UVU UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY™

Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: https://catalog.uvu.edu/

Semester: Spring   **Year:** 2025
Course Prefix: ENGL   **Course and Section #:** 2250-X01
Course Title: Introduction to Creative Writing   **Credits:** 3

Course Description

Provides introductory instruction in practices and techniques for generating, writing, and revising original creative works in short fiction, drama, creative non-fiction, poetry, or combinations of these. Uses readings from a wide range of contemporary authors, guest speakers, and student writing to facilitate critical and aesthetic understanding of literary texts. Introduces students to the creative writing workshop process.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

☒ General Education Requirements
☐ Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
☐ Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
☒ Discipline Core Requirements in Program
☒ Elective Core Requirements in Program
☐ Open Elective
Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Morgan Rose-Marie

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, students should be able to . . .
1. Practice writing short fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, short drama or combinations of these.
2. Contribute to a community of writers by reading and responding to writing by other class members.
3. Identify elements of craft writers use to create successful literary texts in their respective genres.
4. Appraise strategies that help writers build critical awareness of their own work.
5. Practice literary strategies established writers use to create effective texts.

Course Materials and Texts

- Microsoft Word (available for free download though the university's software page)
- Access to Canvas, a computer, and a redundant file-saving: USB, cloud system, etc.
- All readings will be made available via Canvas as links or PDFs

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy
Participation (40%): includes weekly writing, weekly reading responses, and workshops

Projects (60%)
•   Poem (10%): The first project is a poem that features at least one point of tension.
•   Short Story (15%): The second project is an 2,000-4,000-word short story with conflict.
•   Screenplay (5%): The third project is a one-scene script adaptation of 3-6 pages.
•   Personal Essay (15%): The fourth project is a 2,500-3,500-word CNF narrative.
•   Revision + Reflection + Reading (15%): The final project is to 1) revise one of your earlier projects based on the feedback you received, 2) write a one-page reflection on the revision, and 3) present a brief reading of an excerpt.

Grades will be assigned at the end of the semester according to the following grading scale:
A=93-100; **A-=**90-92; **B+**=87-89; **B**=83-86; **B-**=80-82; **C+**=77-79; **C**=70-76; **D**=60-69; **E**=0-59

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments
Week 1: Elizabeth Bishop, "The Fish"; Mark Doty, "Speaking in Figures"
Week 2: Ross Gay, "Love, I'm Done with You"; Natalie Diaz, "They Don't Love You Like I Love You"; Dylan Thomas, "Do not go gentle into that good night"; Elizabeth Bishop, "One Art"; Willie Perdomo, "That's My Heart Right There"; Evie Shockley, "where you are planted"
Week 3: Jericho Brown, "Tin Man"; Maggie Smith, "Good Bones"; "Somewhere in America"
Week 5: Lauren Groff, "The Wind"; Tobias Wolff, "Powder"; Souvankham Thammavongsa, "Trash"
Week 6: Claire Luchette, "Sugar Island"; Miranda July, "Oranges"; Ernest Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants"
Week 7: Joanna Pearson, "Grand Mal"; Karen Russell, "Girls Raised by Wolves"
Week 8: Maya Binyam, "Do You Belong to Anybody?"; Lauren Gross, "Annunciation"
Week 10: *Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire*, chapter 17 + screenplay adaptation
Week 12: Amy Krouse Rosenthal, "You May Want to Marry My Husband"; Jason Rosenthal "My Wife Said You May Want to Marry Me"; John Green, "Auld Lang Syne"
Week 13: Patricia Hampl, "Memory & Imagination"; Lee Gutkind, "The Creative Nonfiction Police"; Melissa Febos, "A Big Shitty Party"
Week 14: Brian Doyle, "Two Hearts" & "Joyas Voladoras"; David Sedaris, "You Can't Kill the Rooster"; Allie Brosh, "Adventures in Depression"

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion
Week 1: Course, Unit, & Peer Introductions
Week 2: Metaphor & Imagery
Week 3: Shape & Sound
Week 4: Poetry Workshop
Week 5: Fiction Unit; Narration & Conflict
Week 6: Dialogue & Characterization; Foreshadowing & Flashback
Week 7: Structure & Time; Situation & Story
Week 8: Scene vs. Exposition
Week 9: Fiction Workshop
Week 10: Script Writing Unit; Formatting
Week 11: Script Workshop

Week 12: Creative Nonfiction Unit; Voice(s)
Week 13: Ethics of CNF
Week 14: Interiority & Exteriority
Week 15: CNF Workshop
Week 16: Finals; Revision

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

UVU English department views plagiarism as a serious offense that does not align with the university's mission and values. In the field of CW, AI is contentious because of its relationship to human creativity and originality. We'll talk about and explore this technology together, but in terms of acceptable use, here's what you need to know: for this class, the use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT) is permitted for brainstorming, crafting your own prompts, and similar procedural activities. The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Composing weekly writing responses or peer review feedback.
- Drafting any assignment.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers.

These uses are considered plagiarism. If you are suspected of plagiarism, the first step will always be a conversation with your instructor. If the infraction is very minor or clearly unintentional, there may be no sanctions at all. However, for the most serious cases, the assignment may receive an automatic zero and your instructor may file an incident report with the Student Conduct office.

Using Remote Testing Software

☒ This course does not use remote testing software.

☐ This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their rights and responsibilities. In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in UVU Policy 541: *Student Code of Conduct*.

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.
To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.