

CREATIVE WRITING
ENG 250 Section: 001

Credit Hours: 3.00

Lab Hours: 0.00

Lecture Hours: 3.00

IAI Core: **IAI Majors:**

Semester: Spring 2019

Course Begins: 1/23/2019

Course Ends: 5/15/2019

Days: Monday/Wednesday

Times: 1 – 2:20 p.m.

Room: A342

Instructor: Laura Power
E-mail: LPOWER@MCHENRY.EDU (use Canvas message for all questions related to your grade and class performance)
Phone: 815-479-7533
Office: C120
Student Conference Hours: By Appointment (I'm always available following class; and I'm on campus M – F 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. for additional appointments)

Required Course Materials:

Textbook:

Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft, Fourth Edition, by Janet Burroway (ISBN: 978-0-13-405324-0)

Supplies:

- Notebook/Journal (this will be turned in to me at the end of the semester)
- Pocket folder (not a hanging file folder)
- Writing instruments (pen, pencil, marker, quill, sharpened stone...)
- Access to a college-level dictionary

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:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Develop a familiarity with the diverse literary genres, including but not limited to poetry, short fiction, long-fiction, drama, and creative nonfiction.
2. Develop and refine skills in producing, editing, and revising original works within the various genres.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of different literary genres, styles, voices, and approaches.
4. Demonstrate an ability to read and respond thoughtfully and critically in both oral and written form to other students' work.
5. Understand 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

Minis:

Mini assignments will be opportunities for you to “play” with the elements of creative writing—imagery, voice, character, setting, and story—and the prompts will often be taken from the “Try This” exercises in our textbook. Mini assignments will ask you to write both poetry as well as prose, and they will be short, typically 1 – 2 pages.

Bigs and Author’s Choice Revision:

Big assignments will be opportunities for you to play with the literary genres of creative writing—fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, and drama—and you will have freedom to choose what you write about (there are a handful of restrictions that we will discuss in class) and how you approach each literary genre. Part of the required minimum specifications for each of the Big assignments will be to provide feedback to the assignment’s workshop group.

The **Author’s Choice Revision** assignment is your opportunity to take one of the **Big** assignments—whichever you choose—and revise it after receiving feedback from your peers and your instructor. You will submit your first draft as well as your revised draft for this assignment.

Reading Series:

The Reading Series project is meant for students of this class to showcase their work in an environment uncommon for unpublished undergraduate students: a public reading. For this project, students will work in large and small groups to organize, plan, and promote the three reading series events as well as read their own original work from this class at one of the three events. All reading series events—**Wednesdays April 10, 17, and 24, from 4:30 – 6 p.m.**—have required attendance for all students.

Journal:

The journal is your semester-long writer’s recordings. You should journal ideas for stories, plays, and poems; overheard conversations; observations of people, places, and things; outlines for projects; beginnings, middles, and/or ends of new work; lists of every kind; and anything else you can imagine to include. You should use your journal as a catch-all for projects you’re working on outside of class as well as projects you’re working on for this class. You’re free to use the same notebook for notes and for journaling; however, you must produce 3 – 4 journal pages of writing per week that are independent from your class notes and class assignments. Your total journal writing should be 48 – 64 pages in length when you submit your journal at the end of the semester. (One page is a single side of a notebook measuring approximately 7.5 x 10”; if you are using a notebook smaller than this, adjust accordingly.)

GRADING

Grading for this course uses a system called **specifications grading** or **specs grading**. Under this system, you do your best work and your grades reflect the groups of tasks that you complete satisfactorily (i.e. meet **minimum required specifications**). This allows you the choice to work toward whatever grade you'd like. Each assignment gets an assessment of either "Ready" or "Not Yet," and students can revise assignments with a "Not Yet" assessment **one time per assignment**.

