

**ENGLISH 649-01, TOPICS IN CREATIVE WRITING:
TEACHING CREATIVE WRITING
MONDAYS 6:00-9:00 P.M., AH 202
RICHARD ROBBINS**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Office: AH 201F

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will investigate strategies for teaching creative writing at various academic levels, with particular focus on the general education offering English 242, Introduction to Creative Writing. We will look at different theoretical approaches to the creative process in general, as well as specific, project-oriented approaches that will have immediate application in the classroom or writing workshop. Your role in the class will be, at different times, either writing student or writing teacher, with particular class activities emphasizing one or the other role.

TEXTS

Addonizio and Laux, *A Poet's Companion*, Norton 9780393316544

Stegner, *On the Teaching of Creative Writing*, U Press of New England 9780874518436 [supplied by me]

Stern, *Making Shapely Fiction*, Norton 9780393321241

Thomas, et al., *Flash Fiction: 72 Very Short Stories*, Norton 9780393308839

Other texts supplied by the instructor.

COURSE RESPONSIBILITIES

GENERAL

- Completing all the reading and being prepared to discuss it at the designated time.
- Actively participating in class at all times, including providing useful and appropriate feedback on peer presentations.
- Attending regularly. (Missing two classes, for whatever reason, will probably affect your grade. Missing four classes will make it difficult for you to pass.)

SPECIFIC

- Writing a teaching philosophy (250-400 words), due by itself early in the term, and (revised) as part of a teaching portfolio later in the term.
- Completing in-class and out-of-class creative writing exercises tied to a hypothetical section of English 242, Introduction to Creative Writing.
- Developing and presenting two 15-minute lessons, intended as in-class assignments, during the poetry and fiction phases of Fake 242.
- Writing and presenting a short (250 words) group review/evaluation of a creative writing resource/text.
- Writing and presenting a short (250 words) individual review/evaluation of a different creative writing resource/text.

- As a final project, developing and presenting a teaching portfolio that includes
 - revised teaching philosophy
 - revised lessons
 - revised review / evaluations
 - a complete syllabi for a section of English 242 (or, alternatively, a 15-week course targeting a specific writing audience in a specific context)
 - one new course handout each for poetry and fiction cycles, intended as take-home assignments

GRADING

Specific assignments (except for those for Fake 242) will be given letter grades and figured into your final grade with the following proportions in mind:

- 25%—Preparation and participation
- 10%—Teaching philosophy (first submission)
- 10%—Fake 242 assignments
- 20%—Poetry and fiction lessons
- 10%—Group and individual review / evaluations
- 25%—Teaching Portfolio

Late assignments will generally be dropped a grade.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Creativity and the writing process

- the nature of creativity
- who's creative
- teaching creativity
- the instructor as model writer / teacher

Teaching CW in various contexts

- CW at various academic levels
- CW in non-academic settings

CW course design

- what's being taught
- obligations the instructor has to the broader curriculum
- obligations the instructor has to the student
- designing a syllabus that reflects one's teaching philosophy
- role of core components: reading, in-class activities, portfolio, publication / presentation

Evaluation

- how to grade CW
- how to evaluate texts and other resources

Creating community

- within the classroom
- beyond the classroom

SCHEDULE / DISCUSSION TOPICS / ITEM DUE

- 8.24 Introduction
Creativity and the writing process
- 8.31 Maslow handout
Stegner, whole book
Creativity and the writing process
- 9.7 Labor day—No class.
- 9.14 Addonizio and Laux, 11-81
Creativity and the writing process
Teaching philosophy
- 9.21 Addonizio and Laux, 85-137
Teaching poetry writing
Evaluating CW
Poetry exercises
- 9.28 Addonizio and Laux, 138-192
Teaching poetry writing
Poetry exercises / Poetry presentation
- 10.5 Addonizio and Laux, 195-end (skim)
Teaching revision
Poetry presentation
- 10.12 Stern, xiii-44
Teaching fiction writing
Evaluating CW
Fiction exercises
- 10.19 Stern, 45-76
Teaching fiction writing
Fiction exercises / Fiction presentation
- 10.26 Thomas et al, 11-110
Teaching revision
Fiction presentation
- 11.2 Thomas et al, 111-215
Evaluating CW texts
Group text evaluation
- 11.9 Outside texts
242 instructor panel
Group text evaluation
- 11.16 Outside texts
Technology applications
Individual text evaluation
- 11.23 Outside texts

Technology / online applications
Individual text evaluation

11.30 Creating community

12.7 Course evaluation
Portfolio presentations