

INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING

ENGLISH 226

Spring Trimester, 2008

Saturday, 8:00-noon

Professor Waterman

Office: Memorial Hall, 221B

Office Hours: Saturdays noon-1:00 pm or by appointment

Email: waterman@augsborg.edu

Required Texts:

- *A Garden of Forking Paths*, Anstandig & Killough

Required Materials:

- A notebook/journal dedicated to this class
- Access to a word processor/computer

Course Objectives:

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the process of creative writing and to experience writing in the various genres. We will emphasize poetry and short fiction, but also include creative non-fiction and journal writing. Strategies will be presented to generate writing and to revise and complete work.

Class sessions will combine in-class writing exercises, discussion, group work, and peer evaluation. Attendance is essential. Assigned reading will provide us with models and ideas for our own writing. You must come to class prepared, with reading completed and assignments in hand. **Participation and attendance constitute a significant portion of your grade. All work must be typed.**

Course Requirements:

You will write and revise six poems and two short stories. Additional requirements are to attend a local poetry or fiction reading and to write an evaluation. Two quizzes will be given during the trimester on terms relating to poetry and fiction writing.

Outside Reading:

Each student must attend a reading off-campus, and write a short response to the reading. The following conditions must be met:

The author must be published by a reputable press (not self-published).

The book being discussed must be a work of fiction, a collection of poetry, or a work of creative non-fiction. Editors, cookbook authors, and "how-to" books are not acceptable for this assignment. If in doubt, ask the instructor.

Poetry slams and open readings are not acceptable for this assignment

Students are encouraged to take notes during the reading, and then write a 700+ word response paper, addressing the following:

- Describe the setting of the reading
- Describe the author, his/her reading style, and his/her work
- What did you learn from the author?
- What other books have been written by this author? (you may have to do some research) Would you recommend this author to your classmates? Why or why not?

Additional Class Policies:

You must **attend** class, **participate** in discussion and group work, **complete** all assignments and **perform** at a college level. Missing class will lower your final grade. Let me know if a medical problem is affecting your attendance.

Grading:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Poetry Portfolio | 20% |
| Fiction Portfolio | 20% |
| Attendance/participation | 15% |
| Reading Report | 15% |
| Poetry Quiz | 15% |
| Fiction Quiz | 15% |

Final Reading:

The Final Reading will consist of each person in the class reading a portion of his/her final portfolio aloud. This reading will take place in lieu of a final exam, and is a required component. Each student will read for a minimum of three minutes.

Instructor Availability:

You are always welcome to make an appointment with me to go over your work or to talk about topics related to creative writing, publishing, etc. Please allow 24 hours for a reply.



IMPORTANT NOTE

BRING THREE COPIES OF YOUR POEMS/STORIES FOR EACH MEMBER IN YOUR GROUP FOR WORKSHOPS

ASSIGNMENT FOR SATURDAY 4/4:

Read Section Three, p.287-310.
Do Catalyst #1, p. 348.

SATURDAY 4/4

Introduction to course and syllabus. Review of reading. Introduction to Poetry. Exercises.

Assignment for next class:

Read p. 313-339
Do Catalyst #2, p.349

SATURDAY 4/18

Review of Reading. Poetry workshop. Poetry Terms. Exercises.

Assignment for next class:

Read p. 340-347
Do Catalyst #3, p.350

SATURDAY 4/25

Review of reading. Poetry workshop. In-class exercises. Poetry quiz.

Assignment for next class:

Poetry Portfolio Due
Read Section Two, p. 125-202
Do Catalyst #1, p.284

SATURDAY 5/9

Introduction to fiction. Review of reading. Fiction workshop. In-class exercises. Fiction terms.

Assignment for next class:

Read p. 202-278
Do Catalyst #2, p.285

SATURDAY 5/16

Fiction workshop. In-class exercises. Fiction Quiz.

Assignment for next class:

Catalyst #3, p. 285

SATURDAY, 6/ 6

Fiction workshop. In-class exercises.

Assignment for next class:

Fiction Portfolio due.

Email poem/story to me for class anthology

Prepare Poem/story for Class Reading.

SATURDAY, 6/20

Class Reading. Fiction portfolio due. Reading Report due.