To Pass the Class You Must:

- Submit minimum specification drafts of the Creative Non-Fiction, Fiction, Poetry, Drama, **and** Author's Choice Revision assignments
- **and** participate in the Reading Series to minimum specifications

To Earn a C in the Class You Must:

- Submit minimum specification drafts of the Creative Non-Fiction, Fiction, Poetry, Drama, **and** Author's Choice Revision assignments
- **and** submit your Journal to minimum specifications
- **and** participate in the Reading Series to minimum specifications
- **and** complete two of the five Mini assignments to minimum specifications

To Earn a B in the Class You Must:

- Submit minimum specification drafts of the Creative Non-Fiction, Fiction, Poetry, Drama, **and** Author's Choice Revision assignments
- **and** submit your Journal to minimum specifications
- **and** participate in the Reading Series to minimum specifications
- **and** complete four of the five Mini assignments to minimum specifications

To Earn an A in the Class You Must:

- Submit minimum specification drafts of the Creative Non-Fiction, Fiction, Poetry, Drama, **and** Author's Choice Revision assignments
- **and** submit your Journal to minimum specifications
- **and** participate in the Reading Series to minimum specifications
- **and** complete five of the five Mini assignments to minimum specifications

Everyone will get **one Typewriter Token** that can be used to submit an assignment late (up to one week/seven calendar days) **and a second Typewriter Token** that can also be used to submit an assignment late (up to one week/seven calendar days), **or** it can be used to **either** replace a single Mini assignment, **or** to get a "Ready" on a single Mini assignment.

Weekly Course Schedule:

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

Week One	
January 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Class Introductions and Syllabus Overview ▪ Image & Mini Introduction: Image Mini ▪ Reading for next class: Chapters 1, 2 and 3, Burroway
Week Two	
January 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview: Reading Series and Journal, and misc. syllabus questions ▪ DUE: Image Mini ▪ Mini Workshop ▪ Voice & Mini Introduction: Prop Monologue ▪ Reading for next class: Chapter 4, Burroway
January 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DUE: Prop Monologue ▪ Mini Workshop ▪ Character & Mini Introduction: Character Sketch ▪ Reading for next class: Chapter 5, Burroway
Week Three	
February 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DUE: Character Sketch ▪ Mini Workshop ▪ Setting & Mini Introduction: Setting Mini
February 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DUE: Setting Mini ▪ Mini Workshop ▪ Story & Mini Introduction: Story Poem ▪ Reading for next class: Chapters 6 and 7, Burroway
Week Four	
February 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DUE: Story Poem Mini ▪ Mini Workshop ▪ Introduction to Creative Non-Fiction ▪ Big Assignment: Creative Non-Fiction (due start of class February 20) ▪ Reading for next class: Chapter 8, Burroway
February 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Text Workshop: Chapter 8 ▪ Creative Non-Fiction, continued
Week Five	
February 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creative Non-Fiction, continued ▪ Preparing your CNF final draft ▪ Reading Series planning

February 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DUE: Big Creative Non-Fiction Assignment (Group 1 copies submitted) ▪ Introduction to Fiction ▪ Big Assignment: Fiction (due start of class March 13) ▪ Reading for next class: Chapter 9, Burroway
Week Six	
February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshop Big Creative Non-Fiction Assignment (Group 1) ▪ Fiction, continued
February 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fiction, continued ▪ Text Workshop: Chapter 9
Week Seven	
March 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fiction, continued ▪ Review of Fiction drafts
March 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Text Workshop: Chapter 9 ▪ Reading Series planning ▪ Reading for next class: Chapter 10, Burroway
Week Eight	
March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparing your Fiction final draft ▪ Introduction to Poetry
March 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DUE: Big Fiction Assignment (Group 2 copies submitted) ▪ Big Assignment: Poetry (due start of class April 1) ▪ Reading Series planning
Week Nine	
March 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshop Big Fiction Assignment (Group 2) ▪ Poetry, continued
March 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poetry, continued ▪ Preparing your Poetry final draft
Spring Break—No Classes!	
March 25 & March 27	
<i>Finish your Poetry Assignment, turn on your inner camera, and journal until your fingers go numb!</i>	
Week Ten	
April 1 <i>April Fool's Day!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DUE: Big Poetry Assignment (Group 3 copies submitted) ▪ Reading Series planning ▪ Introduction to Drama
April 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshop Big Poetry Assignment (Group 3) ▪ Reading for next class: Chapter 11, Burroway

