

ENG 229S Introduction to Creative Writing

Edison State Community College

Syllabus Part II

3 Credits

Section: ENG 229-801

Room: Online

Time: Online/
Asynchronous

Required Items: *A Course in Creative Writing in a Nutshell*, S.P. Hodde
Additional readings provided by instructor

Instructor: Brian Leingang MA: English, Wright State University, 2007
Ph.D.: 60 hours ABD, Composition and Rhetoric,
Miami University, Current student

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Office Hours: Room 216, T/TH 9:00-10:15, Wed: 9:00-12:00
Room 443A, 15 minutes before and after class
Online by appointment (please email)

Faculty Contact: Please contact me with any questions using your Edison state email. I will respond to messages within 24 hours. If that time passes, please send a follow-up message or call and leave a message.

Course Policies

Course Format: Because we are working online, you will often feel like you are working independently. Writing involves a combination of solitary work and collaboration. The most important part of our class is the workshop. This is where we share our writing and receive feedback. We will use a variety of tools in Blackboard to make this course as successful and interactive as possible. These tools include discussion boards, Turnitin, blogs, and Collaborate. We may have to experiment to find what works best for us.

Weekly Format: Our weeks will begin on Monday. Each week, you will have a spontaneous writing prompt, reading assignments, reading responses, and a journal reflection that will be due throughout the week. The goal of these assignments is have you think about writing, practice writing, and reflect on your writing. There will be due dates throughout the week on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays.

Online Attendance: Attendance is defined as the active participation in the course. Students are expected to sign in to the course more than once a week. Active participation includes meeting due dates for assignments, which will be Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays.

It is up to the student to catch up on missed work and assignments. Students will check blackboard and contact the instructor with questions. The instructor will be available to answer questions and meet with the student (in person or online) as requested.

Students who miss three consecutive weeks may be dropped from the course.

Testing Your Faith Act: Edison State Community College is committed to providing an environment respectful of students' beliefs. Students are permitted to be absent for up to 3 days each semester based on their faith, religion, or spiritual belief system with no academic penalty. Students must complete the Testing Your Faith Act Accommodations Form, <https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/registration-records>, located in "Forms" and provide a copy to their individual faculty within 14 days from the start of the course. The entire policy can be found in the student handbook at <https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/student-resources>.

Submitting Assignments: We will use Turnitin through Blackboard to submit all assignments and drafts. Assignments must be turned in by the specified time on the due date. No work submitted by email or exclusively in paper will be graded. Exceptions include Blackboard and Turnitin issues. No exceptions will be made for password errors or personal computer problems. It is better to submit an underprepared piece of writing and have the opportunity to revise than to submit nothing.

Late Work: Work will be expected by the due date listed in Blackboard. Daily Assignments will not be able to be submitted past the due date unless there is a planned absence where the professor is notified before class. You will be able to submit two missed assignments (Daily work or Major Writing Assignments) per module (every four weeks). After those due, no late work will be accepted and a 0 will be entered in the gradebook.

Incomplete Grade: A grade of I incomplete is reserved for students who have missed a portion of the course due to reasons beyond their control (illness, family emergency, work changes). Incompletes allow students an extension beyond the semester grading period based on an agreement with the instructor. To qualify, students must let the professor know of the reason for missed class and the student will need to have completed the majority of the course work and attended at least 9 weeks of the semester.

Net Etiquette: We will be communicating a lot with each other. Be respectful of your classmates' opinions, beliefs, and thoughts. There may be a time where you depend on them to do the same. You will be expected to communicate with your classmates and your instructor using appropriate language and style, which includes email communication. All communications are saved and archived on our servers, so please be considerate and thoughtful before you send messages.

Academic Integrity: Edison State Community College expects students to submit original work for each assignment.

Plagiarism is generally accepted as being any the following for any assignment: 1) Copying and pasting text from any electronic media or website, transcribing text from any printed material, 2) Using words, phrases, information, or ideas from any print, electronic, or audio-visual media without proper citation or acknowledgement of the source, 3) Using passages from other texts while only changing a few select words within that passage 4) Submitting work that originates from another student or commercial source such as a paper mill, 5) Resubmitting an assignment used in another class without the expressed permission from the current and previous instructor, and 6) translating a work from one language to another without proper quotations and citations.

