

English 418

Mary Ann Samyn, ENGL 418, Fall 2006, Capstone Project in Creative Writing

Mary Ann Samyn

Fall 2006

TR 11:30-12:45 + mentoring meetings with MFA students

407 Armstrong

Email: MaryAnn.Samyn@mail.wvu.edu

Office: 463 Stansbury

Phone: 293-3107 x33453

Office hours: TR 1:30-2:15 p.m., W 3:15-4:00 p.m., by appt.

English 418: Capstone Project in Creative Writing

Course Description

This semester the Creative Writing Capstone Course, English 418, will be taught as a traditional course and as a one-on-one independent study. Class meetings will vary week to week; mentors (MFAs) and apprentices (undergrads) will also work together each week with scheduled visits from the instructor.

Course Requirements

- weekly meetings with the graduate student mentor
- completion of all assignments given by the instructor & the mentor
- conscientious class attendance & participation
- an annotated bibliography prepared under the direction of the mentor
- a final creative project with a critical preface
- participation in a final class reading

Texts

- Hugo, Richard. *The Triggering Town*.
- Sellers, Heather. *Page After Page*.

- Ueland, Brenda. *If You Want to Write*.
- Winterson, Jeanette. *Art Objects*.

Plus, selections from Nick Hornby's *Polysyllabic Spree* and Frank Conroy's *The Eleventh Draft*, and other handouts.

Also, a reading list of each student's own devising, in conjunction with help from the MFA mentor.

Evaluation

Your grade in English 418 will be determined by your graduate student mentor and me and will reflect your work in the class sessions and in the one-on-one mentoring. You will be required to complete all assignments as given, on time and with copies when required. As always, participation and attitude count as well, and, in a class like this, which involves a mentoring relationship, your professionalism as a student is very important too.

Attendance

It take attendance seriously, as should you. We don't meet as often in this class, which means only two absences are allowed (though you are not entitled to them); beyond two, your final grade will go down 1/3 of a letter for each additional absence. You also need to attend all meetings with your mentor. Missing mentoring meetings will seriously impact your grade. Similarly, you need to be on time and ready to work, whether in class with me or with your MFA mentor. Questions? Please ask me.

A Note about Readings on Campus

As the most advanced undergraduate creative writers on campus, you of course value your role in the WVU community of writers. Part of that role includes attending readings on campus. Therefore, I expect that you'll make attending department-sponsored readings a high priority.

Social Justice

WVU is committed to social justice, as am I. That means you can expect a learning environment that is constructive, based on mutual respect and non-discrimination. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Daily Schedule

Week 1: 8/22, 8/24

Tuesday - Initial meeting: all students, grad & undergrad Discuss syllabus and contract obligations.

Thursday - Undergrads only: reading for today: Brenda Ueland: If You Want to Write.

Week 2: 8/29, 8/31

Begin meeting one-on-one.

Meetings must be regularly scheduled and open to

Tuesday - Undergrads: reading Brenda Ueland, cont'd the faculty member, who may drop in.

Thursday- Discussing the writing process, etc.

Week 3: 9/5, 9/7

Regularly scheduled meeting.

Tuesday - Undergrads: Writing an annotated bibliography.

Thursday - Undergrads: reading: selections from Nick Hornby's Polysyllabic Spree.

Week 4: 9/12, 9/14

Conferences with faculty member. Regularly scheduled meeting.

Class tba: reading Heather Sellers: response due

September 15: deadline for submissions to the Sturm: Patricia Henley (fiction)

Week 5: 9/19, 9/21

Conferences with faculty member. Regularly scheduled meeting.

Class tba: reading Heather Sellers: response due

September 21: Tony Grooms reading, Gold Ballroom, 7:30 p.m.

Week 6: 9/ 26, 9/28

Conferences with faculty member. Regularly scheduled meeting. Class tba

Week 7: 10/3, 10/5

Regularly scheduled meeting.

Tuesday - Graduates only attend class. Mid-term evaluations of the experience. Time for feedback/sharing. Plan for larger group workshop.

Thursday - Undergrads only: Jeanette Winterson: Art Objects: response due

Week 8: 10/10, 10/12

Mentoring partners meet with another undergrad/grad

Tuesday - Undergrads: Jeanette Winterson: Art Objects, cont'd.

Thursday - Undergrads

October 11: Department pizza party, 11:30-1:30, 3rd floor library, Stansbury

Week 9: 10/17, 10/19

Meet again as a four-some (or six-some).

Tuesday - Undergrads: reading: selections from The Eleventh Draft ed. Frank Conroy: response due

Thursday - Undergrads: reading: selections from The Eleventh Draft ed. Frank Conroy

October 16-20: Patricia Henley in residence. Reading, Monday night, Gold Ballroom, 7:30 p.m.

Week 10: 10/24, 10/26

Conferences with faculty member. Regularly scheduled meeting. Class tba

October 25: Alumni Career Forum, E. Moore Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Week 11: 10/31, 11/2

Conferences with faculty member. Regularly scheduled meeting. Class tba

Week 12: 11/7, 11/9

Conferences with faculty member. Regularly scheduled meeting. Class tba (Tuesday is Election Day: no classes)

Week 13: 11/14, 11/16

Regularly scheduled meeting.

Tuesday - Undergrads: Discuss revision strategies for each genre.

Thursday - Undergrads: Discuss final project requirements.

Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 14: 11/28, 11/30

Final meeting.

Tuesday - Undergrads & grads!

Thursday - Final Project revisions. Discuss final essay again.

Week 15: 12/5, 12/7

Tuesday - Final questions

Thursday - Final projects due. Course evaluation. Class reading. Grads come too.

Questions?

Email me: MaryAnn.Samyn@mail.wvu.edu