

English 111 – Intro to Creative Writing
Mr. Bishop (jbishop6@mix.wvu.edu)
Fall 2012 CRN 81701
MWF 10:30-11:20
Armstrong Hall, Room 403-D
Office Hours: MW 9-10 (and by appointment)

Required Texts:

Short Takes: Brief Encounters With Contemporary Nonfiction ISBN 10: 0393326004
Ecco Anthology of Contemporary Short Fiction ISBN 10: 0061661589
Oxford Book of American Poetry ISBN 10: 019516251X

Course Description and Requirements:

I don't believe in writer's block; I believe that writing is hard work and you have to brave the not so great pieces to craft them into great pieces (or place them in a desk drawer for later use.) In this class, you will read extensively across genres and write constantly. There is no substitute for this setting of "read, write, discuss" and I plan on using this time to its fullest to help you explore creative writing.

Attendance:

The goals of this class revolve around the community created during our semester together, and as such, each student is a vital part of the experience. You can miss up to 3 classes without penalty (given that you make arrangements and make up the missed work,) but after 3 your grade will begin to significantly decline. At the 3 absence milestone, we should talk during office hours about what's hindering your ability to commit to attending class.

Grading:

Final portfolio (revised pieces, final reflective essay) 10 writing assignments, 8 online reading responses, class participation. All pieces due when noted in syllabus, unless otherwise noted/changed in class.

Social Justice:

Creative works will inevitably step on toes, poke sensitive spots, and call out social issues. Discussing these topics may be difficult, but each student has the freedom to respond to these topics as he or she deems fit. What you student may not do, however, is lash out at individuals in a way that ridicules their beliefs, thoughts, or ideas, or impedes their ability to express them freely. See <http://socialjustice.wvu.edu/policies> for WVU's policies on discrimination/harassment/social justice, and know that I take them seriously. If you have any disabilities (documented or otherwise) that I need to be aware of, please talk with me during office hours so we can make accommodations for your success in this class.

Schedule: ***Subject to change according to progress***

Aug 20-24 Week 1

1. Intro to class, online assignment introduction
2. Fiction Readings: Bausch, Lavande (CASF 53-74, 91-105)
3. Fiction Readings: Benedict, Boyle (CASF 119-152) and Writing Assignment 1

Aug 27-31 Week 2

1. Fiction Readings: Diaz, Doctorow, Dybek (CASF 213-252)
2. Fiction Readings: Hempel, D. Johnson, McGuane (CASF 379-396, 525-536)
3. Character Sketches, Writing Assignment 2

Sep 3-7 Week 3

1. Labor Day, No Class
2. Workshop: Fiction, Draft Due
3. Workshop: Fiction: Writing Assignment 3

Sep 10-14 Week 4

1. Fiction Readings: TBD
2. Fiction Piece Due, Discussion on First Piece
3. Poetry Transition & Writing Assignment 4

Sep 17-21 Week 5

1. Poetry Readings: Bradstreet, Emerson (27-37), Poe (63 & 67)
2. Poetry Readings: Whitman 84-91 (Song of Myself Parts 1-10) 131-140, Dickinson (#280,288,341,465,632,657)
3. Writing Assignment 5, Poem 1, Workshop in Groups

Sep 24-28 Week 6

1. Poetry Readings: Frost (212-223, 228-229) Pound (297-298) Eliot (343-345, 351-364)
2. Poetry Readings: Robert Warren, Auden (499-505), Brooks (625), Bishop (558-566)
3. Writing Assignment 6, Poem 2, Read Poem 2 in Class and Discuss

Oct 1-5 Week 7

1. Poetry Readings: Berryman (603-604), Jarrell (609), Levertov, Schuyler (689-690), Ginsberg (750, 757-758), Wright (840), Strand (905), Collins (953), Hass (967), Palmer (996),
2. Poem 3 Due, Workshop Poem 3 in Groups
3. Writing Assignment 7, Poetry Workshop (Bring one revised poem)

Oct 8-12 Week 8

1. Workshop continued, Poetry Readings: Komunyakha, Graham, Emmanuel.
2. In class revision of 3 poems
3. In class revision of 3 poems, Writing Assignment 8 Due

Oct 15-19 Week 9

1. CNF Readings:
2. CNF Readings:
3. Writing Assignment 9, Drafting in class

Oct 22-26 Week 10

1. CNF Readings:
2. CNF Readings:
3. Workshop CNF Draft in Groups, Writing Assignment 10

Oct 29-Nov 2 Week 11

1. CNF Readings, pick final piece
2. Final piece draft due, workshop
3. Workshop cont.

Nov 5-9 Week 12

1. Workshop Cont.
2. No Class, Conferences
3. Final Piece Due, Reflective Essay FAQ

Nov 12-16 13

1. Portfolio as a Whole
2. Workshop in Groups (1 piece that needs most work)
3. No Class, Conference

Fall Break

Nov 26-30 Week 14

1. Final Reflective Essay Draft Due, Workshop Ordering
2. Workshop
3. Workshop

Dec 3-7 Week 15

1. Workshop
2. Workshop
3. Final Portfolio Due, No Exceptions.