ENGLISH 335

— Creative Writing I —

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The class time will be occupied with readings by the student writers and then with criticisms by all those present. All will write a short criticism of the performance but four of these will be more considered and will be graded. The actual reading will not be graded. The piece presented in class does not have to appear in the portfolio. Because of the limits of time when reading fiction or dramatic pieces, each student will provide a plot and characterizations and read only a selection.

At the end of the course, each participant will submit a portfolio in a file folder which will contain the following items which will be due at the meeting indicated for check-off.

5th meeting (16 May) 1) a metered, rime poem of about 20 lines, with some substitutions of feet (not entirely regular)

7th meeting (25 May) 2) a free verse poem of about 20 lines with some kind of rhymic scheme; use of sound devices other than rime, tension (Ch. 8), unity (Ch. 9)

10th meeting (6 June) 3) a poem of about 20 lines (metered or not) with a brief analysis by you of techniques employed

12th meeting (13 June) 4) a short story of 1000-2000 words

16th meeting (27 June) 5) 2nd short story of at least 1000 words

24th meeting (27 July) 6) one-act play of at least 13 minutes playing time with full stage directions

This portfolio will be the major mark in the course.

Attendance is required. Absence will drop your mark. Failure to perform on the day assigned will result in an F for that assignment.

Readings in Minot’s Three Genres should be finished at these times:
- Ch. 1 & 2 2nd meeting - 4 May
- Ch. 3 & 4 3rd meeting - 9 May
- Ch. 5 - 7 4th meeting - 11 May
- Ch. 8 - 10 5th meeting - 12 May
- Ch. 11 coordinated with previous chapters as indicated in Minot’s discussion
- Ch. 12 - 15 9th meeting - 1 June
- Ch. 16 - 19 10th meeting - 6 June
- Ch. 20 - 25 11th meeting - 8 June
- Ch. 26 - 28 17th meeting - 29 June
- Ch. 29 - 32 18th meeting - 18 July
- Ch. 33 - 36 19th meeting - 20 July

Grades will be assigned using the following:
- Portfolio → 80%; Criticisms → 20%; Deductions for absence and late work.

Performances will be assigned in class. Make sure that you are not omitted accidently!

I recommend to you that you keep a pocket (or purse) notebook in which to scribble ideas and wordings. A collection of undigested morsels. An 8½ x 11 blank page can be intimidating. Your sketch book is open and free, and can be mined later at your leisure.