

ENG 205: Creative Writing **Spring 2014, Section 900**

CRN: 13406

ROOM: ONLINE

INSTRUCTOR: David Renshaw

EMAIL: dreshaw@ccp.edu

You can e-mail me or message me in Canvas and I will reply within 24 hours 99% of the time.

REQUIRED BOOKS

- Gwynn, R. S. *Literature: A Pocket Anthology*. New York: Addison-Wesley (fifth edition) (ISBN 9780205032198)
- Burroway, Janet. *Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft*. Longman (third edition) (ISBN 9780205750351)

Any additional reading assignments will be provided by me.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (From the College Catalog)

Focus on student production of original work which may include fiction, poetry, memoir and dramatic writing. Students will do extensive reading, as well as writing and developing the critical vocabulary needed to discuss these genres from a writer's point of view. They will develop these skills through a number of activities including different forms of writing and peer evaluation in the form of writing workshops.

Prerequisite: ENGL 101.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Gain an aesthetic appreciation of literary works and the process by which they are produced.
- Gain an understanding of the critical vocabulary appropriate to each genre.
- Analyze and critique literary works by professional authors, peers, and themselves.
- Produce, in more than one genre, original work and revisions that reflect an understanding of the conventions of each genre and that demonstrate response to critique.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By writing within a variety of genres, students will explore the elements of literature, including character, plot, conflict, speaker, tone, point of view, figurative language, symbolism, and theme. Students will be encouraged to develop creative writing ideas, draft initial manuscripts, and revise their work with the ultimate goal of producing polished – and marketable – poetry, short stories, memoirs, and one-act plays. The purpose of this course is to help students develop both as writers and as thinkers. It is designed to broaden their writing abilities and increase their proficiency in targeting material to an intended audience, while giving them the opportunity to engage in peer-editing and self-evaluative techniques within a workshop environment.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Students in English 205 are not graded on the basis of inherent creativity and talent, but on how well they have met the learning objectives of the course. Your finished work will be evaluated, in part, on its professionalism, including your ability to engage in thoughtful revision, on careful proofreading, and on attention to the guidelines for format set by the instructor. You will also be asked to engage in forums in which you discuss key terms (plot, characterization, symbolism, rhyme, meter, etc.) in the context of the

readings. You will engage in exercises and prewriting like those used by professional writers, and reflect upon your own aims, choices, and progress as writers. Peer criticism will help you get feedback on your work. A final portfolio will be assigned, which will contain revised selections from your body of work.

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

An online class often demands more time management from students than a face to face class. You need to make sure you make the time to do the assignments and submit your work each week. If you don't, it's very easy to fall behind and make it so you can't pass the course. Please make sure to read CCP's online learning website (linked in module 1) to gain a full understanding of the requirements of an online class.

If you do not participate in, or submit material for, two weeks' worth of classes, you should withdraw from the course. If this occurs after the withdrawal period (April 7th), you will receive an F for the semester. Just to be clear, **the deadline for withdrawal from the course without incurring an F grade is April 7th, 2014.**

DEADLINES

Creative Writing Pieces, Exercises, and Forum Discussions must be completed/submitted by 10 pm on Sundays and Wednesdays of most weeks (see the modules in Canvas for full details) or you may not be permitted to begin the next week's work. Late papers and assignments will be penalized one half letter grade for each day late. After three days, they will receive an automatic F. Those not fulfilling the my guidelines or expectations will not be graded, but will be returned and must be re-written and re-submitted. You will be required to submit a portfolio of Creative Writing at the end of the semester upon which the final grades for each genre will be based. This means that revision is a vital part of the course, and you are expected to re-think and rewrite each piece several times before you submit a "final" product.

CONTACT INFORMATION

I will usually respond to and/or grade posted assignments within one week. If a personal difficulty prevents me from responding sooner, I will send a note to the class as a whole.

PARTICIPATION

Active workshop and forum participation is expected, and accounts for 75% of your final grade.

ASSIGNMENTS

Four types of creative writing pieces will be assigned – poems, short stories, short memoirs, and one-act plays. You will also be required to respond to textual readings and to one another's written work. These responses will be graded for content. Finally, you will submit a final writing portfolio reflecting an assortment of your best pieces.

ENGLISH 205 GRADE BREAKDOWN	
Area of Assessment	Percentage of Final Grade
Group Work	15%
Portfolio	10%
Reader Response Forums	30%
Workshop Forum Participation	45%

Using the percentages above, your grade for each course will be determined with the standard grading scale of: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; 0-59 = F.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Papers or assignments that are plagiarized will receive F grades. Second instances of plagiarism will result in an F for the course. Plagiarism in the portfolio paper will result in an F for the course and may reporting your plagiarism to the English Department, who may initiate disciplinary action.

PLAGIARISM STATEMENT FROM THE CCP STUDENT HANDBOOK

“Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of integrity in all their academic work. It is further expected that any written assignment presented by students in fulfillment of course requirements will reflect their own work unless credit is properly given to others. Therefore, students must identify any part of an assignment that uses the words or materials of other people and give credit to the source. Failure to do so is a form of stealing known as plagiarism and is a very serious offense.

“Plagiarism is defined as the act of appropriating all or part of a literary composition of another person or the ideas or language of another person and passing them off as one’s own. It may consist of quoting from a source without using quotation marks, transcribing published material, using someone else’s ideas without appropriate references, or submitting work which has been reproduced or bought from another person. Anyone who assists another in such academic dishonesty is equally responsible.”

WITHDRAWAL

Students who wish to drop the course must do so by the college withdrawal date. If you have stopped participating in class, DO NOT ASSUME I HAVE WITHDRAWN YOU! If you are still on the roster after this date, and have not completed the work, you will receive an F. The deadline for withdrawal from the course without incurring an F grade is April 7th, 2014.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who have special needs that require testing and/or classroom accommodations should contact the Center on Disability (at 215-751-8050 or Room BG-39) to speak with a counselor. To receive accommodations, students must be registered with the Center and provide the instructor with the accommodation form prepared by the counselor.

BEHAVIOR CODES

I will always treat you with respect, and I ask that you give the same consideration to your fellow classmates and me. If you feel at any time that you are being disrespected by another classmate or me, please message me immediately so we can handle the situation appropriately. DO NOT TRY TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM IN THE FORUMS AS THIS IS DISRUPTIVE AND GENERALLY UNPRODUCTIVE.

GENERAL

If you have any questions about assignments, readings, or evaluations, please see me, or send a message in Canvas. I’m more than happy to answer questions, provide clarification, and offer short individual coaching sessions upon request.

Syllabus may be changed during the term to reflect the needs of the class.

For a detailed class schedule see the modules section in Canvas