

Cincinnati Christian University

Foster School of Biblical Studies, Arts & Sciences

ENGL 251 01 CREATIVE WRITING: POETRY, FICTION, & DRAMA

Semester Credit Hours: 3

Semester: Spring 2019

Location: PH 251

Meeting Times: TH 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Instructor: Paul Friskney

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COURSE RATIONALE:

Because of the many values the medium of writing offers, it is important that Christians develop communication skills in this area. First, writing offers the individual the chance to express himself or herself and analyze thoughts in order to critique and strengthen them. Also, the medium of writing makes it possible for an individual to reach a much larger number of people than could be reached through person-to-person contacts. Finally, different forms of writing appeal to different types of people, so mastering creative forms can help to reach more people with the message of Christ as well as to strengthen, encourage, and challenge those already committed to Him.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Creative Writing: Poetry, Fiction, & Drama is a survey course studying and producing the three basic writing forms mentioned in the course title. The course will also examine uses and markets for these forms. Prerequisites: ENGL 110, ENGL 111 or their equivalents.

ARTS & SCIENCES DEPARTMENTAL OUTCOMES:

CCU's Arts & Sciences program is designed to prepare students to

1. communicate effectively in both oral and written forms in a variety of rhetorical contexts, including Standard English,
2. adeptly utilize modern research and writing tools,
3. identify decisive events and ideas in the human experience and assess their influences on modern culture and thought,
4. employ critical and creative thinking and mathematic and scientific principles for problem solving, literary and socio-cultural analysis, intercultural understanding, and research in the sciences and humanities,
5. demonstrate the integration of academic insights and experiences by constructing and employing a personal framework in which ethical decisions can be made in light of societal values and a Christian worldview.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The student who satisfactorily completes this class should be able to

1. demonstrate an understanding of the elements and forms involved in creative writing by passing tests in those areas (connected to A&S outcome #4),

2. make use of image, theme, voice, character, setting, and story in writing assignments (A&S #1),
3. produce examples of the following types of writing: symbol story, character sketch, parable/allegory, poem, short story, and sketch (A&S #1),
4. demonstrate the ability to produce a larger piece/collection of literature (A&S #1).

PRINCIPAL TEXT:

Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft (4th Edition) by Janet Burroway

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

6 Writing Assignments	30%
2 Tests	20%
Journal	10%
Daily Activities	20%
Final Assignment	20%

CLASS POLICIES:

1. As a rule, late work will not receive a passing grade. (Work is considered late if not submitted by 4 p.m. on the due date.) However, all required assignments must be submitted in order for a student to receive credit for the course.
2. If special circumstances make late submission necessary, the student should consult with the instructor before the due date to arrange an extension.
3. The course textbook must be purchased and brought to class each class period. Students without textbooks and other required materials may be counted absent.
4. Absence from a scheduled test could result in a lowered grade on the test. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for a make-up test.
5. Each absence will result in a lowered daily-activities grade unless the instructor grants an exception. Five absences will result in dismissal from class. Three tardies equal an absence. If students are late, it is their responsibility to check with the instructor after class to indicate attendance.
6. If the student does not understand any section of class discussion or any assignment, it is the student's responsibility to seek clarification, either during the class session or in the instructor's office.
7. Cell phones should be turned off during class. Laptop computers may be used in class for taking notes. If students use them for inappropriate purposes, those students will lose the privilege of having them in class.
8. **Accommodations:** Students who require academic accommodations due to a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability may request assistance from the Student Services Department. Students are encouraged to complete this process within the first two weeks of the semester. The Student Services Department is located on the upper level of Presidents Hall. You may also contact the office by phone at 244-8150. Tutoring services in various subjects are also available.
9. The instructor reserves the right to change or amend any part of this course plan as deemed necessary.

COURSE AGENDA:

(Special circumstances may require changes in the agenda.)

January	22	Introduction to Course	READING: Chapter 1
	24	Image and Theme	READING: Chapter 2
	29	Voice DUE: SYMBOL STORY	READING: Chapter 3
	31	Character	READING: Chapter 4
February	5	Setting DUE: CHARACTER SKETCH	READING: Chapter 5
	7	Story	READING: Chapter 6
	12	Development & Revision DUE: PARABLE OR ALLEGORY	READING: Chapter 7
	14	First Test	
	19	Poetry Concepts	READING: Chapter 10
	21	Poetry Concepts	READING: Appendix A
March	26	Poetry Examples	READING: TBA
	28	Poetry Workshop	(Bring Rough Draft)
	5	Fiction Concepts	READING: Chapter 9
	7	Fiction Concepts	DUE: POEM(S)
	12 & 14	Spring Break (No Class)	
	19	Fiction Examples	READING: TBA
April	21	Fiction Examples	READING: TBA
	26	Fiction Workshop	(Bring Rough Draft)
	28	Drama Concepts	READING: Chapter 11
	2	Drama Concepts DUE: SHORT STORY	
	4	Scripting Activity	
	9	Drama Examples	READING: TBA
11	Community Service Day (No Class)		
16	Drama Examples	READING: TBA	
18	Drama Workshop	(Bring Rough Draft)	
23	Discussion of Projects & Review		
25	Second Test		

May	30	Market Possibilities	DUE: DRAMA SKETCH
	2	Free Period to Work on Projects	
	7	Presentation of Projects	DUE: JOURNAL
	9	Presentation of Projects	
	14/16	Presentation of Projects	DUE: FINAL WRITING ASSIGNMENT

SEMESTER ASSIGNMENTS:

JOURNAL – Each student is required to keep a **daily** journal. Each of the readings in the principal text should be summarized and critiqued as one day's entry. Also, five reviews of written, performed, or recorded poetry, fiction, or drama (in addition to those included in the text or assigned in class) should be included. These reviews should evaluate the piece based on class discussions and personal criteria. Other journal assignments may be made by the instructor during the course of the semester. The remaining entries are the choice of the student.

FINAL ASSIGNMENT – Each student will select and complete one of the following:

1. Short Story of 2500 - 3000 words
2. 15 to 20 Poems (at least 12 lines per poem)
3. One-Act Play (3 to 5 complete scenes) or Series of Sketches (3 to 5)

ALL MANUSCRIPTS FOR THE FINAL ASSIGNMENT MUST BE IN SUBMISSION FORMAT!