

Skyline College

Official Course Outline

Date: April 2007

1. TITLE

ENGL 161 Creative Writing I

3.0 units, 3 class hours per week, plus one lab hour by arrangement

Prerequisite: Eligibility for ENGL 100 or 105, or equivalent.

2. COURSE CLASSIFICATION

Credit course applicable to the Associate Degree

3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Catalog Description:

The craft of writing short stories, sketches, poetry, short dramas, and other literary forms for both personal enjoyment and professional training. During the Spring Semester, class members may volunteer to work on the college's literary magazine.

Schedule of Classes Description:

The craft of writing short stories, sketches, poetry, short dramas and other literary forms. Plus one hour/week by arrangement.

4. COURSE JUSTIFICATION

Credit course applicable to the Associate Degree and transferable to the UC and CSU systems.

Satisfies the CSU General Education Requirement, Area C2 and the CAN ENGL 6 requirement

5. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Recognize the elements of craft used in writing poetry, fiction and drama
- Write original poems, short stories and short dramatic pieces
- Critique one another's writing in a workshop setting
- Revise their original writing and bring it to a state of completion

6. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

During the course students will be asked to:

- Explore the craft of writing poems, sketches, short stories and short dramas
- Learn how to access the imagination and direct experiences of the external world in creating works of literary art
- Work at expressing the truths of students' lives and of their visions of reality through structured and carefully crafted pieces of writing

- Locate their writings and their personal styles within the contexts of contemporary writing
- Engage in the breadth and depth of reading and analysis in contemporary writing
- Develop and express an on-going interest in the literary life of our culture
- Become exposed to the variety and diversity of the literary community.

7. COURSE CONTENT

This class covers both general and specific areas of creative writing such as

- study of the craft of poetry: readings in poetry text, discussion, in-class writing assignments, workshop critiques, written comments by instructor and revisions
- study of the craft of short fiction; readings in short story text, discussion, in-class writing, building of stories from initial elements and ideas to full-length text, workshop critiques, written comments by instructor and revision
- study of experimentation in poetic forms: in-class writing, workshop critiques, written comments by instructor and revisions
- study of short drama – scenes and one-act plays: in-class writing and staged performances presentations of student portfolios; culminating reading and exchange of portfolios

8. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A variety of methods will be used: lecture/demonstration, discussion, lecture, spontaneous in-class writing, collaborative group work, use of media, written critiques and/or individual work with the instructor, in-class presentations, revision and rewriting activities, readings and presentations by published authors, preparation of works for publication in college literary magazine, attendance at public readings on and off campus.

9. ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments include

1. reading works of contemporary poetry, short fiction, and drama
2. reading about the process and craft of writing
3. reading memoirs of practicing writers and texts that explore techniques of creative writing
4. practicing the techniques of writing poetry and short fiction
5. practicing and becoming familiar with the process of editing and revision
6. completing 3 original poems, including 3 re-writes
7. completing one short story, including a rewrite, or completing two one-page prose works, including rewrites
8. attending a literary event and writing a review of the event
9. writing one book review
10. completing all reading assignments
11. completing spontaneous writing exercises
12. completing an ongoing working portfolio and presenting the final portfolio of work at the end of the semester

10. REQUIRED TEXT(S)

Required texts may be chosen from among the following:

Gwynn, R.S., ed. *Poetry: A Longman Pocket Anthology*. 3rd ed. New York: Pearson, 2004.
Burroway, Janet. *Writing Fiction*. 6th ed. New York: Pearson, 2006.

Other supplemental texts:

Writing Poetry, Drake, 2nd Edition, TL

Pocketful of Poems, David Madden,

Sailing Alone Around the Room, Billy Collins, Random

Norton Anthology of Short Fiction, 6th Edition, Norton

Novels or plays to be identified by the instructor

11. EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Letter grade based on

1. writing of original poems and stories
2. revision and re-writing of each original piece
3. participation in in-class critiques
4. meeting deadlines on written assignments
5. regular attendance
6. completion of a mid-semester instructor review of the portfolio (in conference, through a progress report, or an instructor critique)
7. completion of the final Presentation Portfolio

Participation in a culminating reading and exchange of Presentation Portfolios is required to pass the class.