

Northern Marianas College
CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Effective Semester / Session: Spring 2014

Type of Action:

- New
- Modification
- Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
- Cancellation

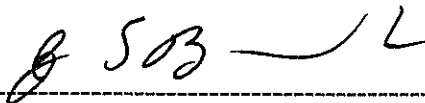
Course Alpha and Number: EN 201

Course Title: Introduction to Creative Writing

Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:

The reason for modifying this course guide is to bring the course into compliance with current Student Learning Outcomes, update the Course Catalogue Description, and to include a statement concerning the long-standing policy of awarding payment to the instructor for a writing course.

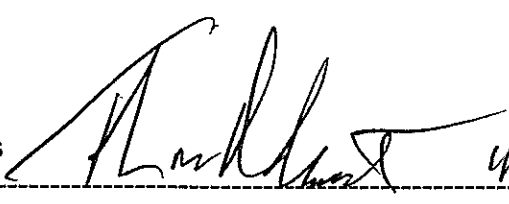
Ajani Burrell

 11/25/13

Proposer

Date

Thomas Sharts

 4/25/13

Department Chair

Date

Barbara Merfalen

 12.4.13

Dean of Academic Programs and Services

Date

Northern Marianas College

Course Guide

Course: EN 201 – Introduction to Creative Writing

1. Department

Languages and Humanities

2. Purpose

This is an introductory course in creative writing. It exposes students to various genres of creative writing—Creative Nonfiction, Drama, Fiction, and Poetry—the major forms within those genres, and the craft elements that underpin all creative writing. The course will also guide them in creating short works of their own. Additionally, the course will further help them build on the critical reading and analytical skills learned in EN 101, and develop a critical lens through which to view creative writing texts. Lastly, the course will further refine the revision and editing skills learned in EN 101. The aim is to help students broaden and deepen their creative faculties, become better descriptive and narrative writers, and equip them with the fundamental skills of the creative writing craft with which to assess and develop works of creative writing.

3. Description

A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

Required:

Burroway, Janet. *Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft*. 3rd ed.

New York: Longman, 2010

Readability level: Grade 13

Handouts on specific topics will also be distributed.

B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 3 hours per week / 45 hours per semester

C. Credits

1. **Number:** 3

2. **Type:** Regular degree credits

D. Catalogue Course Description

This is a course in imaginative writing. Major elements of creative writing are studied, including character development, point of view, conflict, and setting. The major genres of creative writing (creative nonfiction, drama, fiction, and poetry) are presented through lectures, models, class discussion, regular reading and writing assignments, and both peer and instructor feedback. The course can also serve

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Course: EN 201 – Introduction to Creative Writing

those who teach or plan to teach creative writing. Prerequisite: a “C” grade or higher in EN 101. Offered spring semester 2014.

E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course

This course satisfies elective credits for the A.A. in Liberal Arts, and Arts and Humanities credits for the General Education Requirements of the following programs: A.A.S in Business Administration (Accounting, Business Management, and Computer Applications Emphasis); A.A.S in Hospitality Management; and A.S. in Natural Resource Management.

F. Course Activities and Design

1. Through lectures, class discussions, small-group work, and extensive reading selections, students will be introduced to the craft elements of creative writing: Image, Voice, Character, Setting, and Story. Students will be given ample opportunity through in-class and homework writing assignments to apply and hone their execution of each craft element. Examples of craft elements will also be presented in the context of the various creative writing genres in which they are utilized.
2. After laying the groundwork with craft elements, the class will then examine their application in each genre as bridge to further exploration of each respective genre. Each genre will be discussed in terms of its literary conventions, and reading selections will be used to illustrate the application (or contravention) of literary conventions. Students will also use this time to develop an understanding of how to critically read and analyze creative texts. They will develop a lexicon and process by which to analyze creative texts, with an eye on using such skills in peer review and editing, and revising their own work.
3. With each genre, students will be assigned both shorter developmental writing exercises to practice application of elements specific to that genre, and a complete short composition or work in that genre. Additional instruction on the writing process for each genre will also be provided. Students will be required to rewrite each composition or work to further reinforce the vital components of feedback, revision, and editing, with the help of both peer feedback and instructor feedback.
4. The course will culminate in a student-selected final project from one of the genres discussed during the course. This project will

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be longer than any of the previous genre-specific compositions or works, but can be an expansion of a previous assignment. As students work toward completing their long projects, the course will also cover the practical applications of creative writing, including jobs that rely on creative writing skills, as well as possible outlets for their creative writing projects for class and beyond.

