

CREATIVE WRITING

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

ENG 357 — Creative Writing (3 hours)

CSM 104

Tue / Thu 9:30 - 10:45 AM

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Course Description

This course focuses on various genres of writing. Students will be given the opportunity to express themselves through non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and other forms of creative writing. Emphasis will be placed upon creativity, peer review, revision, and presentation. From a Christian perspective, writers will consider how to glorify God and transform culture through the use of language.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Become more familiar with various genres of writing. (Knowledge)
2. Understand what steps to take to improve as a writer. (Comprehension)
3. Write various kinds of literature. (Application)
4. Determine your unique style of writing in comparison to other styles. (Analysis)
5. Blend your writing with different forms and expressions of those forms. (Synthesis)
6. Evaluate the writing of other students in order to improve your own writing. (Evaluation)
7. Summarize how your writing has improved over the course of the semester. (Evaluation)

Course Textbooks

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird*. New York: Anchor Books, 1995.

Wilson, Douglas. *Wordsmithy: Hot Tips for the Writing Life*. Canon Press, 2011.*

Vogler, Christopher. *The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structure for Writers*. Michael Wiese Productions, 2007.

*You can purchase the Kindle version for your Kindle, computer, or phone.

Articles & Online Forums

To access Moodle, visit <http://elearning.judsonu.edu/>.

Course Policies

- **Classroom attendance is required and expected.** Due to the nature of this course, an absence will have a dramatic effect upon your participation. It is essential that you attend as much of class as possible. Lectures and in-class discussions will include important information that will help you with your papers, exam, and discussion forum posts. If you are absent for any reason, contact me to keep me updated. Due to the workshop nature of this course, each additional absence will reduce your *final* grade by 3%. Missing your workshop days can also affect your accountability report grade.
- **Arriving on time matters.** If you arrive late, enter quietly and close the door quietly, so class is not disrupted. More than two late arrivals will be considered a “half” absence. Arriving egregiously late may also count as an absence.
- **Respect other students, the instructor, and the classroom.** Appropriate behavior is expected within the classroom, as well as in discussion forums. Rude, distracting, offensive, or harassing behavior will not be tolerated and will be subject to standard university policy.

Because this course requires interaction with other students, you may not always agree with your classmates, but it is important to listen gracefully and communicate with courtesy. Participants in peer review exercises should practice humility for their own benefit and speak with respect to others. Please refrain from debates that distract from another student's experience of the course. If you would like to discuss a controversial issue, you are more than welcome to email the instructor who can recommend resources and/or additional reading.

- **Submit assignments on time.** With the readings and assignments, it is essential to stay on schedule. Falling behind can be very detrimental to your grade. Due to the workshop nature of the course, if you do not have assignments prepared for class, you may receive no credit.

Printed copies should be brought to class for your peer revision. Final assignments should be submitted through Moodle.

- **Practice academic integrity by citing all sources.** This course follows the academic policy of the university. You are welcome to consult reliable resources, but you *must* give credit to where credit is due. Do not claim others' ideas as your own. You will not receive full credit if you misuse or fail to cite your sources. Papers that copy another person's work are considered stolen intellectual property and will receive no credit. Remember that a late or incomplete assignment is better than a plagiarized assignment.

If you have any questions about what is acceptable, visit <http://bit.ly/judsonhonesty> or contact the instructor *prior* to submitting an assignment. To ensure proper citation, please use MLA format for all of your written assignments. Use reliable sources (e.g., *not* Wikipedia) and include website addresses for online sources. Consult OWL for help with your citations: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Cases of plagiarism will involve meeting with the instructor to discuss in person and review the case in writing. (Depending on the situation, this may instead be done in writing.) This process often takes several days. Per university policy, the instructor reserves the right to designate a zero for a partial section or the full assignment, as well as the right to report cases of plagiarism to the university. Egregious or multiple cases of plagiarism may result in expulsion from the university.

Assignments

1. **PARTICIPATION (JOURNAL):** Students are expected to attend class, remain attentive, participate in class, and submit in-class assignments. This grade will take into account your active involvement (such as completing writing exercises) throughout the semester. Inattention (e.g., snoozing, texting, limited effort on in-class assignments, etc.) will lower this grade. In addition, participation will determine if your grade is rounded up (e.g., 89.48 to 90.00) at the end of the semester, so your participation can affect your letter grade. Severe infractions, such as not attending your workshop days, will result in a lowered grade.

Important: Keep a writing journal (separate from your notes) with in-class exercises that you can submit at the end of the semester to demonstrate your work. Saving your drafts and other writing outside of class will also help with this grade. You may scan, photocopy, or take photos of your writing journal if you would like to keep your written work for future writing projects. Submit this at or before the final exam.

