

COURSE SYLLABUS

ENG 351: Creative Writing

Course Description

Creative writing is designed to give students experience writing a variety of forms of fiction. Students will analyze fiction, poetry, and playwriting, gaining an understanding of their distinct similarities and differences in craft. They will then practice creating their own original work in all three of these genres.

General Course Information

Number of Units/Weeks	4/10
#Hours Lecture/#Hours Laboratory/#Homework	40/00/80
Prerequisite(s)	ENG 110
Co-requisites (s)	None
Course Developer(s)	Vani Neelakantan, MA, Ryan Willingham, MFA
Date Approved / Last Review	January 2010 / July 2017

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze the three genres of creative writing: fiction, poetry, and drama.
2. Understand of the key elements of poetic writing and how it differs from prose writing.
3. Identify and utilize the main elements of dramatic structure in fiction and drama.
4. Practice creating original fiction, applying the craft knowledge gained from analyzing the course texts.

Instructional Methods Employed in this Course

- Lecture and reading assignments
- Hands-on exercises and labs
- Research
- Student presentations
- Practical application of theory and skills in authentic design projects
- Build on prior knowledge and experience of students to enhance richness of class activities

Information Resources for this Course



Textbook

Thiel, D. (2005). Crossroads: Creative writing exercises in four genres. New York: Pearson/Longman.



Other Materials

Handout stories or PDF stories posted through webclass.
A notebook with plenty of paper



Web Site Readings

<http://americanfolklore.net>

Table/Topics & Assignments

Types of Assignments:

Lecture -

Considered Lecture Hours

Classroom Discussion -

Considered Lecture Hours

In Class Critique -

Considered Lecture Hours

Delivering Oral Presentations -

Considered Lecture Hours

In Class (IC) Exercise -

Considered Lecture Hours

Reading -

Considered Homework (HW), work done outside of class

Web Class lesson (non-online courses) -

Considered Homework (HW), work done outside of class

Lab Work -

Considered Lab Hours

Quiz, Midterm or Final -

Considered Lecture Hours

Disclaimer Instructor reserves the right to make changes to reading order or materials based on the class progress during the module. Any changes students will be notified of either during class, or by email. Otherwise students should follow the reading and due date schedule listed in the syllabus.

Class Conduct: Students are expected to be fully engaged every class period. If a student misses half the class they are considered absent, or if they leave during dinner break and don't return they are considered absent. If a student has FOUR absences, they will be dropped from the class. An absence can only be excused if it's a medical emergency with documentation provided to the instructor and student services.

If a student is caught using their cell phones their participation will be docked. Students may not use their cell phones to take notes in class; they can use their computers or paper. If a student expects or has to make an important call, please tell the instructor beforehand, and quietly leave to answer the call then return back to work. If you are late to class please immediately join a group to get to work on the course material. Students who discuss off topic material during class will be docked participation. Students who work on their homework during class time will be docked participation. The classroom is a professional environment and students should monitor their language in class. Habitual swearing as part of general communication in class will affect participation.

Office Hours: Office hours will be posted in the webclass beside the syllabus.

Week 1						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC1A	Introduction to Course Materials	1				
LEC 1B	What is Creative Writing?	1				
LEC 1C	Fables, Fairy tales, and Parables.	1				
HW 1A	Personal Narrative transformed into a Fable exercise. (CLO 1).	1		2	30	Week 1
HW 1B	Journal Entries. (CLO 1).			2	30	Week 2
HW 1C	Read Thiel (chapter 1) and "A Rose for Emily" posted in webclass week 1.			3		Week 2
Total Week 1		4	0	7	60	
Week 2						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 2A	Setting/Character	2				
LEC 2B	Discuss Readings & Journals	1				
IC EX 2A	Complete Character Sheet	1				
HW 2A	Fiction Story Rough Draft			4	40	Week 3
HW 2B	Journal Response			2	30	Week 3
HW 2C	Read Thiel ch.2-5 and short story "Rita Hayworth" posted in webclass as a pdf.			3		Week 3

	(evaluated by writing exercises and drafts)					
Total Week 2		4	0	9	70	
Week 3						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 3A	POV, Plot, Theme	1.5				
LEC 3B	Discuss Readings & Journals	1				
IC EX 3A	Fiction Workshop	1.5				
HW 3A	SA1: Fiction Story Final Draft (CLO 3, CLO 4)			4	80	Week 4
HW 3B	Read Thiel Ch. 8 and "The Things They Carried" and "The Tell-Tale Heart" stories on (pgs 262-278).			3		Week 4
HW 3C	Workbook exercise #1 (from Thiel pgs. 48).			1	60	Week 4
Total Week 3		4	0	8	140	
Week 4						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 4A	Prose versus poetry	2				
LEC 4B	Discuss Readings & Journals	1				
LEC 4C	Fiction Term Review	1				
HW 4A	TV Show Pilot exercise			4	50	Week 5
HW 4B	Read Thiel (Ch. 15-16), (pgs. 211-241) evaluated by written exercises and in-class discussion.			4		Week 5
Total Week 4		4	0	8	50	
Week 5						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 5A	Closed Form Poetry, cont. Sonnets, rhyme, line length, and meter.	3				
LEC 5B	Discuss Readings & Journals	1				
HW 5A	SA2: Poetry Assignment: Haikus and Sonnet			5	50	Week 6

