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English (ENGL) 1700 Introduction to Creative Writing (3) CSU
[Formerly ENGL 47ABCD]

Advisory: Successful completion of English 1500 with a grade of “C” or better

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: This course is an introduction to creative writing, including experimentation with analysis and writing in multiple genres. This course involves the writing of imaginative literature (short stories, short plays, poems and creative nonfiction), the discussion of techniques, and group evaluation of student writing by class members. C-ID: ENGL 200

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Texts: Texts in two separate genres to be selected by students-, from the following list:

- Abe, Kobo. *The Boxman: A Novel*. New York: Vintage International, 2001. Print.
Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*. New York: Vintage, 1994. Print.
Chang, Leonard. *Underkill*. New York: Thomas Dunne, 2003. Print.
Cisneros, Sandra. *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*. New York: Random House, 1991. Print.
Diaz, Junot. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. New York: Riverhead, 2008. Print.
Eggers, Dave. *And You Shall Know Our Velocity*. New York: Simon and Shuster, 2000. Print.
Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*. New York: Random House, 1952. Print.
Eugenides, Jeffrey. *Middlesex*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2002. Print.
Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi*. New York: Harcourt, 2001. Print.
McKay, Claude. *Home to Harlem*. Boston: Northeastern University, 1987. Print.
McCourt, Frank. *Angela's Ashes*. New York: Scribner, 1989. Print.
Nabokov, Vladimir. *Lolita*. New York: G.P. Putnam & Sons, 1958. Print.
Roy, Arundhati. *The God of Small Things*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1998. Print.
Setterfield, Diane. *The Thirteenth Tale*. New York: Washington Square, 2007. Print.
Stein, Garth. *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. New York: Harper, 2008. Print.
Steinbeck, John. *East of Eden*. New York: Viking, 1952. Print.
Vonnegut, Kurt. *Bagombo Snuff Box*. New York: Berkeley, 2000. Print.
Ashbery, John. *Where Shall I Wander*. New York: Ecco, 2005. Print.
Berrigan, Anselm. *Free Cell*. San Francisco: City Lights, 2009. Print.
Brown, Sterling. *The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown*. Ed. Michael S. Harper. New York: Harper and Row, 1980. Print.
Cha, Theresa Hak Kyung. *Dictee*. Berkeley: University of California, 2001. Print.
Creeley, Robert. *Selected Poems*. Berkeley: University of California, 1996. Print.

- Graham, Jorie. *Sea Change*. New York: Ecco, 2008. Print.
- Gizzi, Peter. *The Outernational*. Middletown: Wesleyan University, 2007. Print.
- Johnson, James Weldon. *God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse*. New York: Penguin, 1990. Print.
- Lauterbach, Ann. *Or to Be Again*. New York: Penguin, 2009. Print.
- Lease, Joseph. *Broken World*. Minneapolis: Coffee House, 2007. Print.
- Moxley, Jennifer. *The Line*. Sausalito: Post-Apollo, 2007. Print.
- O'Hara, Frank. *Meditations in an Emergency*. New York: Grove, 1996. Print.
- Paz, Octavio. *Selected Poems*. Ed. Eliot Weinberger. Trans. G Aroul et. al. New York: New Directions, 1984. Print.
- Pound, Ezra. *Personae: The Shorter Poems*. New York: New Directions, 1990. Print.
- Rich, Adrienne. *Telephone Ringing in the Labyrinth*. New York: Norton, 2007. Print.
- Stevens, Wallace. *The Palm at The End of The Mind: Selected Poems and a Play*. New York: Vintage, 1990. Print.
- Waldrop, Rosemarie. *Curves to the Apple*. New York: New Directions, 2006. Print.
- Waldrop, Kieth. *Transcendental Studies: A Trilogy*. Berkeley: University of California, 2009. Print.
- Williams, Saul. *The Dead Emcee Scrolls: The Lost Teachings of Hip Hop*. New York: MTV, 2006. Print.
- Willis, Elizabeth. *Meteoric Flowers*. Middletown: Wesleyan University, 2006. Print.
- Yau, John. *Hawaiian Cowboys*. Santa Rosa: Black Sparrow, 1995. Print.
- Carson, Rachel. *Silent Spring*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1962. Print.
- Bloom, Harold. *Wallace Stevens: The Poems of Our Climate*. Ithaca, Cornell University, 1995. Print.
- Borges, Jorge Luis. *Selected Non-fictions*. Ed. Eliot Weinberger. Trans. Ester Allen, Suzanne Jill Levine, and Eliot Weinberger. New York: Viking, 1999. Print.
- Dillard, Annie. *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. Reprint edition. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1998. Print.
- Easterbrook, Gregg. *A Moment on the Earth: The Coming of Age of Environmental Optimism*. New York: Viking, 1995. Print.
- Eggers, Dave. *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*. New York: Vintage, 2001. Print.
- Gladwell, Malcolm. *Blink*. New York: Little Brown, 2005. Print.
- Grealy, Lucy. *Autobiography of a Face*. New York: Little Brown, 2005. Print.
- Kingston, Maxine Hong. *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood among Ghosts*. Vintage International Edition. New York: Vintage, 1989. Print.
- Mortenson, Greg, and David Oliver Relin. *Three cups of Tea*. New York: Viking, 2006. Print.
- Nafisis, Azar. *Reading Lolita in Tehran*. New York: Random House, 2003. Print.
- Nabokov, Vladimir. *Speak, Memory: An Autobiography Revisited*. New York: Vintage, 1989. Print.
- Sontag, Susan. *At the Same Time: Essays and Speeches*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2007. Print.
- Vonnegut, Kurt. *Wampeters, Foma, & Granfaloons (Opinions)*. New York, Dell, 1989. Print.
- X, Malcolm, and Alex Haley. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. One World/Ballantine, 1992. Print.
- Albee, Edward. *Seascape: A Play*. New York: Overlook Duckworth, 2008. Print.
- Arndt, Michael D. *Little Miss Sunshine: The Shooting Script*. New York: Newmarket, 2007. Print.
- Black, Dustin Lance. *Milk: The Shooting Script*. New York: New Market, 2007. Print.

