

Bergen Community College
Division of English
Composition and Literature Department

Semester:
Instructor:
Office:
Office hours:

WRT 204 – Creative Writing

WRT-204 Creative Writing is a workshop course in which students write in such forms as poetry, fiction, and drama. Students read and discuss each other's work as well as that of published authors. 3 credits. Prerequisite: WRT-101.

Student Learning Objectives

As a result of meeting the requirements in this course, you will be able to

1. Recognize the special genre demands of poetry, short story, and drama by reading and discussing the work of published authors. (PLG 1, 2) (Gen Ed Goal 1a)
2. Utilize the elements of creative writing in the genres of poetry, drama, and fiction. (PLG 7) (Gen Ed Goal 1 a, b; 6 a, b)
3. Review publication conventions and apply standards of professional manuscript preparation in revising and preparing drafts of work for classroom submission or submission for publication. (PLG 3, 7) (Gen Ed Goal 1 c, d)
4. Employ critical approaches and exercise aesthetic sensibilities through interaction with others in the workshop process. (PLG 3, 6) (Gen Ed Goal 1 c, d)
5. Locate and evaluate important writer resources such as publications, markets, and continuing educational opportunities. (PLG 6) (Gen Ed Goal 4 a, b, c, d)

Requirements

You will be required to do the following:

1. Write and revise several different types of writing assignments (including, but not limited to poetry, short fiction, drama).
2. Practice poetic and narrative techniques through assigned exercises which will be reviewed during the semester by both the instructor and your peers.
3. Read, interpret, and analyze the craft of professional literary and model student works.
4. Comprehend and apply various literary terms/techniques in discussion of professional and student works.
5. Present various works in workshop and participate in the discussion of other students' work
6. Participate in discussions and other class activities (visits of guest speakers, play readings, evaluation of writer resources) that support the development of quality work.

Course Content

As a student in this course, you can expect to explore your creativity by practicing the craft of writing fiction, poetry and drama. Many of you have already done some creative writing, but whether you are a practiced writer considering writing as a career or are trying creative writing for the first time, this course will give you the opportunity to work in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. As we read and discuss the work of professional writers, we will note their techniques and see how various elements combine to create good creative writing. You will apply this knowledge in writing your own work. You will hone your critical skills and benefit from receiving “audience” reaction by participating in workshop with your fellow students. As you listen to, read and discuss the works of others, you will be exposed to the diverse voices and worlds of the other students.

Course Texts and Other Required Materials

To be chosen by instructor

Grading Policy

A student’s final grade is based on his/her dedication to the creative process and the quality of the work produced. A student’s participation and attendance are crucial components of the grade.

Below is an example of an instructor’s grade breakdown:

- 1) Complete three minor assignments during the semester: three short story drafts, three scenes from a play, three poems, three creative essays, etc.
- 2) Complete one major assignment by the end of the semester: one completed short story, short play, set of poems, creative essay, etc.

Major assignments may be revisions of minor assignments. Evidence of serious intent and effort will be a definite factor in grading. Grades will be calculated based on the following:

Major assignment	50%
Minor assignments	10% each
Participation	20%

All work must be typed and presented in legible format. Major assignments must be completed, edited, and presented as if for submission to a publication. Missing work will be averaged in as a zero. Exercises comprise a portion of the participation grade, but are significant. Letter grades will not be assigned—work will be given a check (satisfactory) or perhaps a check plus (very good) or minus (not satisfactory).

BCC Attendance Policy: All students are expected to attend punctually every scheduled meeting of each course in which they are registered. Attendance and lateness policies as well

as sanctions are to be determined by the instructor for each section of the course. These will be established in writing on the individual course guide outline. Attendance will be kept by the instructor for administrative and counseling purposes.

Attendance is critical. Excessive absence will result in failure for the class. More than two absences may result in a full-grade penalty. Lateness also affects your grade; allow enough time to arrive on time. Two lates = one absence.

