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Creative Writing I

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Collin College

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**COLLIN COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Information

Course Number: ENGL 2307

Course Title: Creative Writing I

Course Description: Practical experience in the techniques of imaginative writing. In this course, emphasis will be on the writing of fiction or non-fiction. Each student will study selected literary works to improve critical reading toward the goal of improving creative writing. This course does not satisfy the college requirements for a sophomore literature course.

Course Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite: ENGL 1302

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. Enhance creative writing skills through workshop experience
2. Sharpen critical skills in reading that will translate into improved creative writing
3. Learn about the nature of writing through discussion of works
4. Sharpen an awareness of language
5. Explore interdisciplinary thinking through works presented

Withdrawal Policy: See the current *Collin Registration Guide* for last day to withdraw.

Repeating Courses Policy: Beginning Fall 2016, Texas residents attempting a course more than twice at Collin College are subject to regular tuition plus an additional \$50 per semester credit hour. Please see the "Repeating Courses" section of the Fall 2016 Registration Guide for more information.

Collin College Academic Policies: See the current *Collin Student Handbook*

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement: Collin College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the ACCESS office, SCC-D140 or 972.881.5898 (V/TTD: 972.881.5950) to arrange

for appropriate accommodations. See the current *Collin Student Handbook* for additional information.

Religious Holy Days: Please refer to the current *Collin Student Handbook*.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor's Name: LaToya Watkins

Office Number: BB112

Office Hours: Monday (online): 6-8 PM; Tuesday & Thursday: 10:45AM-12:45 PM.

Phone Number: 972-881-5729

Email: LWatkins@collin.edu

Class Information:

Section Number: S1H

Meeting Times: Tuesdays 4-6:45 pm

Meeting Location: D118

Course Resources: Computer and Internet access for the completion of online work.

Supplies: *Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft, 9th edition*, Janet Burroway, Elizabeth Stuckey-French, and Ned Stuckey.

Note: Books are available through the on campus Barnes and Noble Bookstore, where Amazon and other competitor prices will be matched.

Method of Evaluation: All work will be submitted, read, and critiqued by the professor and peers in the course. All feedback will be written up and handed back to the writer.

Additional Course Policies:

- Any suspected acts of plagiarism in this class will result in a grade of 0 on the paper. Students involved in either cheating or plagiarism will be referred to the Dean of Students and formally charged. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Students need to be aware of the consequences, both short-term and long-term, of collusion, cheating, and/or plagiarism before they begin the course.
- All papers must be original and written for the purposes of this course. Recycled papers will be considered acts of plagiarism.

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty and/or Plagiarism:

Any student in this English class found guilty of cheating on an examination or of Plagiarism (using the definitions given for both terms in the attached document) will receive one or more of the following penalties:

- The grade of zero **(0)** on that particular assignment.
- A course grade of **F** (depending on the severity of the student's dishonesty or plagiarism).

Assignments & Evaluation Breakdown

Story #1	15%
Story #2	15%
Written Critiques	15%
Journal Presentation	15%
Free writing journal	5%
Public Readings/events	5%
Participation	5%
Story revision	15%
Literary journal submission	10%

Grade Ranges

90-100	=A
80-89	=B
70-79	=C
60-69	=D
0-59	=F

Note: Your grade is not calculated on a point system. I use a percentage system. Please use these percentages when attempting to self-calculate your grade.

Attendance Policy

Because each class period will consist of a mixture of lecture, discussion, group work, and freewriting, your thoughtful, attentive, and active participation is **essential** (and will form a portion of your grade). If you sleep, engage in non-class-related activities, or interfere with your classmates' ability to learn you will be counted absent for that day. Be on time - class will start promptly at 4 pm. Leaving early will count as an absence.

Attendance is absolutely crucial to your success in ENGL 2307. I encourage you to come to every class meeting; otherwise, you will miss a great deal of information and material you need to succeed in this course. Therefore, there are no excused absences (emergencies will be considered on a case by case basis). Each student is allowed two (2) missed classes, no questions asked. Save them for when you really need them. Because we meet only once a week, your attendance is imperative to your success. After (2) unexcused absences you will fail the course.

Late Work Policy

All drafts, including final, must be submitted when and as required in order to successfully complete this course. Late assignments will suffer grade deductions or may not be accepted.

Note: If there are issues with Canvas or the problem is a Collin College network issue, please visit the [Student Help Area](#) of our class page and contact e-Collin Support.

Requirements For Participation In Online Discussion Or Collaborative Activities

Students are required to post story submissions and journal write-ups to Canvas throughout the semester, as this is the way in which we post and receive work stories in order to avoid printing costs.

Netiquette Expectations

(1) Standards of courtesy and respect must be maintained at all times in our online "classroom" discussion, but remember that respect and consideration are crucial for any intellectual discussion.

(2) In computer discussion assignment, I expect intelligent and respectful airing of ideas. Name-calling and attacks are not permitted.

(3) Since this is an English class, and you will be practicing good writing throughout the semester, all responses should consist of standard grammar and punctuation rules. Do not use texting abbreviations or careless grammar/punctuation in emails or in discussions.

(4) Appropriate behavior as set out in the Collin Student Handbook applies to online classes, and abuses will be reported to the Dean of Students and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken by the college.

Delivery Method of Feedback and/or Graded Material

Graded papers and feedback will be returned in class. Your grade will also be available in the My Grades section of Canvas. All assignments will be graded within 14 days of submission.