It is generally accepted that academic writing consists of the author's thoughts which are supported by properly cited sources through paraphrasing, summary, and quotations. At the

instructor's discretion, papers with excessive quotations, where quotations make up 10% or more of the paper, may not meet the assignment requirements, and be dealt with accordingly.

To help us understand plagiarism better, we will be using Turnitin to check out paraphrasing and use of sources. Using Turnitin doesn't mean I suspect you of plagiarizing, but it is a good learning tool. It is also going to be used for collaboration and grading.

Any assignment that is plagiarized or lacks appropriate citations will receive a zero. Intentional submission of someone else's work as your own will result in failure for the course.

AI-GENERATED TEXT

For this course, YOU must be the author of all coursework. You may use AI in some minor or non-substantive ways. The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas
- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts
- Checking grammar and style

The use of AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Writing a draft of an assignment
- Writing or re-writing entire sentences, paragraphs, or papers to complete class assignments

Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited to stay within college policies on academic honesty. Any assignment that is found to have used generative AI in unauthorized ways will be reported for academic misconduct. If in doubt about permitted usage, please ask for clarification.

AI Detection Software will be used for assignments. Writing flagged as AI will be discussed with the student. Alternative assignments may be agreed upon to satisfy learning outcomes (in-person handwriting, in-person oral presentation/explanation).

It should go without saying, but here it is: Taking a creative writing class implies that you interested and invested in producing and improving your own writing. Doing anything other than writing your own work is not only counter-intuitive, but counterproductive.

Workshops & Etiquette: The writing workshop is engine of this course. You will submit your work to the class for review. This forces you to write for an audience other than a teacher. It will also give you a deadline. It is normal to feel nervous before your work is workshopped. We all need to be courteous to the student author. Here are the rules:

1. All students will participate in the workshop.
2. All students will come to the workshop prepared by having read the work to be reviewed and by writing comments and a 200 word review.
3. Student reviewers will either take turns expressing their thoughts about the writing, or they will have a discussion. The discussion format lends itself to a more natural critique without repetition of criticisms.
4. Students will begin by explaining what they like or what works well in the submitted work.

5. Because we are presenting creative works, not autobiographies, criticisms will emphasize the written work, not the author. Examples: “The narrator/speaker could be clearer in this detail” as opposed to “you could be clearer.” “The rhymes in this poem are too predictable” instead of “You’re writing is for babies.” Or “I am uncomfortable with the amount of violence in this work. Is it necessary for the entire town to be destroyed” instead of “you are a sick person and need professional help.”
6. The author will be silent throughout the workshop unless the group asks a direct question to the author. The author will speak at the end of the session.
7. The author will be able to ask specific questions, offer explanations, and then THANK the students for comments.
8. At no times should a writer or student feel personally attacked for criticisms of their work. Writing is a process, of which receiving feedback is a part. Praise and criticism are the readers’ attempts to get the best out of the work.
9. The author is free to disregard suggestions or criticisms from the workshop, but must be able to provide a clear reason or explanation, or risk doing so to the detriment of the work.

Grading

Your grade for the course will be based on the following distribution:

A (90-100) B (80-89) C (70-79) D (60-69) F (below 60)

Rounding up: Rounding up a grade, such as 89.5% to a 90 will be done at the discretion of the professor. Consideration for rounding up will include attendance and participation in the course. There will be no rounding down.

Extra Credit: There is no extra credit in this course.

Contractual Grading: To ease some of the pressure grades and to allow you to focus solely on developing your writing and critical thinking skills, I will be using contractual grading your work. As long as work meets the minimum requirements for the assignment, minimum length, and deadline, it will receive credit. Weekly Writing, Reading Responses, and Revision Assignments will be calculated at the end of the semester and it is the student’s responsibility to track. For major assignments requiring multiple drafts, please adhere to the following definitions/descriptions:

Draft: A developing work that is getting ready for the portfolio. First drafts will consist of converted free writings (Such as typing what you’ve written in your notebook). Second drafts will be re-written first drafts (There might be major changes in the plot or form). Third drafts will be more polished versions of the work, often with major changes to the fictional or poetic elements of the work. Subsequent drafts will be permitted. Each draft will be reviewed by the instructor in some form. Drafts for workshop should be second drafts or later.

Revision Reflection: A short piece of writing that discusses how the draft achieves its purpose or answers the questions, and identifies the differences between revision drafts and explains how the revision improves the paper. Should be focused on a particular part of the work.

Workshop: The formal peer review workshop during the assigned workshop time. You will comment on the work of others.