RESOURCES FOR WRITING:

Writing Center Supervisor: John Findura

L-125F

201-447-7136 www.bergen.edu/pages/7195.asp

Professional, peer and faculty tutors will guide students in all aspects of writing.

English Language Resource Center:

Ender Hall 126/201-612-5292 www.bergen.edu/pages/2182.asp

Supervisor: Marilyn Pongracz

Provides help to students whose native language is not English: tutoring, computer programs, books, tapes, conversation groups and specialized workshops.

Mon. 9:30AM-6PM; Tues. 9:30AM-7:30PM; Wed. 9:30AM-7:30PM; Fri. 9:30AM-3:00PM;

Sat. 10AM-2PM.

Tutoring Center L-125/201-447-7489

Manager: Khairia Fazal kfazal@bergen.edu

Peer, professional tutors and faculty provide free individual and group tutoring.

Online tutoring through Smarthinking <http://www.bergen.edu/pages/2196.asp>

Walk-in hours: Mon. through Thursday: 9AM-8PM; Fri. and Sat. 10AM-3PM

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who require accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) can request these services from the Office of Specialized Services. To learn more about how to apply for services, please visit them at <http://www.bergen.edu/oss>.

Sample Course Schedule:

Week I (January 27th): COURSE INTRODUCTION/ name exercise/favorite poems

ASSIGNMENT:

SET UP YOUR BLOG to house your writing for workshop and for yourself.

www.livejournal.com .

READ: “A Few Things You Should Know About CW” (1-8) and “A Few Things You Should Know about Poetry” (9-20)

Week II (February 3):

JOURNAL: Color Chant or poem

Memory Poems (Handout) Exercise to begin first poem

ASSIGNMENT: FINISH YOUR MEMORY POEM AND COLOR CHANT/POEM.

Read Starkey: “Lines and Stanzas” 20-26

Week III (February 10th): Present Memory Poems

Journal Exercise:

ASSIGNMENT: Write an Observation Poem on suburbia. (you may want to write more than one observation poem). (Blog access or copies.) JOURNAL: write a prose observation of a picture, a room, an object, a scene in nature. **Read** Starkey: “Meter and Rhythm” 27-34 and “The music of poetry” 34-38

Week IV (February 17th): Present Observation Poems

Journal Exercise in form: Haiku

ASSIGNMENT: **Read** Starkey: “Images, symbols and figurative language” 38-46, “Diction, Syntax and the language of poetry” 46-50 and “Poetic Forms” 50-63. **Write a Fantasy or Dream Poem (using romance or surrealism) or a political poem.** Enter work on your blog.

Assignment: “Creating believable characters” “Writing convincing dialogue,” Crafting a theme” and “Onstage : the elements of production” (261-291)

Week V: (February 24): Workshop **POETRY FOLDERS DUE (Submissions to *Labyrinth*)**

ASSIGNMENT: **Read** “A few things you should know about the ten-minute play,” 228 “The elements of playwriting 233,” “Structuring the ten-minute play” 256, “Getting Started Writing the Ten-Minute Play” 291. Start planning your 10-minute play **Create a character and write a dramatic monologue**

Week VI (March 3): Dramatic Monologues Workshop/conflict scenes (in-class)

ASSIGNMENT: finish your play

Week VII (March 10): Play workshop (PLAYS DUE) **March 9: 12:30-1:30 PM Poetry Workshop for Women’s History Month website and possible publication—extra credit.**

Week VIII (March 17): No class

Week IX (March 24): **Spring Break**

Week X (March 31): Short fiction **DRAMA FOLDERS DUE**

Week XI (April 7): Short fiction

Week XII (April 14): Short fiction

Week XIII (April 21): Short fiction

Week XIV (April 28) *Labyrinth* Evening of Readings

Week XV (May 5): Workshop **FICTION FOLDERS DUE**

Week XVI: (May 12) Final Class