Week Eleven	
April 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Big Writing Assignment: Drama (due start of class April 22) ▪ Drama, continued
April 10 <i>*First Reading Series Event!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drama, continued ▪ Text Workshop: Chapter 11 ▪ Reading Series planning
Week Twelve—APRIL 18 IS THE LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM THIS CLASS	
April 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drama, continued ▪ Text Workshop: Chapter 11 ▪ Reading Series debrief and planning
April 17 <i>*Second Reading Series Event!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Viewing Drama ▪ Rough draft workshop ▪ Preparing your final Drama draft
Week Thirteen	
April 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DUE: Big Drama assignment (Group 4 copies submitted) ▪ Reading Series planning
April 24 <i>*Final Reading Series Event!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshop Big Drama Assignment (Group 4) ▪ Author's Choice Revision Assignment (due start of class May 13)
Week Fourteen	
April 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshop Big Drama Assignment (Group 4), continued ▪ Reviewing for Revision
May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reviewing for Revision, continued ▪ Submitting Work: Reading & Understanding Guidelines and Writing Cover Letters
Week Fifteen	
May 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Course Evaluations ▪ Peer consultation of Author's Choice drafts ▪ Write-in
May 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DUE: Journal ▪ Literary Magazines ▪ Class Photo ☺
Week Sixteen	
May 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Journal Returns ▪ DUE: Author's Choice Revision ▪ Write-in

Please Note: Canvas will be updated with your final grade by 12 p.m. on Monday, May 20.

ENGLISH 250 POLICIES

Attendance and Late Work Policy:

Your presence and participation is essential to a successful class (and to your successful completion of the course). You will not be graded formally on attendance; however, you cannot turn in an assignment unless you're in class, 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 Canvas, email, phone, or during an appointment (not class time) if you have questions about any class work that you have missed due to absence. Because this course is Canvas-enhanced, you will have access to all class assignments even if you're unable to attend a class meeting.

Manuscripts will be counted for credit/graded **only if** they are turned in **to me, by you, in class, on the date they are due**. I do not accept manuscripts for credit sent via Canvas or email, even if you're absent from class (and if you send one to me, I will neither open it nor will I print it out).

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

Plagiarism occurs when you use another writer's ideas and/or words without properly citing/giving credit to 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 assignment in question, and the incident will be reported to the manager of student conduct for further academic consideration. Students caught plagiarizing more than one time will receive an automatic grade of "F" for the course.

Material:

During this course, you will be reading work containing graphic language and sensitive content about subjects such as race-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, self-critical eye and editorial sense, and practice of revision. Thus, students will treat the opinions and ideas of others in class with respect. Disrespectful behavior of any kind 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 manager of student conduct and administrative withdrawal from the class.

Canvas Expectation:

This class is Canvas-enhanced and I expect that you check our Canvas course shell at least once per week. We will also use Canvas to provide workshop feedback (in discussion posts), and to communicate with each other about the Reading Series planning and events.

ADDITIONAL MCC INFORMATION

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.

Withdrawals:

The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 18, 2019**. 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 either online or through the Registration Office (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.

Students with Disabilities:

It is the policy and practice of McHenry County College to create inclusive learning environments. If you are a student with a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act – Amended (ADAA) and require accommodations, please contact the Access and Disability Services office for information on appropriate policies and procedures for receiving accommodations and support. Disabilities covered by ADAA may include learning, psychiatric, and physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students should contact the Access and Disability Services office if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. To receive accommodations, students must make a formal request and must supply documentation from a qualified professional to support that request. However, you do not need to have your documentation in hand for our first meeting. Students who believe they qualify must contact the Access and Disability Services office to begin the accommodation process. All discussions remain confidential. The Access and Disability Services office is located in Room A260 in A Building in the Atrium. To schedule an appointment to speak with the manager, please call (815) 455-8766. Information about disabilities services at MCC can be found at: www.mchenry.edu/access

Additional syllabus information and resources can be found at www.mchenry.edu/syllabusinfo.

Students are responsible for knowing all syllabus information.