

## CREATIVE WRITING

ENG 250- Section: 001

Credit Hours: 3.00

Lab Hours: 0.00      Lecture Hours: 3.00

IAI Core:

IAI Majors:

Semester: Fall 2013

Course Begins: 8/19/2013

Course Ends: 12/4/2013

Days: Monday/Wednesday      Times: 11:30 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

Room: A342

**Instructor:** Laura Power

**E-mail** lpower@mchenry.edu

**Phone:** 815-479-7533

**Office Hours:** Monday 10 – 11:30 a.m. (room A377)

Tuesday 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. (room A377)

Wednesday 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. (room A377)

Thursday 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. (room A210)

### Required Course Materials:

- **Textbook:** *Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft*, Third Edition, by Janet Burroway, ISBN: 978-0-205-75035-1
- **Supplies:**
  - A college-level dictionary (pocket-sized is perfectly acceptable and easier to carry)
  - Notebook/Journal (this will be turned in to me at the end of the semester as part of your final grade)
  - Pocket folder (not a hanging file folder)
  - Writing instruments (pen, pencil, marker, quill, sharpened stone...)

### Course Description:

Creative Writing teaches students the skills and techniques for writing poetry, fiction, and drama. Emphasis is on self-evaluation and revision; students also submit work for in-class evaluation by fellow students.

**Course Note: This course requires advanced reading and advanced writing.**

**Course prerequisite: ENG 151 with a grade of C or higher.**

### Course Objectives:

The primary cognitive, manipulative and affective goals for students in this course include:

#### Cognitive

1. Developing a familiarity with the diverse literary genres, including but not limited to poetry, short fiction, long-fiction, drama, creative nonfiction.
2. Producing works in these genres for evaluation in a workshop setting of peers and instructor.
3. Cultivating creative and analytical skills for producing, evaluating, and revising submitted work.
4. Exploring established aesthetic theories and developing a personal aesthetic as a context for literary creativity and expression.

#### Manipulative

1. Demonstrating through written work and peer workshop critique an understanding of creative processes and generic modes.
2. Developing a knowledge of creative revision through the processes of evaluating and editing one's own work.
3. Identifying and articulating in written form the aesthetic principles at work in your writing.

Affective

1. Developing a greater appreciation for and background in personal creativity and literary expression.
2. Understanding literature within a community of writers.

**Course Outline:**

Creative topics may include but are not limited to:

- I. Poetry
- II. Short Fiction
- III. Creative nonfiction
- IV. Drama

**Assignments and Grading Criteria**

<b>Course Break Down (100%):</b>	<b>Grading Scale:</b>
<p><b>Literary Magazine Report</b>—10%</p> <p><b>Journal</b>—15%</p> <p><b>Minis</b> (4% each)—20%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Image</li> <li>▪ Prop Monologue</li> <li>▪ Character Sketch</li> <li>▪ Setting</li> <li>▪ Story Poem</li> </ul> <p><b>Four Genre Writing</b>—55%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Creative Non-Fiction (10%)</li> <li>▪ Fiction (15%)</li> <li>▪ Poetry (10%)</li> <li>▪ Drama (15%)</li> <li>▪ Author’s Choice Revision (5%)</li> </ul> <p><b>Extra Credit</b>—5%</p>	<p>(Fractioned grades are <u>not</u> automatically rounded up):</p> <p>100% – 90% = <b>A</b>            89% – 80% = <b>B</b>            79% – 70% = <b>C</b>            69% – 60% = <b>D</b>            59% – 0% = <b>F</b></p>

**Policies**

**Attendance policy:**

Your presence and participation is essential to a successful class (and to your successful completion of the course). That said, I will not play “attendance cop” and you will not be graded formally on attendance; however you cannot make up work missed due to absence **and I do not accept late work**. Ultimately, you are responsible for your attendance and your participation in this class, and you are responsible for contacting your classmates and contacting me, via e-mail, phone, or during my office hours (not class time) if you have questions about any class work that you have missed due to absence.

**Late work/make-up policy:**

Manuscripts will only be counted for credit/graded if they are turned in to me, in class, on the date they are due. I **do not** accept manuscripts for credit sent via e-mail or via Canvas, even if you’re absent from class (and if you

send one to me, I will not print it out). Class absence is not an excuse for late manuscripts. Because this course is Canvas-enhanced, you will have access to all class assignments even if you're unable to attend a class meeting. You are responsible for checking Canvas and communicating with your classmates and with me to find out what you have missed.

