COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is designed to provide you with the terminology and basic skills associated with creative writing. While we may cover some elements of creative nonfiction early on in the course, we will focus primarily on writing poetry and fiction. Your participation in all genres is not only expected but required because, on the one hand, this class is designed to give you experience writing in a variety of creative platforms, and, on the other hand, because poetry and fiction so often overlap. Developing your skills as a poet will help you develop your skills as a fiction writer, so, even if you don’t consider yourself a poet (or vice versa), do your best develop your poetic voice.

Throughout this class you will be introduced to new terms and concepts, and these should be implemented in your creative writing, but beyond this, these concepts will be reinforced in a variety of ways. First, through course readings, which you will be expected to discuss in class, especially in regards to elements of craft; second, through journal entries and written reading responses; and finally, through presentations that you will give relating to different genre-based concepts.

This course is focused heavily on reading and writing, and I make the assumption that all of you are in this class to practice not only creative writing but revision as well. To that end, we will have workshops at least once per unit. The purpose of these workshops, and indeed this course, is to demonstrate to you the value of revision on your writing and to help you develop skills that will aid your writing even after the course ends.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS
- *Ordinary Genius* by Kim Addonizio
- *Gotham Writer’s Workshop: Writing Fiction*, edited by Alexander Steele
- A notebook dedicated to this course, to be used as your journal
- Access to D2L and your SIU email account

COURSE WORK
Below are brief descriptions of the assignments you will need to complete for this class. You will receive more specific guidelines as due dates approach.

Journals
Journals will be used to keep track of in-class writing activities. These will be collected once at mid-term and again at the end of the semester.

Reading Responses
As we study published work, each student will bring a one-page response to each set of readings on the day they are to be discussed. These responses should focus primarily on elements of craft and can be hand-written in your journals.
Presentations
In addition to the reading responses, each student will be responsible for presenting on different styles of writing, or genres, within both poetry and fiction. You will be expected to define thoroughly the genre on which you are presenting and provide helpful examples of that genre to your classmates.

Workshop
At least three times this semester, we will conduct workshops for your essays, poems, and short stories. The format of these workshops will be explained more thoroughly when we are closer to having one, but be aware that participation in these workshops is required.

Portfolio
At the end of the semester, you will turn in a portfolio of revised work that will include a writer’s statement, revised work, and original work with either my comments or workshop comments. In the writer’s statement, 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.

GRADE BREAKDOWN (Out of 1000 points)
- Journal: 200
- Reading Responses: 150
- Presentation: 100
- Workshops: 150
- Portfolio: 300
- Reading: 50

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Cell phone policy: My cell phone policy is generous, to a point. In general, cell phones and electronic devices should not be used during class time; however, I recognize that there may be emergencies or situations which arise that may give you reasonable cause to check your phone or have it accessible. I also recognize that, even outside of emergency situations, it is difficult not to check your phone once in a while. So, while you need to participate in class discussions and activities, occasional cell phone use will not be treated as disruption behavior.

Still, all phones should be set to vibrate or silent during class, and be aware that frequent cell phone use that disrupts class time or distracts others will be treated as disruptive behavior.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of another author’s material and/or words in your own text without acknowledging that author’s contribution. In academic environments, plagiarism is an ethical violation that carries serious consequences. As the instructor of this course, I will hold you to the standards immediately following:
First, you are responsible for learning how to write effectively; therefore, even unintentional use of another author’s material will constitute plagiarism. You are responsible for understanding the standards taught in this class and abiding by them. If you are in doubt about a potential plagiarism problem, you should ask your instructor about the material before the assignment is due.

Second, make no mistake about the fact that presenting even “unpublished” material written by someone else (e.g., a piece of writing written by a friend for English 119 or another course) as if it were your own work is an act of plagiarism.

