CRW 2001: Creative Writing I  
Spring 2011

Dept. of Language and Literature
Office: 3-117
Office Hours: TBA

Professor: Jeff Grieneisen
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Creative Writing (3) (A.A.) Prerequisites ENC 1101 with concurrent registration in or completion of ENC 1102 with a grade of "C" or better. This course meets the 6,000 word Gordon Rule requirement. This course is a beginning workshop in the writing of poetry and/or prose; projects in drama are optional. Assignments (some formal, some thematic) in either poetry and/or prose are designed to stimulate beginning writers to familiarize them with literary techniques and forms. Students are expected to participate in class discussions.

Text and Materials:
* The Poet’s Companion ISBN: 9780393316544
* Writing True ISBN: 9780618370757
* Pen, pencil, notebook for class every day
* Composition notebook (separate from the notebook you use for class notes).

Course Performance Standards:
1. Devise own writing assignments and discipline self to write regularly
2. Revise and edit own prose and poems
3. Write poems and prose using traditional conventions and devices with competence
4. Use a variety of sources for content of poems and prose (memory, lived experience, ideas found in print, observed experience)
5. Demonstrate the ability to learn from critical suggestions from peers and instructors
6. Critique the work of peers constructively, focusing on artistic constructs rather than personal taste
7. Demonstrate the ability to work well within a workshop situation
8. Demonstrate the ability to read and analyze published poetry and prose by focusing on artistic conventions (e.g. plot structure, rhythm, diction, and image)
9. Demonstrate the ability to prepare a professional manuscript
10. Fulfill in part writing requirements as mandated by SBE 6A-10.30

Attendance and on-time Policy: In order to provide for emergency situations, I permit one absence without academic penalty. For every absence beyond this, you will receive a letter grade reduction on your final grade. Also note that I do not distinguish between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. All absences are simply absences, so please do not present doctor’s excuses, notes from your parents, or other attempts to “excuse” the absence. On-time Policy: Two late arrivals or “early-leaves” constitute one absence.

Gordon Rule: This course meets the Florida State Board of Education Rule Number 6A-10.30. In accordance with this rule, students will complete six semester hours of English and six semester hours of additional coursework in which the student must demonstrate college-level writing skills. The State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota Division of Arts and Letters & Social and Behavioral Sciences requires a minimum of 6,000 words in each of these Gordon Rule courses. A grade of C or better is required for credit in Gordon Rule classes.

Course Assignments: Please refer to daily schedule for assignments and due dates. All assignments completed outside of class must be typed (and if appropriate, stapled, and ready to submit or share at the beginning of the class). Late assignments will not be accepted for credit, but you must submit the assignment—conforming to the assignment specifications (including and especially word/page count)—since students must complete ALL assignments in order to pass the course. Whether they are late or on time, all assignments must be submitted to me during our class time—do NOT leave assignments in my mailbox.

Policy Regarding Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of ideas, facts, opinions, illustrative material, data, direct or indirect wording of another scholar and/or writer—professional or student—without giving proper credit. Expulsion, suspension, or any lesser penalty may be imposed for plagiarism. For our class, Plagiarism will result in automatic failure of the course!
Grade Criteria (by percentage of total course work):

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Poetry / Writer’s Journal</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2) Portfolios</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2) Formal Papers</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop/Participation/Exercises</td>
<td>20%</td>
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* Please keep in mind that this is a tentative list of assignments; our actual assignments and point values may vary slightly due to class progress.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>65-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>64% and below</td>
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Grades will be provided as letters (including plus and minus grades) that will be averaged to form the grade, itself.

* Students must earn a “C” or higher to successfully complete the course.

Withdrawal Policy: In accordance with the State College of Florida policy, as stated in the college catalog, students may withdraw from any course, or all courses, without academic penalty, by the withdrawal deadline listed in the State College of Florida academic calendar. This semester, the withdrawal date is March 24. Students should take responsibility to initiate the withdrawal procedure but are strongly encouraged to talk with their instructors before taking any withdrawal action. In addition, students should note that faculty may also withdraw students for violating policies, procedures or conditions of the class, as outlined in individual class syllabi, and such action could affect financial aid eligibility.

Standards of Conduct: Students are expected to abide by all Lancer Student Handbook guidelines. Please note “My Expectations” below.

Additional Information: Diligence, time management, promptness, and courtesy will go very far in this course. Please be aware, however, that as much as I appreciate hard work and effort, as a communications course I must also grade the product of the course, your writing. For written assignments, I expect you to use great care in PROOFREADING your work. I will not be your editor; I mark SOME of your errors, but you are responsible for proper grammar, language usage, word choice, and logical and complete thought development. In your creative works, I expect to see evidence of our discussions regarding conventions of poetry and nonfiction. For some, this will come naturally; for others, it will take some work.

My Expectations: As you enter this classroom, I expect that you have a basic understanding of grammar rules and have mastered the focus and structure of the basic essay (including research and documentation in MLA format) in ENC 1101. Also, I assume that you have completed ENC 1102. While you may take the course if you are currently registered in ENC 1102, you will likely be missing a lot of the background necessary to truly succeed. Learning the basics of literary analysis in ENC 1102 will be helpful prior to writing literature of your own. But the choice is yours.

I also expect that you will behave in a mature, respectful manner. Examples of behavior I do not tolerate includes, but is not limited to: applying makeup, or doing other homework during class; putting your head down on the desk; using unnecessary profanity for shock value; making slurs against individuals or groups; creating generally disruptive outbursts; making strange noises; and throwing things. I will deal with these on an as-needed basis. In the past, violations of these simple rules of courtesy have resulted in the student’s removal from the classroom, the student’s being reported to the Academic Affairs Officer, and in more modest cases, have caused students to lose grade points in the classroom. Additionally, as a courtesy, please refrain from wearing odiferous colognes or perfumes, as allergic reactions may cause your dismissal from the room (see attendance policy). Also, make sure that your cell phone is turned to silent mode or off and that you are not texting during class. If I am aware of your phone, I reserve the right to deduct up to 5% from your grade.

Finally, as the course is designated as a workshop setting, you will be reading your own work aloud and providing and receiving feedback on original work of poetry and creative nonfiction. That being said, we will discuss appropriate ways to critique. If you are someone who absolutely cannot take criticism, please re-think your position in this course. Additionally, you will be required to show revision. If your writing process takes place exclusively on a computer, learn to save your drafts in particular ways to distinguish them. You will not earn an A in the course without demonstrating the ability to revise.

* As time/resources permit, some of your exercises may require you to use ANGEL.