

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 #: 225H-001

Course Title: Honors Creative Process and Imaginative 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. Readings, activities, and assignments in this class will be conducted at a level of rigor appropriate for an honors section.

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: Amber Smith-Johnson

Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate the correct use of the conventions of language, grammar, and punctuation.
- Compose a collection of poems, a series of nonfiction vignettes, and a short story using literary models and following explicit directions from the instructor.
- Distinguish between work that's fresh and original, versus that which is clichéd, formulaic, or poorly formed.

- Comment intelligently and constructively on the work of others.
 - Revise intelligently, edit carefully, and share that revised work with others.
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Course Materials and Texts

- *The Creative Act*, Rick Rubin
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Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

- Major Writing Assignments:
 - Map Presentation (50 points)
 - Creative Reviews x3 (100 points each)
 - Final Project (Poetry, Fiction, Nonfiction, Playwriting) (300 points)
 - Reflection Essay (50 points)
- Reading Responses: Short responses to readings including notes and/or reflections. (20 points each)
- Drafts and Other Writing Exercises: Short progressive drafts pertaining to their major writing assignments. (10 points each)
- Peer Reviews: Peer to peer student assessments of major writing assignments in progress. (10 points each)
- In-class Discussions, Attendance, and Participation (100 points)

A = 93-100	B- = 80-82.9	D+ = 67-69.9
A- = 90-92.9	C+ = 77-79.9	D = 63-66.9
B+ = 87-89.9	C = 73-76.9	D- = 60-62.9
B = 83-86.9	C- = 70-72.9	E = 0-59.9

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

- Selected poems from *The Best American Poetry 2019*, edited by Major Jackson
 - Selected poems from *The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Poetry, Second Edition*, edited by J. D. McClatchy
 - Selected short stories from *The Penguin Book of the Modern American Short Story*, Edited by John Freeman
 - Selected essays from *The Best American Essays 2020*
 - Selected essays from *Virga and Bone, Essays from Dry Places*, Craig Childs
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General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Week 1: Course Introduction

- Syllabus and Policies
- Reading discussion and discussion on talent

Week 2: Map Presentations

- Student presentations of their personal maps

Week 3: Intro to Peer Review and Workshop Models

- Theoretical framing of the workshop
 - *TCA*: “Everyone is a Creator” and “Tuning In”
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Week 4: Writing Your Semester Project Pitch

- *TCA*: “The Source of Creativity” and “Awareness”
- *TCA*: “Self-Awareness”

Week 5: Creative Review #1

- Semester project proposal and large group workshop

Week 6: Intro to Key Terms and Definitions

- Figurative language
- *TCA*: “Beginner’s Mind,” “Habits,” and “Seeds”

Week 7: Intro to the Main Genres

- Poetry, nonfiction with reading discussions
- *TCA*: “How to Choose” and “Openness”

Week 8: Discussion on the Main Genres, Continued

- Fiction, playwriting with reading discussions

Week 9: Creative Review #2

- First drafts of semester project due
- Large and small group workshops

Week 10: Spring Break – No Classes

Week 11: Breaking Genre Boundaries

- Discussion of prose poetry, autofiction, etc.
- “Play,” “Clean Slate,” and “Temporary Rules”

Week 12: Collaboration

- *TCA*: “The Experimenter and The Finisher,” and “Cooperation”

Week 13: Creative Review #3

- 2/3 drafts of semester project due
- Large and small group workshops

Week 14: Working in the Senses

- Selected poems and stories

Week 15: Point of View

- Selected poems, stories, and essays

Week 16: Last Week of Class

- Explanation of final
- Return all feedback
- Final workshops and reviews

Final Exam: Student Showcase of Semester Project

- Presentation and course reflection
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Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

The UVU English department is also keeping up with artificial intelligence chat bots such as ChatGPT (and many other stand-alone programs or plug-ins). Believing the technology is here to stay, and will only grow, we feel it’s important to understand both its strengths and limitations. AI is already proving its usefulness in brainstorming writing ideas, simplifying complex topics, and assisting with research. We believe AI is a tool with potential usefulness for writers. However, AI is also fraught with serious issues. It possesses accuracy problems while simultaneously sounding very confident about its incorrectness. It also frequently generates fake citations and quotations. It cannot understand the

complexities and contexts of human communication. Finally, the way AI is trained on other texts poses several ethical questions about copyright and intellectual theft of property (along with uncritically inheriting the biases of the texts it's trained on).

To be clear, copying the exact wording of an AI chatbot is considered plagiarism and means that a student will be held accountable for violating academic integrity.

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.