Final Grading Assignment Breakdown

This course will blend contractual grading with traditional evaluative grading. The contractual grading portion is based on satisfactory completion of writing assignments, workshop, conferences, and revisions.

Grade by assignments

Assignment	Points
Weekly Writing	150
Reading Response Discussion Board	150
Revision Assignments	120
Workshop Summary	40
Workshop Reflection	40
Poem 1	50
Story 1	50
Poem 2	50
Story 2	50
Work of Choice	50
Portfolio	250
Evaluation based grading	
Total	1000

Assignment Descriptions

Major assignments:

Writing Journal containing at least 30 entries and the following polished works:

2 Short Stories

2 poems

1 genre of your choice

Additional Writing (not part of portfolio)

Writing Journal: This is your personal writing collection. Think of it as a place to keep your first drafts and writing ideas. Fill the pages with notes, sketches, scenes, lines, phrases, drafts, drawings, dreams, memories, and what ever else inspires you. The more you write, the more you will have written.

Weekly Writing: For each week, you'll be given writing prompts. Some will be collaborative efforts.

Revision Assignments: You will be asked to revise some of your weekly writing or the writings of others.

Short Fiction: You will submit two short works of fiction. Subject, style, and genre are up to you. However, Short Story 1 must meet the requirement of following the narrative arc before you can move on to Short Story 2. You may resubmit Short Story 1 as many times as you need to fulfill this requirement.

Poetry: You will submit two poems. One poem can be in any style, form, or genre. One poem must use a specific form (i.e., sonnet, villanelle, ballad, sestina, etc.). You will receive a list of forms and their parameters when we begin the poetry unit.

Workshop Summary: When we workshop your classmates' writing, you will be asked to write a collection of thoughts that summarize your experience. This assignment will be a list of your classmates, followed by explanations of what each work is doing well, needs to improve. These will be good notes for the workshop and will provide written feedback for the author during the workshop.

Workshop Reflection: After workshop, you will write 250 words reflecting on what your classmates said about your work.

Portfolio: Your portfolio will consist of revisions of your two poems, two stories, and work of choice, along with a 150-250 word reflection for your revisions of each work. You will need to include a 300 word artist statement about your work at the beginning of the portfolio. You may also include works from our free writing prompts.

Tentative Schedule

Week & Date	Weekly Assignments	Work Due
1 Aug 24	Course introduction. Introducing ourselves. Reading: Chapter 1 & 2	Introducing Self Discussion Reflection
2 Aug 31	Reading: Chapter 3 & 4 Poetry Lesson/Discussion: Words and Imagery	Free write Discussion Reflection
3 Sept 7	Reading: Chapters 6, 7 & 8 Poetry Lesson/Discussion: Meaning and Theme	Free write Discussion Reflection
4 Sept 14	Reading: Chapters 9 & 10 Poetry Lesson/Discussion: Form	Poem 1 Due Free write Discussion Reflection
5 Sept 21	Reading: Chapters 11 & 12 Fiction Lesson/Discussion: Elements of Fiction, Narrative	Workshop Free write Discussion Reflection
6 Sept 28	Reading: Chapters 13 & 14 Fiction Lesson/Discussion: Character, Point of View	Free write Discussion Reflection
7 Oct 5	Reading: Fiction Lesson/Discussion: Plot and Point of View	Story 1 Due Free write Discussion Reflection
8 Oct 12	Reading: Chapter 15 Fiction Lesson/Discussion: Theme	Workshop Free write Discussion Reflection
9 Oct 19	Reading: Chapter 16 Poetry Lesson/Discussion: Rhythm and Repetition	Workshop cont'd Free write Discussion Reflection
10 Oct 30	Reading: Chapter 17 Poetry Lesson/Discussion: Poetry Revision	Free write Discussion Reflection
11 Nov 2	Reading: Poetry Lesson/Discussion: Writing	Poem 2 Due Free write Discussion Reflection
12 Nov 9	Reading: Chapter 18 Fiction Lesson/Discussion: Meaning in fiction	Workshop Story 2 Due Free write Discussion Reflection

13 Nov 16	Reading: Chapter 19 Fiction Lesson/Discussion: Editing the story	Workshop Free write Discussion Reflection
14 Nov 23	Reading:	Work of Choice Free write Discussion Reflection
15 Nov 30	Reading:	Free write Discussion Reflection
Exam Dec 7	Exam Week	Portfolio