**Academic Integrity (i.e. Plagiarism [Don't do it.]):**

Plagiarism occurs when you use another author's ideas and words without properly giving credit to (citing) the source of the information. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class, and it violates the MCC Student Code of Conduct. A claim of "accidental" plagiarism is not an excuse. Students caught plagiarizing any part of their work will receive an automatic failing grade for the paper in question, and the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students for further academic consideration. Students caught plagiarizing more than one time will receive an automatic grade of "F" for the course (FYI: this "F" stays on your transcript, even if you re-take this course).

**Material:**

During this course, you will be reading work containing graphic language and sensitive content about subjects such as racial relations, gender, sex, violence, and religion. If you think this will be offensive to you and are uncertain whether you will be able to discuss these things academically and responsibly, please withdraw from the class. You will not be excused from reading any assigned material.

**Mutual Respect:**

The nature of this class demands that students put forth their writing for open discussion on a weekly basis. The goal of this process is to develop each writer's craft, their self-critical eye and editorial sense, and their practice of revision. Thus, students will treat the opinions and ideas of others in class with respect. Disrespectful behavior of any kind (including cell phone use) will not be tolerated, and students exhibiting disrespectful behavior may be asked to leave class. Consistent disrespectful behavior may result in a conduct report to the Dean of Students and administrative withdrawal from the class.

**Extra Credit:**

November is National Novel Writing Month, and any student in this class who completes a novel during November—and uses the NaNoWriMo website to officially track the writing progress—is eligible for 5% of extra credit added to their final grade. Students who participate **must** register at <http://nanowrimo.org/en>, **must** add LP as a "Writing Buddy," **must** share progress with LP at least once each week during November as well as at the end of the month when the novel is complete, and **must** complete the NaNoWriMo requirements for the novel. **Please note** that participating in this fun but totally stressful experience does not exempt you from completing classwork.

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### Weekly Course Schedule

*The following is a schedule of class activities, assignments, and readings for the semester. It is subject to change.*

Week One	
August 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Class Introductions and Syllabus Overview</li> <li>▪ Reading: Chapter 1, Burroway</li> </ul>
August 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Image</li> <li>▪ Mini Introduction: Image</li> <li>▪ Overview: Literary Magazine Report (due Week 15) and Journal (due Week 16)</li> <li>▪ Reading: Chapters 2 and 3, Burroway</li> </ul>
Week Two	
August 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mini Workshop &amp; <b>Submission</b>: Image</li> <li>▪ Voice</li> <li>▪ Mini Introduction: Prop Monologue</li> <li>▪ Reading: Chapter 4, Burroway</li> </ul>
August 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mini Workshop &amp; <b>Submission</b>: Prop Monologue</li> <li>▪ Character</li> <li>▪ Mini Introduction: Character Sketch</li> <li>▪ Reading: Chapter 5, Burroway</li> </ul>
Week Three—LABOR DAY: NO CLASS ON MONDAY	
September 2	<i>Campus closed for Labor Day holiday</i>
September 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mini Workshop &amp; <b>Submission</b>: Character Sketch</li> <li>▪ Setting</li> <li>▪ Mini Introduction: Setting</li> </ul>
Week Four	
September 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mini Workshop &amp; <b>Submission</b>: Setting</li> <li>▪ Story</li> <li>▪ Mini Introduction: Story Poem</li> <li>▪ Reading: Chapters 6 and 7, Burroway</li> </ul>
September 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mini Workshop &amp; <b>Submission</b>: Story Poem</li> <li>▪ Introduction to Creative Non-Fiction</li> <li>▪ Four Genre Writing Assignment: Creative Non-Fiction (due start of class September 23)</li> <li>▪ Reading: Chapter 8, Burroway</li> <li>▪ Literary Magazine Report Check-In</li> </ul>

Week Five	
September 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Text Workshop: Chapter 8</li> <li>▪ Creative Non-Fiction, continued</li> </ul>
September 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Creative Non-Fiction, continued</li> <li>▪ Preparing your CNF final draft</li> <li>▪ Write-in</li> </ul>

Week Six—BANNED BOOKS WEEK! CELEBRATE YOUR FREEDOM TO READ!	
September 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Four Genre Creative Non-Fiction Assignment <b>due</b> (Group 1 copies submitted)</li> <li>▪ Introduction to Fiction</li> <li>▪ Four Genre Writing Assignment: Fiction (due start of class October 14)</li> <li>▪ Reading: Chapter 9, Burroway</li> </ul>
September 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Workshop Creative Non-Fiction Assignment (Group 1)</li> <li>▪ Fiction, continued</li> </ul>

