

ENGL 211: Intro to Creative Writing

Brian Wood

This course will explore three pillars of creative writing: poetry, creative nonfiction, and short fiction.

We will closely read, discuss, and create original work in all three disciplines.

Course Objectives

- A. Through reading, analysis, and practice, we will develop a cursory understanding, appreciation, and application for the art of poetry and prose writing
- B. We will improve our reading, writing, and editing skills
- C. We will display our ability to identify and define key characteristics of poetry, fiction, and literary nonfiction
- D. We will utilize our new skills to craft a personal and authentic literary voice

Required Texts

The War of Art by Steven Pressfield
The Art of Fiction by John Gardner
Joytime Killbox by Brian Wood
Flash Fiction by James Thomas

Required Materials

A notebook—anything you are comfortable writing in (tablets are fine, too).

Attendance

Please come to class more often than not. If you have to miss a class or two—don't worry about it. If you have a circumstance requiring you to miss an extended period of time, please let me know via email.

Participation

Class will run smoother if you engage in class discussions. As a community of artists, open dialogue about creative work is paramount for our growth. If you have a thought or idea about the topic or work we are covering, I'd love to hear about it.

Assignments

Fiction

- 1 Short Story (1,000-2,000 words) 25 points
- 1 Flash Fiction (>500 words) 25 points

Nonfiction

- 1 Memoir (500-1,000 words) 25 points
- 1 Personal Essay (500-1,000 words) 25 points

Poetry

5 Poems (part of your portfolio grade)

Writing Portfolio

Students are required to revise and edit their 2 fiction pieces, 2 nonfiction pieces, and 5 poems and collect them into a writing portfolio due the week of finals. Give your portfolio a title that you think speaks to the content/themes of your work. (50 points)

Writing Notebook

Keep a notebook. Just write in it. Observations. Words or images you like. Story ideas. Thoughts. Dreams. Something peculiar you heard as you waited for coffee. A line that strikes you as you're reading. Show me you've been jotting ideas in it when you turn in your portfolio. (50 points)

Late Assignments

Stuff happens. Assignments submitted after the due date will be accepted for half credit.

Grading

Your grade is based on a 200 point total:

Rough Drafts	100
Portfolio	50
Notebook	50

Office Hours

By appointment. We can meet at a coffee shop on campus M/W/F afternoons. Please email to schedule.