Third, the use of texts in this class that you have written in the past or are writing during this semester for another course must receive written approval from your instructor. You should submit a copy of the text (or the assignment) to your instructor when you request permission. In the case of an assignment that is being composed in another class during this semester, your instructor will request permission from the other instructor.

Per the Student Conduct Code, violations of plagiarism standards will be referred by the instructor of record to the Office of Students’ Rights and Responsibilities (SRR), the Writing Studies Director, the English Department Chair, and the Dean of Liberal Arts. The student will also be notified when such a referral is made, and he or she will have “five days to respond to the charges.” Depending on the outcome of this exchange, a hearing may be scheduled. If so, “the Dean or designee will contact involved parties to arrange for a mutually convenient meeting time. The results of the hearing will be communicated to the student, instructor, Writing Studies Director, Department Chair, and SRR within five days of the date of that hearing.”

Substantiated accusations of plagiarism may result in a failing grade on the assignment; a failing grade for the class; or, for repeated violations, more severe disciplinary action. All cases of plagiarism—intentional or unintentional—once reported to SRR will be placed on file for reference relevant to any future violations of the Student Conduct Code.

Please also note that assisting others in the act of plagiarizing by providing them with your own work to turn in as their own—and/or submitting your work to online databases from which students can purchase papers to turn in as their own—could be interpreted as an act of academic dishonesty and may be subject to disciplinary action under the Student Conduct Code.

**Absence policy:** Excessive unexcused absences will prevent you from passing this course. More than three unexcused absences will incur a 10% deduction for each subsequent absence. Absences will be excused only for documented medical reasons or, in the case of religious observance, if I’m notified three regular class periods in advance. Additionally, some substantial negative effects of unexcused absences are listed immediately below.
• No in-class work can be made up without providing official documentation of the reason for the absence. Unexcused absences will result in a zero for work that took place during the missed class period.

• No unexcused late submissions (of your creative work for this class) will be accepted. **Printer and computer problems will not excuse a late submission.** You will know in advance when your manuscript or draft is due; start writing and revising early and save everything. Print ahead of time, if necessary.

• Lack of participation in classroom activities will negatively impact your level of preparedness for succeeding on assignments and writing projects as you will be expected to implement the concepts we cover in class.

If you miss class as a result of excused absences (e.g., those resulting from extended illness), you must obtain official documentation (e.g., a letter from a medical doctor) that establishes (1) the cause of the excessive absence and (2) the necessity for having to missed class.

**Tardy policy:** Arriving late to class is disruptive to both the learning environment and your own education. Please arrive on time and be prepared for class. Frequent tardiness will be dealt with as disruptive behavior.

**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 disrespectful treatment of your instructor or peers, patterns of tardiness or early departure, and violations of the policy for respectful cell phone use.

If it is determined that you are disrupting class, you will be referred to the Writing Studies Office and will not be allowed to return to class until the behavior has been identified and the consequences for repeating the behavior clarified. This discussion will take place in a meeting with a Writing Studies Assistant and/or the Director of Writing Studies and, in certain cases, the instructor of the class.

If repeated acts of disruptive behavior are observed after this meeting, you will be referred to the Chair of the English Department, the Director or Student Judicial Affairs, and/or the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Consequences for repeated disruptive behavior could include suspension or expulsion from the course.

**Disability Support:** Students who require accommodations for physical or learning disabilities should contact the Disability Support Services office (618-453-5738). The Disability Support Services office will provide Accommodations Agreements that students with differing needs may submit to their instructors.

**Policy on Accommodating Religious Observances of Students:** Students absent from classes because of observances of major religious holidays will be excused. Students must notify the instructor at least three regular class periods in advance of an absence from class for a religious
holiday and must take the responsibility for making up work missed ahead of time. Students should familiarize themselves with the complete Policy on Accommodating Religious Observances of Students in the Undergraduate Catalog.

**Emergency Procedures:** SIUC is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in every building on campus and in the Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. It is also available on BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu and on the Department of Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting their location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.