Week Seven	
September 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fiction, continued</li> <li>▪ Text Workshop: Chapter 9</li> </ul>
October 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fiction, continued</li> <li>▪ Review of Fiction drafts</li> </ul>

Week Eight	
October 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Literary Magazine Report Check-In</li> <li>▪ Text Workshop: Chapter 9</li> <li>▪ Write-in</li> <li>▪ Reading: Chapter 10, Burroway</li> </ul>
October 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preparing your Fiction final draft</li> <li>▪ Introduction to Poetry</li> </ul>

Week Nine	
October 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Four Genre Fiction Assignment <b>due</b> (Group 2 copies submitted)</li> <li>▪ Four Genre Writing Assignment: Poetry (due start of class October 23)</li> <li>▪ Write-in</li> </ul>
October 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Workshop Fiction Assignment (Group 2)</li> <li>▪ Poetry, continued</li> </ul>

Week Ten	
October 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poetry, continued</li> <li>▪ In-class drafting and review</li> <li>▪ Preparing your Poetry final draft</li> </ul>
October 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Four Genre Poetry Assignment <b>due</b> (Group 3 copies submitted)</li> <li>▪ Introduction to Drama</li> </ul>

<b>Week Eleven—GET READY FOR NaNoWriMo!</b>	
<b>October 28</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Workshop Poetry Assignment (Group 3)</li> <li>▪ Reading: Chapter 11, Burroway</li> </ul>
<b>October 30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drama, continued</li> <li>▪ Four Genre Writing Assignment: Drama (due start of class November 18)</li> </ul>

<b>Week Twelve</b>	
<b>November 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drama, continued</li> <li>▪ Text Workshop: Chapter 11</li> <li>▪ Write-in</li> </ul>
<b>November 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drama, continued</li> <li>▪ Text Workshop: Chapter 11</li> <li>▪ Write-in</li> </ul>

<b>Week Thirteen—NOVEMBER 13 IS THE LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM THIS CLASS</b>	
<b>November 11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Viewing Drama</li> <li>▪ In-class drafting and review</li> </ul>
<b>November 13</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preparing your Drama final draft</li> <li>▪ Literary Magazine Report Check-In</li> </ul>

<b>Week Fourteen</b>	
<b>November 18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Four Genre Drama assignment <b>due</b> (Group 4 copies submitted)</li> <li>▪ Write-in</li> </ul>
<b>November 20</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Workshop Drama Assignment (Group 4)</li> <li>▪ Author's Choice Revision Assignment (due start of class December 2)</li> <li>▪ Reviewing for Revision</li> </ul>

<b>Week Fifteen—THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS ON WEDNESDAY</b>	
<b>November 25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Literary Magazine Reports <b>due</b></li> <li>▪ LMR Presentations: first half</li> <li>▪ Reviewing for Revision</li> </ul>
<b>November 27</b>	<i>Campus closed for Thanksgiving break</i>

<b>Week Sixteen—Last Week of Classes</b>	
<b>December 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Author's Choice Revision <b>due</b></li> <li>▪ LMR Presentations: second half</li> <li>▪ Write-in</li> </ul>
<b>December 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Journal <b>due</b></li> <li>▪ Our favorite books</li> <li>▪ Class Photo ☺</li> </ul>

**Please Note: Canvas will be updated with your final grade by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 13.**

**Withdrawals:** The last day to drop this course is **November 13, 2013**. Failure to attend class does not constitute official withdrawal. If students are considering a withdrawal, they should consult directly with the instructor and an academic advisor. Students may withdraw from a class through the Registration Office, either in person or by fax: (815) 455-3766. In their request, students should include their name, student ID number, course prefix, number and section, course title, instructor, reason for withdrawing, and their signature. Withdrawal from a course will not be accepted over the telephone.

Please refer to the following link for other important college dates: [www.mchenry.edu/academiccalendar.asp](http://www.mchenry.edu/academiccalendar.asp)

**General Education Goals:**

1. Critical Thinking: To identify, define, analyze, synthesize, interpret, and evaluate ideas.
2. Information Literacy: To locate, evaluate, and use resources effectively.
3. Effective Communication: To develop, articulate, and convey meaning.
4. Ethical Awareness: To identify and make responsible choices in a diverse world.
5. Technological Literacy: To use tools skillfully.

