Stony Brook University
Introduction to Creative Writing: Writing What You Can Imagine
Spring 2014

Instructor: Joe Labriola
Section: CWL 202 - S01 - Introduction to Creative Writing: Writing What You Can Imagine
Dates/Meeting Times: Weds 5:20pm to 8:10pm
Office: CH 244
Office Hours: Weds @4:00pm
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Course Description:
Effective creative writing results from well-organized and well-crafted translation of creative thought. In this workshop we will learn methods to generate material for plays, short stories, poetry, and other forms of fiction. We will craft these pieces into polished works, culminating in a final portfolio and a public reading. Students will also attend Writers Speak, the Wednesday reading series.

Course Objectives:
● Explore the various forms of script, poetry, short story, and others that make creative writing an effective means of expressing the human imagination;
● Expose students to a variety of creative writing techniques and exercises for generating material that conveys the author’s meaning in a unique way;
● Learn workshop and revision skills as we edit scripts, short stories, poems, etc.;
● Learn the tools and terminology of creative writing;
● Learn presentation skills from professional writers while preparing polished and purposeful pieces for public reading.

Requirements:
● Complete all reading and writing assignments;
● Generate original work for workshopping and resubmission;
● Create and complete a portfolio as part of a final class grade which will include all of the semester’s work;
● Give a public reading of a select piece of the semester’s work;
● Attend all classes, participate in class discussions and activities, and complete assignments on time (see grading, schedule, and other policies below for further information).

Grading Breakdown:
● Dialogue/play scenes, short fiction pieces, and poetry assignments: 35%  See class schedule for due dates.
Weekly readings and responses: 15% Will be assigned in class.
Final portfolio and reading: 25% Includes all homework assignments and final reading piece.
Attendance and participation: 25% Three unexcused absences will drop your grade. To be unprepared is to be absent.

Required Texts:
- 100 Best-Loved Poems (Dover Thrift Editions) by Philip Smith (ISBN 9780486285535)
- The Best American Short Stories 2013 by Elizabeth Strout (ISBN 9780547554839)
- At Home at the Zoo: Homelife and the Zoo Story by Edward Albee (ISBN 9781590205242)

Weekly Class Schedule:
1. 01/29 - Week One - Form Up! - Forms of fiction.
2. 02/05 - Week Two - Say What? - Dialogue and voice exercises.
3. 02/12 - Week Three - Keep Talking - First dialogue piece due. Workshop dialogues; start plays.
4. 02/19 - Week Four - Now We’re Talking - First two scenes of play due.
   Workshop scenes; continue play and scene discussions. Writers Speak: MFA Faculty Reading (Ursula Hegi, Susie Merrell, Bob Reeves, Roger Rosenblatt, Julie Sheehan, Lou Ann Walker).
5. 02/26 - Week Five - So Much More to Say - Final scenes/plays due. Workshops continued. Start short story discussions. Writers Speak: Al Styron.
6. 03/05 - Week Six - So the Story Begins… - First two pages of short story due.
7. 03/12 - Week Seven - The Story Continues… - Five to ten page short story due. Workshops continued. Short story discussions cont. Writers Speak: Meghan Abbott.

03/19 - SPRING BREAK
8. 03/26 - Week Eight - The Story Ends… - **Second five to ten page short story due. Short story discussions cont.**

9. 04/02 - Week Nine - The Short Short - *Flash fiction and other forms. Writers Speak: Masha Gessen with Dan Menaker.*

10. 04/09 - Week Ten - Poetry - **Flash pieces due. Introduction to poetic forms. Writers Speak: Mark Epstein.**

11. 04/16 - Week Eleven - More Rhyme Time - **Poetry assignments due. Poetic forms continued. Discuss final projects.**

12. 04/23 - Week Twelve - YES, Movies! - **Further poetry assignments due. Other creative writing techniques. Discuss screenplays.**

13. 04/30 - Week Thirteen - Movieing On… - **Screenplay discussions continued. Workshop final readings. Writers Speak: Dinah Lenny.**

14. 05/07 - Week Fourteen - The End Is Near - **Workshop final readings continued. Practice readings. MFA Student reading.**

15. 05/14 - Week Fifteen - Made It! - **Portfolio’s due. CWL 202 Public Reading!**

**Disability Support Services:**
If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services. On the Southampton Campus contact Linda Hamilton at Southold Residence Hall, lower level or phone 632-5014. DSS will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

**Academic Integrity:**
Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instance of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at [http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/](http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/)

**Critical Incident Management:**
Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, and/or inhibits students' ability to learn.