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 - January 10 (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 January 24 (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 February 7 (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 February 14 (27 copies: one per class member, 2 for instructor)
- approx. 1000 - 1250 words in length

Flash Fiction #2 - due March 7 (10 copies: one per group member, 1 for instructor)
- approx. 1000-1250 words in length

Revised Flash Fiction - due March 21
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 — March 21

Class Schedule:

January 3: Introduction // Reading Assignment: Part One, Poetry (1 - 134)

January 10: Poem #1 due — 27 copies // Film: United States of Poetry

January 17: Poetry Workshop (class)

January 24: Poetry Workshop (class) // Poem #2 due - 10 copies

January 31: Poetry Workshop (groups) // Reading Assignment: Part 2, Fiction (139-274)

February 7: Fiction Lecture // Revised Poem due

February 14: Flash Fiction #1 Due (27 copies) // Collaborative Group Work

February 21: Reading Week

February 28: Fiction Workshop (class)

March 7: Fiction Workshop (class) // Flash Fiction #2 due (10 copies)

March 14: Fiction Workshop (groups)

March 21: Collaborative Performance; Fiction revision due

March 28: Material Returned
English 335 / February 14, March 21
Collaborative Performance/Text: 20%

Part I

For this assignment you will form groups: three or four people per group. On March 21, 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 by the group giving a brief statement 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

Please note also that 50% of your mark will be determined by a group mark which I assign, and that the other 50% is based on an individual grade determined by the individual members of your group. You will evaluate each person’s involvement in the collaborative process and assign a grade. This will be handed in with the script.