**Assessment:**

Some student work may be collected for the purpose of assessment, including student competency in the general education goals, the program, or the course.

**Effective Fall 2014: Student E-Portfolio:**

The instructor of the course will designate at least one graded assignment for possible inclusion in the student E-portfolio. Students applying for an AA, AS, AFA, AES, or AGE degree must document their learning outcomes with a graded assignment for each of the five general education goals by the time of graduation. These five assignments and a cover letter will be in the student E-portfolio in Canvas.

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**Special Needs Statement**

McHenry County College offers support services for students with special needs. It is your responsibility to meet with the Special Needs Coordinator and provide current documentation regarding a disability. Please call or stop by the Special Needs Department, (815) 455-8676, Room A260, as soon as possible if you would like more information about the accommodations that are available. In addition, it is important for you to discuss those accommodations with your instructor so you are fully able to participate in this course.

**Academic Integrity**

As an educational community, McHenry County College values the pursuit of academic excellence and integrity. In accordance with this philosophy and Chapter 10, Act 5 of the 1994 Illinois Community College Act, academic dishonesty in any form, including cheating, plagiarism, and all other acts of academic theft, is considered intolerable. Appropriate sanctions, up to and including suspension from the College will be imposed by authorized College personnel.

**Copyright Policy**

MCC will maintain current procedures and guidelines to ensure that all staff and students comply with applicable copyright laws and other intellectual property protection laws. The College will encourage staff and students to engage in the development of intellectual property and facilitate ownership protections with respect to such development of intellectual property.



The College expects that staff and students will act responsibly and ethically in a manner consistent with all copyright laws and College copyright procedures and guidelines. This policy authorizes the College to adopt and maintain such procedures and guidelines necessary to ensure compliance with copyright laws and to facilitate ownership protection with respect to the development of intellectual property.

### **Student Code of Conduct and the Judicial Process**

Consistent with the MCC mission is an expectation that students will govern themselves in terms of appropriate behavior with emphasis on self-respect and respect for others. It is the practice of the College to respect the properly exercised rights of its students. The College recognizes a student's rights within the institution to freedom of speech, inquiry and assembly; to the peaceful pursuit of education; and to the reasonable use of services and facilities at MCC.

MCC has adopted a Student Code of Conduct and judicial process to maintain a learning environment of respect, civility, safety, and integrity for all members of the MCC community.

Whenever possible, sanctions for violations of the Student Code of Conduct may be educational in nature. However, violations affecting the health and safety of members of the MCC community are deemed to be the most serious. Therefore, acts of violence, threats or dangerous behavior are most likely to result in a suspension from the College. Violations of the academic dishonesty policy may also result in suspension or expulsion from the institution and/or reduced or failing grade.

### **Children on Campus**

For the safety of children on campus, children (i.e., less than 16 years of age) are not permitted on campus unattended by a parent/guardian, except when they are attending classes offered by MCC for children. The College requires that no children be allowed into a classroom/laboratory environment, including the Testing Center, Learning Center and computer labs, solely for the purpose of a parent/guardian to provide direct supervision of his/her child.

### **Teaching Schedule**

The scheduling of the activities and teaching strategies on this syllabus, but not the objectives or content, may be altered at any time at the discretion of the instructor.

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### **Resources**

The following are useful resources available to you as a student at McHenry County College:

**Advising and Transfer Center:**  
**Phone (815) 479-7565; Office A257**  
[www.mchenry.edu/atc](http://www.mchenry.edu/atc)

**Counseling:**  
**Phone (815) 455-8765; Office A257**  
[www.mchenry.edu/counseling](http://www.mchenry.edu/counseling)

**Financial Aid:**  
**Phone (815) 455-8761; Office A262**  
[www.mchenry.edu/financialaid](http://www.mchenry.edu/financialaid)

**Library:**  
**Phone (815) 455-8533; Office A212**  
[www.mchenry.edu/library](http://www.mchenry.edu/library)

**Special Needs:**  
**Phone (815) 455-8676; Office A260**  
[www.mchenry.edu/specialneeds](http://www.mchenry.edu/specialneeds)

**Tutoring and Study Skills (Sage Learning Center):**  
**Phone (815) 455-8579; Office A247**  
[www.mchenry.edu/sage](http://www.mchenry.edu/sage)