English 119: Introduction to Creative Writing

Course Description
This course is designed to provide you with the terminology and basic skills associated with creative writing, specifically poetry and fiction. Each day we will cover new terms and have in-class writing assignments wherein those skills will be utilized. You will also be expected to write outside of class almost every day as well as closely read creative texts and be able to discuss them in terms of craft.

Required Texts and Materials
- The Practice of Creative Writing: A Guide for Students, by Heather Sellers
- The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2014, Edited by Daniel Handler
- Best New Poets 2015: 50 Poems from Emerging Writers, Edited by Tracy K. Smith
- A notebook dedicated to this course, to be used as your journal
- Internet and printer access
- A flash drive, Dropbox account, Google drive, or some other form of backup for your work

Journals
Journals will be used to keep track of (1) in-class writing activities and (2) course notes. These will be collected once at mid-term and again at the end of the semester. Your journal should be organized: each entry should be labeled clearly as to WHAT the journal is and the date it is written (Example: “notes on ____. 1/22/16”).

*A note on course notes: while these will not be graded individually and are not required for each reading, as our primary textbook’s author believes, “Good writers are good learners. They pay attention.” Note taking will be taken into consideration for your grades. A journal without any notes will not receive higher than a C grade. Minimum effort will not get you an “Above Average” (B) or “Excellent” grade. Journals will also be permitted for use on quizzes and tests.

Tests & Quizzes
There will be quizzes over writing terms as well as a test over the concepts covered for each genre.

Reading Responses and Presentations
As we study published work, each student will bring a one-page typed and printed response to each set of readings on the day they are to be discussed. These responses should focus primarily on elements of craft. They will be submitted to D2L dropboxes by the start of class on the day they are due.

In addition to the reading responses, each student will be responsible for presenting the assigned reading (one short story or group of poems) on the day that student has signed up.

Portfolio
In addition to the daily reading and writing assignments, you will be turning in a portfolio of revised work which will include a writer’s statement, wherein you will describe where you see yourself as a
writer: strengths, weaknesses, progress, hopes, etc., as well as introduce the pieces and describe how they have changed since their original conception.

All of this will be typed, printed, and submitted together in a folder during the final exam time. At this time, you will also be presenting elements of your portfolio to the class as your final exam grade.

**Classroom Policies (Cell Phones, Tardiness, Absences, Etc.)**

- No **cell phones** or electronic devices should be used during class time. In-class writings will be hand-written in your journal.

- **Arriving late** to class is disruptive to both the learning environment and your own education. Please arrive on time and be prepared for class.

- As you arrive on time, **turn your music off, take off your headphones and put them away, and remove your sunglasses**. You’re in class now. Act like it.

- **Respect**: have it. Please respect your classmates, instructor, and the value of your own education. During class discussions, there will be disagreements, and they should be handled with respect to each person’s unique view.

- **Plagiarism**: the use of anyone else's words or ideas without proper documentation is plagiarism. Simply don’t do it. I assume you are all enrolled in this course because you want to write, so write.

- **Late work** will only be accepted for excused, documented absences. Homework is due at the beginning of each class. Come prepared.

- **Disruptive behavior** is defined as any behavior that hinders the ability of the instructor (me) to effectively teach the class. This covers quite a bit, including but not limited to: everything previously covered on this list, not being on task, not being prepared, distracting other students in any way, etc. Any disruptive behavior will receive one verbal warning. After that, you will be instructed to leave class and will not be permitted to return until you have met with a writing studies representative.

Please notify me immediately if you have issues complying with any of these policies. Failure to obey any of these rules will result first in a verbal warning, then written notice and disciplinary action.

**Grade Breakdown** (Out of 1000 points)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Responses</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Reader</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Tests</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writer's statement</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation (Final)</td>
<td>50</td>
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