduction to creative writing in the genres of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Through discussion and workshop, we will study the modes and techniques of each respective genre and how they overlap. The primary goal for this course is that you will gain an understanding of the ways in which writers explore and articulate their experiences of the larger world—not only through studying the range of technical and expressive possibilities available in creative writing, but also by putting those techniques to use as you craft and revise your own pieces.

OVERARCHING QUESTIONS

How is creative writing different from other kinds of writing that we do in the University? How is it similar? What is a poem? What makes nonfiction different from fiction? What are the traits and characteristics of great, engaging nonfiction/poetry/fiction? What do we learn about ourselves and the art form as we actively participate in it? Why do we write creatively—what does a deeper engagement with words require of us and, in turn, give back to us? What we can learn from published authors and poets?

REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS:

1. A writing journal and utensils
2. A Course Reader (provided)
3. A folder for handouts
4. A UNT email account & access to Canvas

COURSE EVALUATION CRITERIA

Over the course of the semester you will be graded on the following assignments/tasks:

Item	Points
Creative Prompts (4)	20 (5 points each)
Workshop Pieces (2)	25 (15 points each)
Workshop Feedback* (10)	10 (1 point each)
Participation	5
Final Portfolio	40
Total	100

CREATIVE PROMPTS

All Creative Prompts are on Canvas and must be turned in by the specified due date.

WORKSHOP PIECES

Over the course of the semester, you will be responsible for writing and turning in two pieces to be workshopped. We will workshop 4-5 writers per class. Your workshop material can be inspired by a Creative Prompt, or something new. I will specify what I expect as the date comes near. You must hand in your workshop material on the date it is due.

WORKSHOP FEEDBACK*

Feedback is 3-5 sentences for every poem or piece of prose by each workshopped writer. Feedback must be turned in via Canvas on the day of the scheduled workshop. The 3-5 sentences must consist of at least TWO statements of praise ("what's working"), ONE question (or "what's not working"), and ONE suggestion. You may write more than five sentences. It is advised that you bring a copy of your feedback to workshop so that you may tell the writer face-to-face and participate in the discussion.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

As a member of the class and workshop, you are expected to attend and participate in all discussion of workshop pieces and assigned readings. You must come to class prepared. If you do not come prepared, or if you are on your cell phone, I reserve the right to deduct points from your grade and mark you "present in body but not in mind" (i.e. absent) if I deem your behavior disruptive or disrespectful to the workshop environment.

WRITTEN WORK

You will notice that the word count for each Creative Prompt and Workshop Piece is minimal. This is because the focus of this course will be on craft. Sentence-by-sentence, line-by-line, you will learn to pay attention to your writing in such a way that allows you to make the most deliberate and informed choices possible. In your final portfolio, you may revise and/or expand on any of the writing you have done throughout the semester. I will be available to meet with you to provide more specific feedback.

SUBMITTING WORK ON TIME

Creative Prompts and Workshop Pieces must be turned in via Canvas on the specified due date.
Workshop Feedback must be turned in via Canvas the day of the scheduled workshop.