2. **DRAFTS:** Throughout the course, you will have the opportunity to write in a variety of genres. Most likely, you will be stronger at one or two genres than others, and that is okay! Most writers specialize in one area, but this will give you further exposure to different genres and help you appreciate how those genres are written. You will print these, share them with your group, and receive feedback (encouragement, questions, concerns, suggestions, etc.). For this course, you will write the following:

CREATIVE NON-FICTION. In 800-1200 words, write a brief account of an event in your life. Be accurate and honest in your truth telling. Keep in mind that transparency does not mean full self-disclosure. Personal or tragic details should be shared in an honest, yet sensitive manner. Do not generalize with abstractions, but be specific.

FICTION. Write a short story that is 1000-1250 words in length. Include at least one character, some kind of conflict, and development in the story. Because this is a short story, be sure to limit your story to something manageable rather than trying to fit a novel into a few pages. Focus on characterization and descriptive words.

POETRY. Write three poems of your choice. At least one poem should be in a standard poetic form (e.g., sonnet, ballad, sestina, etc.) with rhyming lines, but the other two poems may be free verse if you choose. Poems should be at least 12 lines; if you write fewer lines than 12 lines, write additional poems.

SCENE OR SONG. You may choose between the following options:

- Write flash fiction. You may write one piece of 500-550 words or a collection that adds up to 500-550 words (e.g., 5 pieces of 100 words each). If you prefer drama, you can write “flash fiction” versions of scenes for a total of three scenes.
- Write two recorded songs or three non-recorded songs. You may upload recordings online (e.g., YouTube or SoundCloud), so that your group can hear your songs prior to meeting for class.

CREATIVE MEDIA. Your task is to use words and media to communicate a message of social justice. You have a variety of options: visual art (e.g., video, collage, paint, graphic design, etc.); print (e.g., pamphlet, magazine cover, series of billboards, etc.); web experience (e.g., website content, YouTube video, Flash animation, etc.). Whatever you choose, be sure that it is professional and appropriate for a non-profit or ministry context. Words must play a central role in your project — such as words within the visual art, poems that accompany your art, a story with background information, etc. Use at least 250 words within your work.

3. **ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT:** At the ends of the semester, your peers will evaluate your work in your writing group. You will be assessed upon your attendance, preparation, contributions, and courtesy. Likewise, you will review your peers and their work in your writing group.
4. **READING REPORT:** By the time of the final exam, you will need to report how much of the assigned reading you have completed. Be sure to keep up with your readings throughout the semester, as they will aid with class discussion and improve your writing.
5. **BIG PICTURE ESSAY:** This essay will be completed in-class. You will summarize what you have learned from the readings, what other students have pointed out to you, how your writing has improved, etc. Be specific and refer to your readings and class discussions.
6. **PORTFOLIO:** To demonstrate what you have learned and how you have developed your writing, you should submit the following before the final exam period:
 - (1) **Revised works.** You will select 3 out of your 5 works to submit for your portfolio. These works should be proofread and edited multiple times, taking into consideration the input of other readers.
 - (2) **Revision summary.** In 1 or 2 pages, explain the changes or improvements you have made to your papers. Include specific feedback from others, as well as specific lessons you have learned from the readings or class content.
 - (3) **Presentation.** You will have the opportunity to share one of your works with the class by presenting them during the final exam. Words were meant to be shared, and this will be your opportunity to share your best work with the class (e.g., a short story, 3 poems, a performed song, etc.). Your reading should be about 5 minutes long.

Assessment

Graded Item	Percentage
In-Class Participation (e.g., Writing Exercises, Journal)	10%
Creative Non-Fiction Draft	10%
Fiction Draft	10%
Poetry Draft	10%
Scene or Song Draft	10%
Creative Media Draft	10%
In-Class "Big Picture" Essay	10%
Accountability Report	5%
Reading Report	5%
Portfolio & Final Exam Presentation	20%

Drafts Rubric

Drafts will be graded in a holistic sense upon the following criteria:

Completion	60%
Effort	20%
Timely	20%

In-Class "Big Picture" Essay Rubric

Your writing will be based upon the following criteria:

Mechanics, Grammar, Documentation	15%
Organization	10%
Content (Specific, Reading References)	50%
Response to Assignment Tasks	25%

Accountability Report

Your peers will review your work, and these will be averaged together.

Presence (Attendance, Attention)	25%
Preparation (Printouts, Reading)	25%
Contribution (Thoughtful Comments)	25%
Courtesy (Kind, Encouraging)	25%

Portfolio Rubric

Your writing will be based upon the following criteria:

Three Completed Works	30%
Creative Content	50%
Revision Effort & Summary	20%

Grading Scale

A	93-100	B+	87-89.9	C+	77-79.9	D+	67-69.9	E	< 59.9
A-	90-92.9	B	83-86.9	C	73-76.9	D	63-66.9		
		B-	80-82.9	C-	70-72.9	D-	60-62.9		

Questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Email is the best way to reach me, but you may also call during normal business hours. I am glad to research or help with any questions you may have.