4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment; Required English/Mathematics Placement Level(s)

Prerequisites: a "C" grade or higher in EN 101.

5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit course and textbook

Cost to the College: Salary of instructor for 4 credits, which includes (3) course credits as well as (1) additional credit for teaching a writing course.

Instructional resources needed for this course include instructor text; computer; copying facilities; blackboard/whiteboard and chalk/dry erase markers; overhead projector; television/projector and DVD player.

6. Method of Evaluation

Student grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

- A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0;
- B: Above average – grade points: 3.0;
- C: Average – grade points: 2.0;
- D: Below average – grade points: 1.0;
- F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.

NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

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7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

- 1.0 Introduction
 - 1.1 What is creative writing
 - 1.2 Truth and fiction
 - 1.3 Prose and poetry
 - 1.4 Drama and fiction

- 2.0 Images
 - 2.1 Image and Imagination
 - 2.2 Concrete, significant details
 - 2.2.1. Details of person
 - 2.2.2. Details of place
 - 2.2.3. Sensory Details
 - 2.3 Figures of Speech
 - 2.3.1. Metaphors
 - 2.3.2. Similes
 - 2.3.3. Clichés
 - 2.4 Allusions
 - 2.5 Allegory
 - 2.6 Symbolism

- 3.0 Setting
 - 3.1 Specified settings of time and place
 - 3.1.1. Contemporary
 - 3.1.2. Historical
 - 3.1.3. Fantasy
 - 3.2 Unspecified settings
 - 3.3 Setting as symbol and characterization

- 4.0 Character and characterization
 - 4.1 Modes of characterization
 - 4.1.1. Physical appearance
 - 4.1.2. Personal spaces
 - 4.1.3. Actions
 - 4.1.4. Speech and Voice
 - 4.1.5. Thoughts
 - 4.2 Character conflict
 - 4.2.1. Desire

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- 4.2.2. Danger
- 4.2.3. Conflict
- 4.2.4. Catharsis
- 4.3 Types of characters
 - 4.3.1. Round
 - 4.3.2. Flat
 - 4.3.3. Protagonist
 - 4.3.4. Antagonist
- 4.4 Credibility through character development

- 5.0 Plot
 - 5.1 Conflict and tension
 - 5.2 Story Arc
 - 5.2.1. Exposition
 - 5.2.2. Rising action
 - 5.2.3. Climax
 - 5.2.4. Falling action
 - 5.2.5. Resolution
 - 5.3 Plot types
 - 5.3.1. Journeys
 - 5.3.2. Power struggles
 - 5.3.3. Connection and disconnection

- 6.0 Point of view
 - 6.1 First person
 - 6.2 Second person
 - 6.3 Third person
 - 6.3.1. Partial or limited omniscience
 - 6.3.2. Total Omniscience
 - 6.4 Distance in POV
 - 6.5 Narration
 - 6.5.1. Character voice
 - 6.5.2. Authorial voice
 - 6.5.3. Direct and indirect thoughts
 - 6.5.4. Stream of consciousness

- 7.0 The Creative development process
 - 7.1 From idea to draft
 - 7.1.1. Storyboarding
 - 7.1.2. Character sketches
 - 7.2 Research

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- 7.3 Revision and rewriting
- 7.4 Editing
- 7.5 The workshop

- 8.0 Creative Nonfiction
 - 8.1 The creative essay
 - 8.2 Memoir and the personal essay
 - 8.3 Techniques of creative nonfiction
 - 8.4 Fact and truth

