CRWR 210 Course Syllabus

Introduction to Creative Writing

TEXTS

*The Story Behind the Story: 26 Stories by Contemporary Writers and How They Work*, edited by Peter Turchi and Andrea Barrett

*The Voice that is Great Within Us: American Poetry of the Twentieth Century*, edited by Hayden Carruth

*210 Creative Writing Online Workbook*: The online workbook contains all your essays on craft, creative nonfiction essays, and poetry. The workbook also includes generative writing suggestions for your journal and from which you can pull your creative assignments. Finally, it contains questions, lists of readings, writing prompts and all your assignments. Assignments are listed at the beginning of each unit, though they may not be fully explained until later in the chapter. The workbook is broken down into six different chapters. Each chapter appears in the Blackboard course within its corresponding lesson. You should move chronologically through the workbook. Read everything.

It is strongly recommended that you have a print copy of the workbook. It is over 100 pages long and needs to be read in its entirety.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will familiarize themselves with their own creative processes and learn how to read as a writer, how to learn from published writers. They will familiarize themselves with three genres of creative writing and begin to establish a focus for their own writing. Students will develop a stronger sense of how much and how to rewrite and rework material. Finally, students will learn how to respond to feedback on their work from peers and from the instructor and will learn how to offer substantial feedback to other writers. Finally, students should develop a stronger sense of the role writing plays in their lives.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will sample three genres of creative writing: poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. Writing is like operating a train on a track with two rails: reading and writing. You will read and respond to published short stories, poems, creative essays and essays on craft. The course is divided into six lessons: 1) Poetry--Dreams and Imagery, 2) Poetry--Craft: Sound, Structure and the Line, 3) Creative Nonfiction: The Nonfiction Short, 4) Fiction: Narrative Distance, 5) Fiction: the Short Story, and 6) The Portfolio. The calendar allows you a week’s window to post assignments for a particular lesson. You are free to post each assignment as you complete it—you don’t have to wait to post the entire lesson at one time.
ASSIGNMENTS

Readings and Responses (graded assignments): You will be expected to read essays on craft and a variety of poems, short stories, and creative essays. You will be asked to respond to readings through answering assigned questions and by writing brief response papers. All assignments should be typed and double spaced. Page counts assume one page to be a minimum of 300 words (this would be equivalent to a full page with one inch margins in New Times Roman 12). All response papers must be a minimum of two full pages. Some stipulate more. This is a writing course. Meeting minimum page requirements is essential. You should not expect anything above a 2.0 for assignments that don’t meet the page minimum.

Journal: Your journal is a place to respond to readings beyond what you turn in. Additionally, you will be given writing prompts that are intended to help you generate your own creative work. Your journal will be turned in at the end of the quarter with your portfolio. Beyond that, you may turn in your journal as frequently or infrequently as you please. It is important to me that you are engaged with the work, and your journal can help me determine this.

Creative Work: At the end of each unit you will turn in your creative work to me through SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS and post it to the discussion board for your peers. I will comment on all your creative writing so that you can rewrite selected pieces for the final portfolio. All creative work should be typed.

A Note About Submitting Assignments: Assignments must be submitted individually (one per link) in Word Doc or Word Docx formats only. Any other posting will be deleted so that the student can repost in the correct format.

DEADLINES ARE FINAL.

PORTFOLIO

You are expected revise two of the three genres of creative work: drafts of three poems, one nonfiction short, and/or one short story. Earlier drafts must be turned in with the final portfolio. The journal must also be turned in with the portfolio. Because of the formative nature of the portfolio and its inclusion of drafts and a journal, it should be mailed to the Independent Learning office.

DISCUSSION BOARD

The Creative Writing Discussion Board is an essential part of the course where you will dialogue with other students about their creative work. This is essentially an online workshop. Be sure to enroll in the Creative Writing Workshop on Blackboard. This is listed as a separate course. You will not be able to access the Discussion Board until you enroll in the class on Blackboard.
GRADING

Each lesson will receive a number grade. These grades will not reflect the creative work since this will later be graded as part of your portfolio. Lesson Six: The Portfolio will count as two grades. Your journal will be part of your grade for Lesson Six. Your responses on the discussion board will also be graded at the end of the quarter and will be worth the same percentage as a single lesson (or one eight of your grade).

While the quality of the writing is part of your grade, items such as the journal, the discussion board, and your rewrites (in lesson six) are also significant in that they will help determine your improvement, your capacity to rewrite, and your engagement with the work. YOU MUST RECEIVE A 3.0 OR HIGHER IN 210 TO TAKE ADVANCED LEVEL CREATIVE WRITING COURSES.

GRADING SCALE

| 4.0 | A | 3.9 | B+ | 3.8 | C+ | 3.7 | A- | 3.6 | B | 3.5 | C | 3.4 | B- | 3.3 | B+ | 3.2 | C+ | 3.1 | D+ |
|-----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.4 |

CONFERENCES

I highly recommend a conference before you turn in your final portfolio. Generally we meet for half an hour to an hour and discuss all of your creative work. We can also do this over the phone if you are at a distance. If you would like to meet with me before you start on the course or at any time throughout the course, I'm happy to do that. I encourage you to meet with me at least once. The best way to reach me is through email. The second best way is to call my office.

TIME EXPECTATIONS

EWU policy for ratio of hours per week devoted to the course of study for an Independent Study course is a minimum of three hours of work per week for each credit hour. Over the span of a five credit course this would equal a minimum of 150 hours of work or roughly fifteen hours per week minimum. Keep this in mind when planning your study schedule.
EMAIL POLICIES

Expect up to 48 hours for responses to email questions. During official school holidays, I may be out of email contact completely. Please remember to sign your email with your first and last name.

PLAGIARISM

Students will receive a 0.0 for the course for any incident of academic integrity. Beyond that, I follow EWU policy regarding plagiarism found at http://www.ewu.edu/x4326.xtl

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

No person shall, on the basis of age, race religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin or disability, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of Eastern Washington University.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATEMENT

Eastern Washington University adheres to affirmative action policies to promote diversity and equal opportunity for all faculty and students.

ADA STATEMENT

Eastern Washington University is committed to providing support for students with disabilities. If you are a student with physical, learning, emotional, or psychological disabilities needing an accommodation, you are encouraged to stop by Disability Support Services (DSS), TAW 124 and speak with Kevin Hills, the Manager DSS or call 509-359-6871.

CONTACT INFORMATION

email: pbuckingham@ewu.edu or stringtown@earthlink.net
Office Phone: 509 359-6022
Office Hours: My office hours vary quarter to quarter. It is best to set up an appointment.

[Additional course information can be found in the Grading Criteria and Course Schedule documents.]