Creative Writing II is aimed at encouraging students to develop their creative and critical potentials. Throughout the term students will work on a cohesive body of creative work. The course consists of class discussion, research presentations, and writing workshops.

Attendance

Much of this course is conducted as a writing workshop. The writing of each class member will be discussed on a regular basis. Regular attendance is mandatory as class participation, willingness to thoughtfully revise submitted work, and not raw talent alone, will form the basis for much of the final grade. If you do miss a class you are responsible for picking up the work to be discussed in the next workshop.

Class Text

Although there is no official class text for English 336, you will be responsible for providing copies of your poem or short story to the workshop group and to the instructor.

You are encouraged to make frequent visits to the current periodicals section in the libraries on and off campus, and to the magazine section in some of the local bookstores (Wordsworth Books on King St. and KW Books on King St.) in order to familiarize yourself with the contemporary literary scene. You will be required to purchase one current issue of a literary magazine/periodical for your research presentation.

Be sure to set aside $50.00 for costs incurred during the term.

ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance, Participation, & Writing submissions

Class attendance and participation involves attending class, reading the weekly workshop submissions, and providing thoughtful comments during the workshop process. Participation also involves attending readings on campus--be sure to attend at least one of the readings in the St. Jerome’s reading series. (Because it is the spring/summer term there will be fewer readings on campus) If you miss a class and do not pick up and read the material to be workshopped in the next class, you will have, in effect, missed two of the workshops.

Writing Submissions:

During the first half of the term each student will be expected to submit work at least every second week. During the second half of the term when students are in smaller workshop groups, there will be the opportunity to submit work every week. The work submitted must be written during this term. Do not hand in chapters from a novel already in progress, for example. I strongly discourage the writing of genre fiction — science fiction, fantasy, romance, etc — and I strongly discourage rhyming for the sake of rhyme.

Please note that we have a course mail box in HH 229 where workshop material can be left for pick-up.
Research Presentation

Each class member will research current literary periodicals/magazines (but please, no trade magazines) in the library and local bookstores to discover a magazine that best exemplifies his/her own work. For instance, if the student is writing in the style of black mountain or language poetry s/he might eventually come across the magazine, West Coast Line or Rampike.

The presentation, no more than 10 minutes in length, might include information related to the magazine’s history, the editorial slant or mandate, the type of funding it receives, the layout, the genres, examples of work published, etc. The difference between an A - B presentation and a B - C presentation is the difference between reporting facts vs either interpreting or analyzing information. Resist bombarding the class with numerous facts--these are better on a handout.

**The presentation must also include why the chosen magazine is a suitable venue for your writing.

In order to do this research you will need to read previous issues. You might also find information on the internet, by way of the telephone or, if the magazine has been influential, in scholarly books that have written about the magazine.

Due Date/Class Presentation: June 6, 13, 20, 27, July 4, 11. Rough notes for the presentation to be handed in.

Final Project

While demonstrating ongoing productivity, students will work toward assembling a collection of their best work from the term to be submitted at the end of the course. This collection, which should demonstrate the skills developed and polished over the course of the term, will be assigned a grade. Submissions throughout the term will be considered as work in progress, and will receive oral feedback from fellow students and the instructor designed to assist in the revision process. How successfully a student makes use of that feedback will be reflected in my evaluation of the final project.

Approximate lengths of projects: 10 -12 poems (12 - 16 pp)
5 - 6 flash fictions (15 - 24 pp)
4 - 5 short stories (40 + pp)
6 poems, 2 short stories (30 - 35 pp)

Innovative writing that crosses genres, or incorporates other art forms is encouraged. If you would like to work on writing that is outside of the conventional, please meet with me early in the term to create specific parameters and guidelines. In the past, the students and the instructor have found the inclusion of a short paper that attempts to theorize the process of the project to be helpful.

Due Date: July 18 (Wed) or July 23 (Mon). No extensions granted or late portfolios accepted without proper medical certificates.

Optional Student Consultations

Individual conferences with the instructor may be scheduled to measure progress and clarify the direction of your final project. These conferences will be set up in mid June.
Performance:
On the evening of July 18 we will move out of the classroom and into another space for a “public reading” of work written during the term. You might read two or three poems or a scene from a short story (5-7 minutes is about right with 25 readers).

The term at a glance

May 2 — Introduction; Film: Poetry in Motion

May 9, 16, 23, 30 — Class Workshop

June 6, 13, 20 — Research Presentations Begin; New (smaller) Workshop Groups

June 27, July 4, 11 — New Workshop Groups; Research Presentations continue

July 18 — Class Reading

July 18 / 23 — Portfolio Due

Resources:

English Reading Room – HH 232, open 8:30 to 4:30 Monday to Friday
- Reference texts, student work term reports, and other resources available for in-room consultation.

English Society Office – PAS 1087, ext. 2339
- Come out and get involved with your English student society.

English Mail Room – HH 229 open 8:30 to 4:30 Monday to Friday
- Faculty mail boxes and course boxes are located here.

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 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p.1:11). 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."

Dean of Arts:
Robert R. Kerton
ML 236 ext.2217

Associate Dean of Arts, Undergraduate Affairs:
Mary Gerhardstein
ML 254 ext.3554