- Chekhov, Anton. *The Three Sisters*. Trans. Randell Jarell. New York: Macmillan, 1969. Print.
- Coen, Ethan, Joel Coen, and Homer. *O Brother Where Art Thou?* New York: Faber, 2000. Print.
- Garland, Alex. *28 Days Later*. London: Faber, 2002. Print.
- Kaufman, Charlie. *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind: The Shooting Script*. New York: Newmarket, 2004. Print.
- Lawrence, Jerome, and Robert E. Lee. *Inherit the Wind*. New York: Ballantine, 2007. Print.
- Marlowe, Christopher. *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Oxford University, 2009. Print.
- Miller, Arthur. *Death of a Salesman: Certain Private Conversations in Two Acts and a Requiem*. New York: Penguin, 1998. Print.
- Vogel, Paula. *The Long Christmas Ride Home: A Puppet Play with Actors*. New York: Theatre Communications Group, 2004. Print.
- Wilde, Oscar. *The Importance of Being Earnest and Four Other Plays*. New York: Barnes and Noble Classics, 2003. Print.
- Williams, Tennessee. *A Streetcar Named Desire*. New York: New Directions, 1980. Print.
- Chacon, Daniel. *Hotel Juarez*. Houston: Arte Publico Press, 2013. Print.
- Lease, Joseph. *Testify*. Minneapolis: Coffee House P, 2011. Print.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Express ideas and emotions through creative writing,
2. Evaluate ideas through group discussion,
3. Form an appreciation for the craftsmanship involved in the writing of imaginative literature,
4. Identify and apply the techniques involved in writing of imaginative literature,
5. Describe objectively and subjectively,
6. Enlarge vocabulary and use words denotatively and connotatively,
7. Analyze one's own writing and the writing of others and comment constructively,
8. Accept criticism and apply when writing creatively,
9. Develop an individual style,
10. Evaluate and apply figurative language as a form of communication,
11. Develop an individual writing process that incorporates prewriting, drafting, revision, and editing,
12. Distinguish between content and form of creative writing in different genres and cultures,
13. Justify personal aesthetics of creative work, and
14. Create imaginative writing in more than one genre.

Course Scope and Content:

- Unit I The Short Story
- A. Development of plot, setting, character
 - B. Persona or voice
 - C. Point of View
 - D. Tone
 - E. Description
 - F. Dialogue
 - G. Intended audience

- Unit II Poetry
- A. Verse forms: rhymed and unrhymed
 - B. Concrete and abstract language
 - C. Figurative language
 - D. Theme, message
 - E. Narrative and lyric poem
 - F. Content and form
- Unit III Short Plays
- A. Adapting to a specific audience
 - B. Development of plot and character
 - C. Dialogue
 - D. Setting and stage directions
 - E. The stage—its advantages and limitations
 - F. The actor and the audience
 - G. The one-act play
- Unit IV Creative Nonfiction
- A. Goals: Communication, entertainment, information
 - B. Forms: Memoir, book review, travel writing, entertainment review, food writing, interview, produce evaluation/consumer report

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Completing required reading,
2. Written work,
3. Writing critiques of classmates' submissions, and
4. Observing or participating in an activity related to course content.

Methods of Instruction:

1. Class meeting will involve brief lecture, discussion and extended group critique,
2. Student selected examples of published works will be discussed for the purpose of demonstrating techniques and establishing standards of evaluation,
3. Student writings will be submitted and distributed the week before submission,
4. Frequent revision will be required,
5. A few assignments concerning the theory of writing will be given, and the experiences of professional writers will be considered,
6. The student will keep a record of ideas, observations and writing fragments as possible sources for later writing, and
7. Frequent student-instructor conferences via an online discussion group will be conducted.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Substantial writing assignments, including:
 - a. Weekly submissions,

- b. Statement of aesthetics,
 - c. Presentation on selected readings, and
 - d. Written and verbal critique of classmates submissions.
2. A final project and presentation, including:
- a. A ten page collection of individual work, in chapbook form,
 - b. A revised statement of aesthetics, and
 - c. A presentation on both.