Standards for Instructor Response and Availability

Please use the Mail tool available on Canvas for all correspondence with me for the duration of the course. I will respond to your email within **24 hours** (usually, I respond the same day) on weekdays. On weekends, I try to check my Canvas e-mail daily, but I do not hold online office hours on the weekends and holidays, so you should plan to ask questions during the week.

Assignment Types

- **Readings/Events**

You must attend at least one public reading or literary event in DFW during the course of the semester. After the event, you should write a one-page, typed summary of the reading stating its nature and your evaluation of the event. I will announce possible events in class as I become aware of them, but you should plan to keep your eye out for those that fit your style and interests.

- **Writing Assignments**

Each student will have two stories due throughout the course. Because one of the major goals of the course is to have students generate new writing, both stories must be written for this class specifically. Stories are due online the class before a

student's group is to be workshopped. If a student does not turn in an essay the class before he is up for workshop, he will forfeit his workshop for that round and receive a "0" for that story. Don't forget to include page numbers for reference during workshop. Out-of-class writing assignments may be done alone or in a group. Additionally, each student must submit written critiques to the classmate in his/her workshop group.

- **In-Class Writing**

Most weeks we will do in-class writing exercises designed to help you generate ideas, begin new pieces, and/or revise existing work. Some of these may remain fragments or beginnings; others may wind up as complete short essays in themselves. You must write for the entire time given for the exercise. If you feel you cannot write anywhere but in your writing space at home, then you shouldn't be in this class. **If you refuse to do the writing in class, or if it is obvious you are not doing the work, you will be asked to leave, as your disengagement will affect others.**

- **Journal Research**

Each student is responsible for researching and becoming familiar with a literary journal this semester (I will distribute a list early in the semester). You will write up a response to your research (up to 1 page), pointing out the type of work published, when, and submission guidelines and schedules. This will be more of an informational sheet than anything. Each student will pass this out to the class, so make sure that it is reader friendly. We start each class with one of these brief and informal presentations (5-10 minutes), during which you share your information with the rest of the class.

- **Story Revision and Journal Submission**

On the last day of class, you will turn in a revision of one of the two original stories you completed this semester. In addition to your revised stories, you will also be required to submit one of your stories to journals (print or online) that publishes fiction. These submissions can be made at any time throughout the semester (as long as it's before final revision are due). You will need to provide proof of submission. This can be in the form as a submission receipt or rejection. Submission is an important—and sometimes tedious—part of being a fiction writer. It's good to familiarize yourself with this process if you haven't already. The story revision and journal submission assignment will serve as the course "final exam" and, as such, should showcase the growth you've made as a creative nonfiction writer over the course of the semester.

Fall 2018 Assignments and Academic Calendar

Assignments from *Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft* will be denoted by WF

Week 1: Tues., Aug 28	Introduction to the Course Course syllabus and class expectations. Why do you write? Discuss writing exercises, becoming a writer, learning to write, the process, and reading. Discuss various genres of writing.
Week 2: Tues., Sept. 4	Discuss Story, Plot, and Structure Read: Chapters 1 & 2 (including the short stories at the end of Chapter 2) in <i>WF</i> Read: TBA
Week 3: Tues., Sept 11	Characters Read: Chapters 3&4 in <i>WF</i> Read: TBA Place, Setting and Time Read: Chapters 5&6 in <i>WF</i> Read: "Hills Like White Elephants"; "The Lottery"; "A&P"
Week 4: Tues, Sept 18	Form, Plot, and Structure Read: Chapter 7 in <i>WF</i> Read: TBA Narrative and Voice Read: Chapter 8 in <i>WR</i> Read: TBA Due: Group #1- Story 1 by Tuesday, September 18, 2018 by 4 p.m. (Post PDF versions of stories to the Week 4 story thread)
Week 5: Tues., Sept 25	Workshop/Critiques (2 copies) Due: Group #1 Due: Group #2- Story 1 by Tuesday, September 25, 2018 by 4 p.m. (Post PDF versions of stories to the Week 5 story thread)
Week 6: Tues., Oct., 2	Workshop/Critiques (2 copies) Due: Group #2 Due: Group #3- Story 1 by Tuesday, October 2, 2018 by 4 p.m. (Post PDF versions of stories to the Week 6 story thread)
Week 7: Tues., Oct 9	Workshop/Critiques (2 copies) Due: Group #3
Week 8: Tues., Oct 16	TBA
Week 9: Tues., Oct 23	Journal Research and Revision Day—NO CLASS
Week 10: Tues., Oct 30	Journal Presentations
Week 11: Tues., Nov. 6	Journal presentations continued. Due: Group #1- Story 2 Tuesday, November 6, 2018 by 4 p.m. (Post PDF versions of stories to the Week 11 story thread)

Week 12: Tues. Nov 13	Workshop/Critiques (2 copies) Due: Group #1 Due: Group #2- Story 2 Tuesday, November 13, 2018 by 4 p.m. (Post PDF versions of stories to the Week 12 story thread)
Week 13: Tues. Nov 20	Workshop/Critiques (2 copies) Due: Group #2 Due: Group #3- Story 2 Tuesday, November 20, 2018 by 4 p.m. (Post PDF versions of stories to the Week 13 story thread)
Week 14: Tues. Nov. 27	Workshop/Critiques (2 copies) Due: Group #3
Week 15: Tues. Dec. 4	Story Revisions/Journal Submission Proof, and Event Report due at 4:00 p.m.
Week 16: Tues. Dec 10	Final grades available in Canvas