

Fall 2015

ENG 1520: Creative Writing

3 units, Monday-Friday, 12:30-1:30, Arthur County High School

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Course Description:

This course reinforces literary devices, narrative structure, and multiple genres including the novel, short fiction, and poetry to complement skills of Advanced Writing students. Students must have completed either ENG 1010, 1020, or have permission from instructor following review of student writing.

Students will collaborate via online and/or distance technologies to engage in intensive review of each other's work. This semester each student will complete first 3 chapters of novel in progress, revision of 3 short stories as well as completion of 1 new short story, and finally, a minimum of 10 polished poems. The final grade will be earned upon submission for publication.

Creative Writing adheres to state writing standards of conventions, word choice, idea, fluency, organization, and ..., while complementing thinking creatively, stimulating effective problem-solving, and sharing collaboratively.

Course Objectives for Creative Writing Students:

- I. Examine published works for ideas and writing conventions to enhance student's originality.
- II. Collaborate with other writers, students and published authors.
- III. Appreciate revision and innovation of creative works.
- IV. Complete, revise, and publish works from portfolio.

Requirements

Participation (40%): includes attendance and preparation of writing and reading assignments; contribution to discussion and responses to peer work.

Written Exercises (40%): Completion of listed genres (novel, short story, poetry), as well as writing exercises.

Submission (20%): Students will submit works to approved contests and/or call for submissions suggested by instructor.

Students with Documented Disabilities

Mid-Plains Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, marital status, political affiliation, veteran's status, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Area Director of Human Resources, Mid-Plains Community College-North Campus, 1101 Halligan Dr., North Platte, NE 69101, 308 535-3678 or toll free 800 658-4308, Ext. 3678. Inquiries involving students should be directed to the Dean of Student Life in McCook, Mid-Plains Community College, 1205 East Third Street, McCook, NE 69001, 308 345-8109, or toll free 800 658-4348, Ext. 8109; or the Dean of Student Life in North Platte, 1101 Halligan Drive, North Platte, NE 69101, 308 535- 3635 or toll-free 800 658-4308, Ext. 3635.

If you are a person with a disability and require an accommodation while attending this college, please contact: Robin Rankin, North Platte Community College-North Campus, 308 535-3637 or 800 658-4308, Ext. 3637, rankinr@mpcc.edu; Chris Turner, North Platte Community College-South Campus, 308 535-3132 or 800 658-4308, Ext. 3132, turnerc@mpcc.edu; or Brandon Lenhart, McCook Community College, 308 345-8128 or 800 658-4348, Ext. 8128, lenhartb@mpcc.edu.

Required Readings:

<i>The Worst Hard Time</i> , Timothy Egan	<i>The Wasteland</i> , T.S. Eliot
<i>Sweeping Up Glass</i> , Carolyn Wall	<i>Poems of Emily Dickinson</i>
<i>All the Pretty Horses</i> , Cormac McCarthy	<i>Democratic Vistas</i> , Walt Whitman
<i>Local Wonders</i> , Ted Kooser	<i>Leaves of Grass</i> , “
<i>Writing for the Soul</i> , Jerry B. Jenkins	<i>Nebraska: A Photographic Celebration</i> , Museum of Nebraska Art (website)
<i>Blueprints: Bringing Poetry into Communities</i> , Katherine Coles, Editor	

Week 1: Exploration of Creativity

Text consulted: “Brainsets and the Creative Process” Shelley Carson

- What is original thought?
- What are best practices for student writers to brainstorm, observe, and write consistently?
- Share one creative project with class, discuss originality and creativity in progress.

Week 2: Application of observations, concrete language, and specific revealing details for the purpose of inspiring readers.

Texts consulted: *All the Pretty Horses*, Cormac McCarthy; *Local Wonders*, Ted Kooser; *Writing for the Soul*, Jerry B. Jenkins

- What is inspiration?
- What techniques do writers you appreciate use to inspire?
- Why is inspiration relevant?
- First 5 pages of novel completed for editing/sharing

Week 3: Writing Metaphors

Texts consulted: continued, *Local Wonders and Ted Kooser’s website*; *The Story and Its Writer*, Ann Charters

- What does it mean to write figuratively?

- Apply edits to pages exploring figurative and concrete language

Week 4: Technique

Texts consulted: Eliot, Dickinson, Walt Whitman

- Complete first chapter of novel(10-20 pages)
- Share and be able to apply terms: conventions, idea, word choice, organization, style, “singleness of purpose”(Poe), and desired effect

Week 5: Revision

Text consulted: T.S. Eliot’s *The Wasteland*

- Revise one short story using shared responses and instructor edits
- Discuss written art and necessity of revision

Week 6: Visual Art and Literature

Consulted texts: *Nebraska: A Photographic Celebration*, *Museum of Nebraska Art website*

- How do visual arts and literature intersect? How does multi-and cross-genre work change our relationship to the creative process?
- Review photographs, choose 3 and respond creatively in written expression.
- Apply responses to scenes Chapters 1-2 of novel.
- Revise Chapters 1-2 of novel.

Week 7: Traversing Time

Consulted authors: *Whitman, Poe, Eliot, Dickinson*

- How does the notion of time affect literature and interpretation of time?
- How may time be used to disrupt the expected?
- Discuss and apply creative uses of flashback, foreshadowing, and fluidity of time.
- Review revisions - project outline of chapter 3.

Week 8: Collaboration

- Meet with NPCC class via polycom
- Share ten pages of work via email
- Assign readers for each author’s submission

Week 9: Collaboration and Consultation

- Share edits and suggested changes for assigned pages
- Edit/revise ten pages per suggestions or create case why suggestions are not author's choice

Week 10: Polish

- Submit polished chapters of novel, 1-3, for final grade and continue revising, DUE week 17

Week 11: Short Fiction

- Create "Flash Fiction"
- Attend North Platte Community College Scholastics Competition

Week 12: cont'd

- Share flash fiction pieces with group
- Discuss effectiveness and "singleness of purpose"
- Note suggested revisions

Week 13: Poetry

- Begin "theme" of assigned 10 poems
- Submit daily poems based on thematic preferences and observations

Week 14: Poetry revision

- Submit poems for instructor suggestions/edits
- Revise

Week 15: Poetry polish and submission

- Submit 10 poems for publication

Week 16: Short Fiction submission

- Submit Short Fiction for publication

Week 17: Novel submission

- Submit Novel for publication

Week 18: Portfolio

- Hand in final portfolio