

CRW 2001: Creative Writing I

Spring 2009

Dept. of Language and Literature

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Written Communication I: (3) (A.A.). Introduction to Poetry (3) (A.A) Prerequisites: ENC 1101 and concurrent registration in or complete of ENC 1102 with a grade of "C" or better. This course meets the Area IV requirement for A.A./A.A.S./A.S. general education requirements, 6,000-word Gordon Rule requirement, and part of the six-hour International/Intercultural requirement. This course will introduce students to forms and techniques of poetry; major poets and movements from the Renaissance to the present; and written analysis, explication, interpretation and evaluation of poetry.

Text and Materials:

- * *The Best American Poetry 2007* ed. David Lehman
- * *In the Palm of Your Hand*, Steve Kowit.
- * *Tell It Slant*, Brenda Miller and Suzanne Paola.
- * Pen, pencil, notebook for class every day
- * composition notebook (separate from the notebook you use for class notes).

Special Consideration: Be aware that this is a summer course, and therefore, we cover 15 weeks of material in 6 weeks. I do NOT reduce the amount of work we complete in the course, but rather, I condense the work to fit within the time period allotted. If you are going to miss even one course, you will be missing a lot of material—in fact, one class period in the summer represents more than a week of classes in a traditional spring/fall semester.

Course Performance Standards:

1. Devise own writing assignments and discipline self to write regularly
2. Revise and edit own prose and poems
3. Write poems and prose using traditional conventions and devices with competence
4. Use a variety of sources for content of poems and prose (memory, lived experience, ideas found in print, observed experience).
5. Demonstrate the ability to learn from critical suggestions from peers and instructors
6. Critique the work of peers constructively, focusing on artistic constructs rather than personal taste.
7. Demonstrate the ability to work well within a workshop situation
8. Demonstrate the ability to read and analyze published poetry and prose by focusing on artistic conventions (e.g. plot structure, rhythm, diction, and image)
9. Demonstrate the ability to prepare a professional manuscript.
10. Fulfill in part writing requirements as mandated by SBE 6A-10.30

Attendance and on-time Policy: In order to provide for emergency situations, I permit only ONE ABSENCE without academic penalty. For every absence beyond this one, you will receive a 1.5 letter grade reduction on your final grade. Also note that I do not distinguish between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. All absences are simply absences, so please do not present doctor’s excuses, notes from your parents, or other attempts to “excuse” the absence. **Violation of Attendance:** Specifically, for each class you miss one absence, you will lose 1.5 full letter grade from your semester average. **On-time Policy:** Two late arrivals or “early-leaves” constitute one absence.

Gordon Rule: *This course meets the Florida State Board of Education Rule Number 6A-10.30. In accordance with this rule, students will complete six semester hours of English and six semester hours of additional coursework in which the student must demonstrate college-level writing skills. The MCC Division of Arts and Letters & Social and Behavioral Sciences requires a minimum of 6,000 words in each of these Gordon Rule courses. A grade of C or better is required for credit in Gordon Rule classes.*

Course Assignments: Please refer to daily schedule for assignments and due dates. Assignments must be typed, stapled, and ready to hand in at the beginning of the class. Late assignments will not be accepted for credit, but you must submit the assignment—conforming to the assignment specifications (including and especially word/page count)—since students must complete ALL assignments in order to pass the course.

Grade Criteria:

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| <p>Grading: (%age of each assignment toward grade)</p> <p>Weekly Poetry / Writer’s Journal: 20% (2) Portfolios: 20% each (2) Formal Papers: 20% each Final Exam: 20% Workshop/Participation/Exercises: 20%</p> <p>* Please keep in mind that this is a <i>tentative</i> list of assignments; our actual assignments and point values may vary slightly due to class progress.</p> | <p>A=90-100%</p> <p>B=80-89%</p> <p>C=70-79%</p> <p>D=65-69%</p> <p>F=64% and below</p> | <p>A 4.0 A- 3.7 B+ 3.3 B 3.0 B- 2.7 C+ 2.3 C 2.0 C- 1.7 D 1.0</p> |
| <p>Grades will be provided as letters (including plus and minus grades) that will be averaged to form the grade, itself.</p> | <p>* Students must earn a “C” or higher to successfully complete the course.</p> | |

Withdrawal Policy: In accordance with the Manatee Community College policy as stated in the college catalog, students may withdraw from any course or all courses without academic penalty of a WF by the withdrawal deadline as listed in the Manatee Community College academic calendar. This semester this date is **Monday, June 8**. The student must take responsibility for initiating the withdrawal procedure. Students are strongly encouraged to talk with their instructors before taking any withdrawal action.

Policy Regarding Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of ideas, facts, opinions, illustrative material, data, direct or indirect wording of another scholar and/or writer—professional or student—without giving proper credit. Expulsion, suspension, or any lesser penalty may be imposed for plagiarism. For our class, **Plagiarism will result in automatic failure of the course!**

Standards of Conduct: Students are expected to abide by all Lancer Student Handbook guidelines. Please note “My Expectations” below.

Additional Information: Diligence, time management, promptness, and courtesy will go very far in this course. Please be aware, however, that as much as I appreciate hard work and effort, as a communications course I must also grade the product of the course, your writing. For written assignments, I expect you to use great care in **PROOFREADING** your work. I will not be your editor; I mark **SOME** of your errors, but you are responsible for proper grammar, language usage, word choice, and logical and complete thought development.

My Expectations: As you enter this classroom, I expect that you have a basic understanding of grammar rules and have mastered the focus and structure of the basic essay in ENC 1101. Also, I assume that you have completed ENC 1102. While you may take the course if you are currently registered in ENC 1102, you will likely be missing a lot of the background necessary to truly succeed in this course. Learning the basics of literary analysis in ENC 1102 **WILL** be helpful prior to writing literature of your own. But the choice is yours.

I also expect that you will behave in a mature, respectful manner. Examples of behavior I do not tolerate includes, but is not limited to: applying makeup, or doing other homework during class; putting your head down on the desk; using unnecessary profanity for shock value; making slurs against individuals or groups; creating generally disruptive outbursts; making strange noises; and throwing things. I will deal with these on an as-needed basis. In the past, violations of these simple rules of courtesy have resulted in the student’s removal from the classroom, the

student's being reported to the Academic Affairs Officer, and in more modest cases, have caused students to lose grade points in the classroom. Additionally, as a courtesy, please refrain from wearing odiferous colognes or perfumes, as allergic reactions may cause your dismissal from the room (see attendance policy).

Finally, as the course is designated as a workshop setting, you will be reading your own work aloud and providing and receiving feedback on original work of poetry and creative nonfiction. That said, we will discuss appropriate ways to critique. If you are someone who absolutely cannot take criticism, please re-think your position in this course.