- 9.0 Fiction
 - 9.1 The short story
 - 9.2 Story and plot
 - 9.2.1. Conflict
 - 9.2.2. Narrative arc
 - 9.2.3. Beginnings and endings
 - 9.3 Showing and telling
 - 9.3.1. Summary
 - 9.3.2. Scene
 - 9.4 Dialogue
 - 9.4.1. Direct
 - 9.4.2. Indirect
 - 9.5 Managing time
 - 9.5.1. The present moment
 - 9.5.2. Backstory and flashbacks
 - 9.5.3. Flashforwards
 - 9.5.4. Tense
 - 9.5.5. Transitions
 - 9.6 Text and subtext

- 10.0 Poetry
 - 10.1 Formal and free verse
 - 10.2 Working with sound
 - 10.3 The Poetic line
 - 10.3.1. Meter
 - 10.3.2. Rhyme
 - 10.3.3. Alliteration
 - 10.4 Imagery, connotation, and metaphor

- 11.0 Writing for performance
 - 11.1 Stage plays

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- 11.2 Screenplays
- 11.3 Teleplays

- 12.0 Writing beyond the classroom
 - 12.1 Writing as a career
 - 12.2 Publication
 - 12.2.1. Preparation
 - 12.2.2. Researching outlets
 - 12.2.3. Submitting work

8. Instructional Goals

This course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 The differences between expository and creative writing;
- 2.0 The use of images in various creative writing genres;
- 3.0 Choosing the appropriate setting for a fictional work;
- 4.0 Different types of characters in fiction and modes of characterization for fictional and nonfictional works;
- 5.0 The stages of plot and methods of developing conflict in fictional works;
- 6.0 The choice and implementation of point of view;
- 7.0 Effective narrative techniques, including summary, scene, and dialogue;
- 8.0 The creative writing development process;
- 9.0 Characteristics of fictional works, specifically the short story;
- 10.0 Methods for writing both fictional and nonfictional works that adhere to the conventions of each genre;
- 11.0 The consistent use of tense and time management in creative prose works.
- 12.0 The basic components of prosody and different types of poetry;

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- 12.0 Identify the basic components of prosody and distinguish different kinds of poetry;
- 13.0 Distinguish the characteristics of different types of nonfictional works;
- 14.0 Write scripts in the accepted format for their intended medium; and
- 15.0 Identify options to use creative writing beyond the classroom.

10. **Assessment Measures**

Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1.0 Quizzes and writing assignments;
- 2.0 Collaborative assignments;
- 3.0 Regular entries in a creative writing journal;
- 4.0 Up to six short creative writing assignments, and at least one each of the following: collection of 3-5 poems; 3-4 page short story; 3-4 page nonfiction essay; and 1 dramatic scene;
- 5.0 A longer creative project (e.g. a 8-10 page nonfiction essay or short story; 1-act play; 10-min screenplay or teleplay short)

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- 13.0 Characteristics of nonfictional works, including the narrative essay, personal essay, and memoir.
- 14.0 Characteristics of creative writing for performance and the specific formatting of plays and screenplays;
- 15.0 Options for creative writing beyond the classroom.

9. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1.0 Identify the differences between expository and creative writing;
- 2.0 Use images in various creative writing genres;
- 3.0 Choose the appropriate setting for a fictional work;
- 4.0 Identify different types of characters in fiction and use various modes of characterization in fictional and nonfictional writing;
- 5.0 Recognize the stages of plot commonly used in fiction and develop conflict in short fictional works;
- 6.0 Choose and consistently use an effective point of view in a narrative context;
- 7.0 Distinguish between summary and scene, and direct and indirect dialogue;
- 8.0 Implement the creative writing development process;
- 9.0 Recognize the characteristics of fictional works;
- 10.0 Write both fictional and nonfictional works that embody the conventions of each genre.
- 11.0 Identify the tense and time management techniques used in prose works;