GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 05/18/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 06/15/2021

ENGLISH 126 – INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

ENGL 126 Introduction to Creative Writing 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture 48-54 total hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours 144-162 total hours

2. Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

A “C” grade or higher or “Pass” in English 120 or equivalent.

3. Catalog Description

Introduction to the craft of creative writing through study and analysis of the works of established, contemporary, and peer writers. Students will write short fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and drama and use the workshop method and instructor feedback to evaluate and revise work. Opportunity for inclusion in college publications, student readings, literary events, and special projects.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

* 1. Demonstrate use of literary techniques in the production of original works in fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and drama.
  2. Read, analyze and critique the texts of established, contemporary, and peer writers.
  3. Use the writers’ workshop (written and oral feedback from peers and instructor) and/or peer and instructor feedback to revise work as well as to develop critical vocabulary and aesthetic criteria to further skills as critic and writer.
  4. Demonstrate skills in a portfolio or zine of revised creative writings in the four genres and give a performative reading from it.
  5. Document and reflect on experiences with a community of writers.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard Classroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

1. Access to a computer, the Internet, and word processing with capacity to save/export as Portable Document Format (.pdf) and/or Microsoft Word (.doc, .docx).
2. Collegiate dictionary and thesaurus.
3. Writing materials and copies of texts for workshops.

7. Course Content

1. Craft techniques of fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry and drama.
2. Various methods for reviewing student work, including the workshop method.
3. Production and revision of creative writing to approximately 12,000 words per semester.
4. Reading, discussion, and analysis of literary models.
5. In-class activities on the creative process used by writers to motivate, invent, edit, and revise their work.
6. Critical essays, projects, oral reports, and/or reviews on topics germane to reading, writing, and performance in the four genres.

8. Methods of Instruction

1. Lecture by instructor and visiting writers.
2. In-class reading and critique of student work by students and instructor, including the workshop method.
3. Written critiques of student work by instructor.
4. Discussion of craft techniques used by a diversity of contemporary and established authors with exemplary readings.
5. Classroom exercises that provide writing practicum.
6. Guest speakers.
7. Individual conferences.
8. Media recordings.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

1. Class participation that integrates in-class writing, which includes exercise share outs, peer feedback, and workshopping.
2. Creative writing manuscripts, such as poems, stories, and dramatic monologues.
3. Written and oral analytical critiques on in-class exercises, drafts, mentor texts, and manuscripts.
4. Critical essays, journals, projects, oral reports, and/or literary arts reviews.
5. Collaborative projects, such as drama writing and group poems.
6. Completion of a portfolio or zine as a final project.
7. Oral presentations and/or performative readings, presented as part of a final examination.

10. Outside Class Assignments

1. Reading from texts and handouts.
2. Writing fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and drama to be discussed in class.
3. Attending plays and public performances by students, professional writers, and actors.
4. Researching assignments.
5. Submission to student literary journal.
6. Assembling a portfolio or zine.

11. Representative Texts

1. Representative Text(s):
2. Minot, Stephen and Diane Theil. *Three Genres: The Writing of Literary Prose, Poems and Plays.* 9th edition. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Longman, 2011.
3. Graham, Robert, Helen Newall, and Heather Leach, eds. *The Road to Somewhere: A Creative Writing Companion.* 2nd ed. Red Globe Press, 2017.
4. Sellers, Heather. *The Practice of Creative Writing: A Guide for Students*. 3rd ed. Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2016.
5. Starkey, David. *Creative Writing: Four Genres in Brief*. 3rd ed. Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2016.
6. Supplementary texts and workbooks:
7. *Acorn Review Literary Journal.* 2019-2020. Grossmont College.
8. Henderson, Bill, ed. *The Pushcart Prize XLIV: Best of the Small Presses*. Pushcart Press, 2020.
9. King, Stephen. *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft.* Scribner, 2012.
10. Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. New York: Anchor Publishers, 2007.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

* 1. Identify and employ basic elements in literature, working from imagination and memory, to invent, draft, revise, and reflect upon creative writing in the four literary genres: poetry, fiction, drama, and creative nonfiction.

b. Interpret the poetry, fiction, drama, and creative nonfiction of established and/or emerging writers.

1. Use the writers’ workshop to evaluate their own manuscript as well as the manuscripts of others and work collaboratively instead of competitively to give as well as receive constructive feedback (both oral and written).