	(CLO1, CLO 2, CLO 4).					
HW 5B	Writing Exercises #4			2	30	Week 6
HW 5C	Read Poem collection word doc posted in week 5. Read Thiel (pg. 308-311) (evaluated by in class discussion and written assignments)			2		Week 6
Total Week 5		4	0	9	80	
Week 6						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 6A	Introducing detective stories	1				
IC EX 6A	Analysis of Stories Watch detective film or show in class then discuss.	2				
HW 6A	Journal entries			3	60	Week 7
HW 6B	Detective Story			4	80	Week 7
HW 6C	Read Joyce Carol Oates 3 short plays posted in webclass.			2		Week 7
Total Week 6		4	0	9	140	
Week 7						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 7A	Introduction to Dramatic Structure	3				
LEC 7B	Differences in Drama versus prose fiction	1				
HW 7A	Writing Exercises #5			3	70	Week 8
HW 7B	Read Thiel (Ch. 10-13, 17) evaluated by written assignments and discussion			4		Week 8
HW 7C	Short Scene Rough Draft			3	50	Week 8
Total Week 7		4	0	10	120	
Week 8						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 8A	Character, Dialogue, and	2				

	Script formatting					
LEC 8B	Discuss Readings & Journals	1				
IC EX 8A	Workshop Scene Rough Drafts in class.	1				
HW 8A	Writing Exercises #6			2	50	Week 9
HW 8B	Final Draft Short Scene			5	90	Week 9
Total Week 8		4	0	7	140	
Week 9						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
IC EX 9A	Stage directions and review	2				
LEC 9A	Dramatic Writing Wrap Up	1				
LEC 9B	Looking Back!	1				
HW 9B	View a play/film/read play (evaluated by class discussion)			3		Week 10
Total Week 9		4	0	3		
Week 10						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 10A	Showcase Presentation	2		2	100	Week 10
LEC 10B	Final thoughts	2				Week 10
IC EX. 10A	Participation (evaluated by participation in class discussion)				100	Week 10
Total Week 10		4	0	2	200	

Course Hours Summary

Week	Topic	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours
1	Intro to Creative Writing Fairy tales, Fables, and Parables	4	0	7
2	Intro to Fiction: Character and Setting	4	0	9
3	Fiction: Plot, theme, and story	4	0	8
4	Intro to Poetry: Prose versus Poetry	4	0	8
5	Closed Form Poetry: Sonnet Structure	4	0	9
6	Detective Stories	4	0	9
7	Intro to Dramatic Writing, dramatic structure	4	0	10

8	Character, dialogue, and script formatting	4	0	7
9	Stage directions and review	4	0	3
10	Showcase	4	0	2
Total		40	0	80

Table/Point Breakdown

Week	Assignment	Possible Points	Percent of Grade
1	Personal Narrative into a fable	30	3%
2	Journal Response	30	3%
3	Fiction Rough Draft	40	4%
3	Journal Response	30	3%
4	Fiction Final Draft	80	8%
4	Workbook Exercise 1.	60	6%
5	T.V Show Pilot Exercise	50	5%
6	Two Haikus and a sonnet	50	5%
6	Writing exercises #4	30	3%
7	Detective Story	80	8%
7	Journal Entries	60	6%
8	Writing Exercises #5	70	7%
8	Short Scene Rough Draft	50	5%
9	Writing Exercises #6	50	5%
9	Final Draft Short Scene	90	9%
10	Showcase Presentations	100	10%
	Participation	100	10%
Total		1000	100%

Your Grades for this Course

Your final grade for this course will be based on an assessment by the Instructor of your performance on a number of course activities, which may include objective tests, classroom exercises, laboratory demonstrations, project papers, or other types of activities. The chart below indicates in what activities you will engage, how many possible points can be earned for each activity, and the percentage of your final grade that will be accounted for by each activity.

Students in this course should be graded following Coleman University assessment practices and policies. A point system is used in the University to indicate student performance on various required activities or projects. For this course, it is recommended that points be distributed as follows:

Coleman University Grade Assignment Policy:

Percent	Letter Grade	Grade Points
94-100	A	4
90-93	A-	3.67
87-89	B+	3.33
84-86	B	3
80-83	B-	2.67
77-79	C+	2.33
74-76	C	2
70-73	C-	1.67
67-69	D+	1.33
64-66	D	1
60-63	D-	0.67
N/A	INC	0
N/A	W	0
60 or above	CR	0
59 or below	NC	0
N/A	I	0
N/A	W	0
N/A	AU	0
N/A	TR	0
N/A	WV	0

Legend	
CR = Credit	NC = No Credit
I = Incomplete	W = Course Withdrawal
AU = Audit	TR = Transfer Credit

WV = Waiver	
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Academic Accommodation / Adjustment Policy:

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Coleman University offers accommodations to students with documented physical, psychological, and/or cognitive disabilities. Coleman University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to offer equal educational opportunities to qualified disabled individuals.

To qualify for an academic accommodation under ADA, the student must provide adequate documentation of a disability. Students seeking academic accommodations should contact the campus ADA Coordinator at 858-966-3953 or via email at ada@coleman.edu. The ADA Coordinator will review the documentation provided and verify ADA coverage. Students covered under ADA must meet with the ADA Coordinator at the beginning of every term to determine the appropriate academic accommodations. Failing to meet with the ADA Coordinator at the beginning of every term may impact the availability of accommodations.

After the academic accommodations have been determined, the students' instructors will be notified by the ADA Coordinator. If any problems or concerns regarding the provision of accommodations occur, the student must inform the ADA Coordinator. If the student feels accommodation is not being made appropriately, the student may follow the published Student Grievance Procedures.