Creative Writing 1 is aimed at encouraging students to develop their creative and critical potentials. This course consists of readings, discussions, writing assignments, and writing workshops.

Class Text: Stephen Minot's *Three Genres: The Writing of Poetry, Fiction, and Drama.* (Copies of this text will be on reserve at the Dana Porter library.) In addition to the Stephen Minot writing text, you will be responsible for providing copies of your poem or short story to the workshop group. Workshop material will be distributed one week prior to the workshop date. Be sure to set aside $30.00 for photocopying costs incurred during the term. I encourage you to make frequent trips to the current periodical section in the library and to attend the public readings at St. Jerome’s in order to familiarize yourself with the contemporary literary scene.

Attendance: Much of this course is conducted as a workshop in which the writing of each class member is discussed on a regular basis. Regular attendance is mandatory as class participation, willingness to thoughtfully revise your work, and not raw talent alone, will form the basis for much of the final grade. Any absence without good cause will affect your final grade.

Late Assignments: No late assignments will be accepted without a medical certificate or proper documentation. If you do have to hand in a late assignment be sure to staple the proper documentation to the assignment. Late assignments will be returned at the end of the course.

Grades/Assignments:

Attendance, In-class participation, Reading assignments, Constructive workshop participation, ungraded writing assignments ..............................................20%

Workshop Drafts: Your workshop draft must be typed and carefully edited for spelling, grammar, etc. It must be thoughtfully written in the days immediately preceding the due date (please do not hand in undeveloped “journal poems,” or work written for other courses).

POETRY

Poem #1 - due September 22 (27 copies--1 copy per class member, 2 for instructor)
- at least 14 lines and at least 140 words in length.............................................00
Please note that you will be required to write another poem if you do not fulfill the length requirements.

Poem #2 - due October 6 (10 copies--1 copy per group member, 1 for instructor)
- at least 14 lines and at least 120 words in length.............................................00
Please note that you will be required to write another poem if you do not fulfill the length requirements.

Revised Poem - due October 20 (1 copy)
Your revised poem (#1 or #2) will be thoroughly edited and revised. In addition to the revision you must include a 750 word explanation of your revision process. Please refer to the elements of poetry covered in class and the text.................................30
FICTION

Flash Fiction - due October 27 (27 copies: one per class member, 2 for instructor)
- approx. 1000 - 1500 words in length

Flash Fiction #2 - due November 10 (10 copies: one per group member, 1 for instructor)
- approx. 1000-1500 words in length

Revised Flash Fiction - due November 24
Your revised flash fiction (#1 or #2) must be thoroughly revised and edited. In addition to the revised fiction, you must include a 750 word explanation of the revision process. Please refer to the elements of narration covered in class and the text.

DRAMA/PERFORMANCE

Collaborative Performance — December 01

Class Schedule:

September 15: Introduction // Reading Assignment: Part One, Poetry (1 - 134)

September 22: Poem #1 due — 27 copies // Film: United States of Poetry

September 29: Poetry Workshop (class)

October 6: Poetry Workshop (class) // Poem #2 due - 10 copies

October 13: Poetry Workshop (groups) // Reading Assignment: Part 2, Fiction (139-274)

October 20: Fiction Lecture // Revised Poem due

October 27: Flash Fiction #1 Due (27 copies) // Collaborative Group Work

November 3: Fiction Workshop (class)

November 10: Fiction Workshop (class) // Flash Fiction #2 due (10 copies)

November 17: Fiction Workshop (groups)

November 24: Fiction revision due; collaborative work

December 1: Collaborative Performance; Material Returned

Collaborative Performance/Text: 20%
October 27, December 1

Part I

For this assignment you will form groups: three or four people per group. On December 1, you will hand in a printed script and do a collaborative performance of approx. 10 - 15 minutes in length. The subject matter and form of the performance is wide open, anything from a conventional one-act play to sound poetry (and anything in-between) is acceptable. Be sure to consider the distinction between language on the page and language performed. You will be graded on your use of language, your collaborative process, the originality, complexity, and rendering of the script, and the form and cohesiveness of the (dramatic) structure. This assignment is about exploring language, but it can also be about pushing the parameters of genre. I encourage you to be innovative.

Please note that if you incorporate other texts, they must be properly cited in the script. Outside texts should comprise less than 20% of your text.

Part II

Following each performance there will be a brief discussion--its purpose is to give the performance group audience feedback. This discussion will begin with the group briefly explaining the creative process/intention and the final result. The group will then facilitate a discussion by asking questions regarding their performance; for instance, questions might be related to how effective the translation of the text into performance was, pacing, sound, props, meaning, etc. One way to consider this aspect of the performance class is to understand it in terms of the workshop space.

Part III

You will evaluate each person’s involvement in the collaborative process and assign a grade. If all went smoothly you can just submit one grade for the entire group. This will be handed in with the script. I will consider these comments/grades when determining the individual collaborative performance grades.
Department of English Language & Literature
Contacts and Resources

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THE FACULTY OF ARTS REQUIRES THAT WE NOTIFY YOU OF THE FOLLOWING:

"Note on avoidance of academic offenses: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoucal/UW/policy_71.html). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean."

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