



暨南大學
JINAN UNIVERSITY

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JINAN UNIVERSITY

Creative Writing

Lecturer: Arlene Clachar

Time: Monday through Friday (June 18, 2018-July 20, 2018)

Office hours: 2 hours (according to the teaching schedule)

Contact Hours: 60 (50mins each)

Credits: 4

Location: MBA Center

Office: MBA Center 107

E-mail: aclachar@miami.edu

Course Description

Creative Writing: This course will address the fundamental question: How does language work? We will explore how sounds, words, syntax and discourse contribute to the construction of meaning in language. We will also consider the rich visual histories of written languages, how we use language to construct social and ecological identities, and some of the ways skillful writers make use of language to produce poetry and prose. Reading will consist of articles, essays, poetry, and a play. All students who qualify for Creative Writing should feel free to take the course, however, focused attention will be given to the needs of students who are English learners.

Learning Outcomes

The designated course learning outcomes are as follows:

Upon completion of Creative Writing, students will be able to:

Critical Reading

- Evaluate how textual features contribute to the author's message
- Discuss text in structured conversations that contribute to shared understanding of the material
- Analyze the relationship between claims, evidence, and assumptions in an argument

Knowledge of Genre and Written Conventions

- Write a 5-6-page analytical essay that develops an argument through examination of evidence
- Analyze and integrate works from different media into a written argument
- Use appropriate writing strategies when paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting from sources
- Use varied structure and length, appropriate vocabulary and tone in sentences with few mechanical errors
- Create and deliver a well-organized, purposeful oral presentation

Information Literacy

- Differentiate between and make use of primary and secondary sources
- Use researched information in the development of an original interpretive argument

Diversity

- Engage with diverse and global perspectives, histories, and values, including the cultural relevance of larger systems of power and privilege.
- Self-reflect on their writing in a variety of contexts

- Give a structured presentation on a text with an outline and discussion questions

Required Text

- Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft 4th edition by Janet Burroway
ISBN-13: 978-0134053240

Course Hours

The course has 25 sessions in total. Each class session is 120 minutes in length. The course meets from Monday to Friday.

Course Evaluation

- Class Participation and Attendance 10%
- Essays 20%
- Written Projects 20%
- Mid-Term Exam 20%
- Group presentations 10%
- Final Exam 20%

Grading Scale

The instructor will use the grading system as applied by JNU:

Definition	Letter Grade	Score
Excellent	A	90-100
Good	B	80-89
Satisfactory	C	70-79
Poor	D	60-69
Fail	E	Below 60

Class Policies

Attendance and promptness

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all material covered in class and otherwise assigned. Any unexcused absence will impact your grade.
- Arriving late or leaving early will be counted as half absences.
- Attendance is mandatory. Be on time and stay for the duration of each class. Beginning with the fourth absence, students will receive a two-point penalty from their final grade for every day missed. Any students with more than three absences will automatically fail the course. I will make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences, so there is no need to provide me with a doctor's note or any other written excuse.

Class participation and preparation

- Class participation involves volunteering answers and contributing to the class discussions. Inhibition is the enemy of language acquisition. Being prepared for class means that you demonstrate knowledge of assigned homework by participating actively in the discussions and turning in written homework upon request. Prepare the work assigned to a particular day the night before.
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during class.

Course Schedule

The planned schedule sketched out below may be modified to suit the interests or abilities of the enrolled students or to take advantage of special opportunities or events that may arise during the term.

Week 1

- Monday Course introduction and the evolution of written language
 chapter 2: image and imagination, figures of speech
 Read: Annie Dillard “*From heaven and Earth in Jest*”
- Tuesday chapter 2: concrete, significant details

Read: Jamaica Kincaid “*Girl*”

Wednesday chapter 3: your voice, persona, irony, character voice

Written project due

Thursday chapter 3: point of view

Read: Alice Walker “Beauty: “*When the Other Dancer Is The Self*”

Friday Essay I (exam)

Week 2

Monday chapter 4: character as desire, character as voice, character as image,
and character as action.

Tuesday chapter 4: character as thought, character as presented by the author

Read: Elizabeth Jennings “*One Flesh*”

Wednesday chapter 4: character as conflict

Written project due

Thursday chapter 5: setting as the world, setting as a camera, setting as
mood and symbol.

Read: bell hooks “*Keeping Close to Home*”

Friday Essay II (exam)

Week 3

Monday chapter 5 setting as action

Read: Sherman Alexie “*At Navajo Monument Valley Tribal School*”

Tuesday chapter 7: developing a draft, structuring, research,

Wednesday chapter 7: editing

Written project due

Thursday The Workshop : critiquing drafts of essays

Read: Elizabeth Bishop “*First and Final Draft of One Art*”

Friday Mid-Term Exam

Week 4

Monday chapter 8: the genres of writing, creative non-fiction,
memoir and the personal essay, techniques of creative non-fiction

Tuesday chapter 8: fact and truth
Read: Maya Angelou "*Letter to My Daughter*"

Wednesday chapter 9: text and subtext
Written project due

Thursday chapter 9: story and plot
Read: Ernest Hemingway "*A Very Short Story*"

Friday Group presentations

Week 5

Monday chapter 10: formal and free verse, density and intensity

Tuesday work on personal poems

Wednesday chapter 11: making sense of the play

Thursday discourse differences between drama and fiction

Friday Final Exam

NOTICE: In order to provide students with an interesting and enjoyable educational experience, this syllabus may be changed at the discretion of the instructor at any time with notification.

Academic Honesty

Jinan University defines academic misconduct as any act by a student that misrepresents the students' own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another scholastic misconduct includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e. misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; sabotaging another's work within these general definitions, however, Instructors determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties ranging from lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.