COURSE OUTLINE
Revised Spring 2014

Course Number: ENG215
Course Title: Creative Writing I
Credits: 3

Hours:
3 lecture/
lab/other

Co- or Pre-requisite: Minimum C grade in ENG102
Or divisional permission

Implementation: sem/year

Catalog description (2013-2014 Catalog):
Develops writing skills in various genres, such as fiction, poetry, and essay. Recognized models in literary modes are analyzed for craftsmanship. Through workshop framework, students benefit from peer and instructor criticism and are encouraged to find individual voice under instructor guidance.

Is course New, Revised, or Modified? Revised

Required texts/other materials:

One creative writing textbook, including but not limited to:
- Crossroads: Creative Writing Exercises in Four Genres by Diane Thiel
Or
- Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft, 3rd Edition by Janet Burroway

And

At least one full length work of fiction or fiction anthology, and at least one full-length book of poetry or poetry anthology. (At the instructor’s discretion, fiction/poetry anthologies may be replaced by a variety of fiction and poetry handouts.)

Suggestions for full-length work of fiction or fiction anthology include but are certainly not limited to:
- Jesus’ Son by Denis Johnson
- The Bluest Eye or Beloved by Toni Morrison
- The Tenth of December or Pastoralia by George Saunders
- The Shell Collector by Anthony Doerr
- The Girl in the Flammable Skirt by Aimee Bender
- The Anchor Book of New American Short Stories, ed. Ben Marcus
- Gotham Writer’s Workshop: Fiction Gallery, eds. Steele and Didato

Suggestions for full-length works of poetry or poetry anthologies include but are certainly not limited to:
- The Best American Poetry 2013, ed. David Lehman
- 100 Best-Loved Poems, ed. Philip Smith
- The City in Which I Love You or Rose by Li-Young Lee
- Stag's Leap: Poems by Sharon Olds
- Love Poems by Nikki Giovanni
- Donkey Gospel by Tony Hoagland

Revision date:
February 2014

Course coordinator: (Name, telephone number, email address)
Jacqueline Vogtman
X3750
vogtmanj@mccc.edu
Information resources:
Students may be asked to locate information in the MCCC Library or through the MCCC Library's On-line databases and search engines to supplement the required texts.

Other learning resources:
Videos, guest lectures, theatre trips. Reading and writing tutoring is available in the Learning Center.

Course Competencies/Goals

The student will be able to:

- Learn the demands of the craft and work to develop his/her talent.
- Understand the elements that comprise poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction and drama by writing in each of these genres.
- Analyze the differences between good and bad expression as well as the effective and ineffective use of the literary conventions particular to each genre.
- Read and evaluate assigned texts in order to gain an analytical grasp of the writing craft.
- Complete writing assignments consisting of poems, short stories, creative nonfiction and/or drama.
- Critique peers’ literary works and use those same critical-thinking skills to critique and revise their own work.
- Work collaboratively with peers to complete a group project focusing on some aspect of creative writing.
- Present one of their literary works in front of class by the end of the semester.
- Execute a major creative project completed before the end of the semester.

Course-specific General Education Knowledge Goals and Core Skills.

General Education Knowledge Goals

Goal 1. Communication. Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.

Goal 4. Technology. Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals as they compose and hone their creative work.

Goal 6. Humanities. Students will analyze works in the fields of art, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies as they compose and hone their creative works.

Goal 7. History. Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance as they read and model genres of creative writing.

Goal 8. Diversity. Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples as they hone their own creative writing.

Goal 9. Ethical Reasoning and Action. Students will understand ethical issues and situations as they study and model creative works and hone their own writing.

MCCC Core Skills

Goal A. Written and Oral Communication in English. Students will communicate effectively in speech and writing, and demonstrate proficiency in reading.

Goal B. Critical Thinking and Problem-solving. Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.

Goal C. Ethical Decision-Making. Students will recognize, analyze and assess ethical issues and situations.

Goal D. Information Literacy. Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

Goal E. Computer Literacy. Students will use computers to access, analyze or present information, solve problems, and communicate with others.

Goal F. Collaboration and Cooperation. Students will develop the interpersonal skills required for effective performance in group situations.

Goal G. Intra-Cultural and Inter-Cultural Responsibility. Students will demonstrate an awareness of the responsibilities of intelligent citizenship in a diverse and pluralistic society, and will demonstrate cultural, global, and environmental awareness.
Units of study in detail

Unit I Course Introduction

The student will be able to
- Understand what constitutes creative writing
- Collaborate with writing team to produce a first piece
- Recognize the writing genres – essays, fiction, drama and poetry

Unit II Journal Writing and Character Development

The student will be able to
- Understand how to journal in the composition of creative pieces
- Develop a character in a poetic or fictional creative piece
- Critique writing team peers’ pieces

Unit III Painting Word Landscapes

The student will be able to
- Understand how landscapes are created in creative works
- Develop a landscape in a poetic or fictional creative piece
- Critique writing team peers’ pieces

Unit IV Analyzing the Creative Process

The student will be able to
- Understand the creative process and impetus by watching video or listening to audio by a recognized creative writer
- Explain the personal creative impetus
- Write a response piece

Unit V Non-Fiction Creative Writing

The student will be able to
- Understand Non-fiction writing as genre
- Compose a non-fiction piece
- Critique writing teams’ pieces

Unit VI Poetic Forms

The student will be able to
- Understand basic poetic forms
- Recognize the conventions of poetry
- Model basic poetic forms
- Compose group poem
- Critique writing peers’ poetic pieces

Unit VII Special Literary Genres

The student will be able to
- Recognize variety of special literary genres like Science Fiction
- Understand the conventions of special literary genres
- Create a piece in a special literary genre

Unit VIII Writing Drama

The student will be able to
- Understand the drama as genre
- Understand the conventions of the written drama
- Create a drama
Unit IX Writing Dialog The student will be able to
- Recognize value and purpose of dialog in fiction and drama
- Compose a piece with dialog
- Critique peers’ pieces

Unit X Publishing Creative Work
The student will be able to
- Recognize various publishing opportunities
- Prepare creative works for publishing
- Research publishing opportunities

Evaluation of student learning:
- Workshop pieces (at least 15-20 pages of formal, graded fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and/or drama): 40%
- Workshop response papers and other writing exercises: 10%
- Group/class project (at instructor’s discretion): 5%
- Final presentation (at instructor’s discretion): 5%
- Quizzes (at instructor’s discretion): 10%
- Final portfolio of work: 30%

Academic Integrity Statement: Mercer County Community College is committed to academic integrity – the honest, fair and continuing pursuit of knowledge, free from fraud or deception. Students should never:
  o Knowingly represent the work of others as their own
  o Knowingly represent previously completed academic work as current
  o Fabricate data to support academic work
  o Use or obtain unauthorized assistance in the execution of any academic work
  o Give fraudulent assistance to other students
  o Unethically use technological means to gain academic advantages

Violators of the above actions will be penalized. For a single violation the faculty member will determine the course of action. This may include, assigning a lower grade on the assignment, lowering the course grade, failing the student, or another penalty that is appropriate to the violation. The student will be reported to the Academic Integrity Committee, who may impose other penalties for a second (or later) violation. The student has right to a hearing and also to appeal any decisions. These rights are outlined in the student handbook.