Email: joel.jupp@judson.edu (preferred) / joel@joeljupp.com (alternative)

Phone: 630-621-6238

COURSE SCHEDULE - FALL 2014

*Readings should be completed before the assigned class day.
 Assignments are due on that given class day, unless otherwise noted.
 Articles can be accessed via Moodle & downloaded or printed.
 Units will remain the same, but topics may slightly vary.*

WEEK 1 — INTRODUCTION		
DATES	8/26	8/28
READING		
ASSIGNMENT		
TOPICS	Syllabus, Introduction, Self-Introductions	
WEEK 2 — THEOLOGY, VALUES & EVALUATION		
DATES	9/2	9/4
READING	<i>Wordsmithy</i> , Chapter 1	<i>Bird by Bird</i> , pg. 1-43
ASSIGNMENT		Literary Creed
TOPICS	Theology of Words, Standards of Good Writing, Peer Feedback	
WEEK 3 — STARTING TO WRITE		
DATES	9/9	9/11
READING	<i>Wordsmithy</i> , Chapter 2	<i>Wordsmithy</i> , Chapter 5
ASSIGNMENT		
TOPICS	Myths, Inspiration, Brainstorming, Tips, Practice	
WEEK 4 — CREATIVE NON-FICTION		
DATES	9/16	9/18
READING	<i>Bird by Bird</i> , pg. 44-94	
ASSIGNMENT		Upload Non-Fiction Draft by midnight on Saturday.
TOPICS	Truth telling in creative form	
WEEK 5 — CREATIVE NON-FICTION WORKSHOP		
DATES	9/23	9/25
READING	Read 1st group before class.	Read 2nd group before class.
ASSIGNMENT	Print copies for your group.	
TOPICS		

WEEK 6 – FICTION		
DATES	9/30	10/2
READING	<i>Bird by Bird</i> , Part 2 <i>The Writer's Journey</i> , 3-38	
ASSIGNMENT		Upload Fiction Draft by midnight on Saturday.
TOPICS	Character, Conflict, Arc / Plot, Resolution or No Resolution	
WEEK 7 – FICTION WORKSHOP		
DATES	10/7	10/9
READING	Read 1st group before class.	Read 2nd group before class.
ASSIGNMENT	Print copies for your group.	
TOPICS		
WEEK 8 – POETRY		
DATES	10/14	10/16
READING	<i>Bird by Bird</i> , Part 3	
ASSIGNMENT		Upload Poem Drafts by midnight on Saturday.
TOPICS	Types of poetry, readings by poets	
WEEK 9 – POETRY WORKSHOP		
DATES	10/21	10/23
READING	Read 1st group before class.	Read 2nd group before class.
ASSIGNMENT	Print copies for your group.	
TOPICS		
WEEK 10 – SCENE AND SONG		
DATES	10/28	10/30
READING	<i>Bird by Bird</i> , Part 4	
ASSIGNMENT		Upload Scene or Song Drafts by midnight on Saturday.
TOPICS	Structure, dialogue, meter	
WEEK 11 – SCENE AND SONG WORKSHOP		
DATES	11/4	11/6
READING	Read 1st group before class.	Read 2nd group before class.
ASSIGNMENT	Print copies for your group.	
TOPICS		

WEEK 12 — CREATIVE MEDIA (WORD & IMAGE)		
DATES	11/11	11/13
READING	<i>Wordsmithy</i> , Chapters 3 & 4	<i>Wordsmithy</i> , Chapter 6
ASSIGNMENT		Upload Creative Media by midnight on Saturday.
TOPICS	Written & visual culture, blurred lines, cultural transformation	

WEEK 13 — CREATIVE MEDIA WORKSHOP		
DATES	11/18	11/20
READING	Read 1st group before class.	Read 2nd group before class.
ASSIGNMENT	Print copies for your group.	
TOPICS	Share and review creative media (painting, video, audio, etc.)	

WEEK 14 — REVISION		
DATES	11/25	THANKSGIVING
READING	<i>Wordsmithy</i> , Chapter 7	-----
ASSIGNMENT	Bring revisions to class.	-----
TOPICS	Find new partners for final revisions.	

WEEK 15 — REVISION AND ESSAY		
DATES	12/2	12/4
READING	<i>Bird by Bird</i> , Part 5	
ASSIGNMENT	Bring revisions to class.	In-Class Essay & Accountability Report
TOPICS	Find new partners for final revisions. Write in-class essay.	

WEEK 16 — FINAL EXAM		
DATES	12/9	12/11
READING	-----	-----
ASSIGNMENTS	Submit your reading report, writing journal, & portfolio. Bring your work to read.	
TOPICS	See schedule for exam time.	

Remember that announcements and adjustments may be made in class. If you miss a class and have any questions regarding due dates or assignment, it your responsibility to contact the instructor.