

English 373: Creative Writing

Spring 2016

TTH 9:30—CH 301

Dr. Wright

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Office Hours: MWF 12:00-1:00

TR 10:45-12:30; TR 1:45-2:30

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Texts and Materials

Lisa Roney, *Serious Daring*

Active use of school email account

Money for photocopies

Course Description

Study and practice are provided in writing poetry, fiction, and drama. Students are encouraged to offer their writings for publication. Prerequisites: ENG 111, ENG 112, and three hours of literature or permission of the professor.

Course Goals

1. To understand the elements of poetry and fiction through study of professionals' and classmates' writing.
2. To understand what constitutes effective creative writing.
3. To become comfortable sharing writing and responding to others' writing in a workshop setting.
4. To become comfortable receiving critique of and revising beloved pieces of work.
5. To critically analyze how successful texts are created.

Class Policies and Notices

Work for this Course:

1. All formal assignments must be completed in order for you to pass this course.
2. All formal writing done in this course is considered public writing to be shared with the class.

Attendance:

1. Absences for any reason result in loss of participation points. If you are not here to participate, you can't get any points. The university does not count any absences as excused.
2. If you know you will be absent, turn in any work due in advance.
3. Eight or more absences result in automatic failure of the course. Two or more absences are likely to damage your grade.
4. If you miss 20 minutes or more of any class period, it counts as an absence. If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to ensure I have marked you present.

Assignments:

1. **Drafts:** All drafts turned in for class must be typed. Make sure you keep all your drafts and work until you receive your grade for the course. Back up your work on a jump drive or in the cloud. Have separate files for each revision of each piece; this way, even if your computer crashes, you have copies.
2. **Plagiarism:** According to the Division of Humanities, plagiarism is defined as representing the words or ideas of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise. **Therefore, all writing you do for this course must be your own and must be exclusively for this course, unless the professor stipulates differently.** Pay special attention to the accuracy of the quotations, paraphrases, summaries, and documentation practices you use in your assignments. If you have any questions about plagiarism, please ask your professor. If you plagiarize, your professor reserves the right to grant you a failure for the assignment or the course, and your case may be reported to the College of Arts and Sciences. For additional information concerning plagiarism, you may consult the Writing Center in the BASC.

3. **Fan Fiction/Poetry:** Although writing fan fiction (either by direct borrowing or by imitation) is a normal process for a writer, do not turn in any fan fiction/poetry for your formal assignments.
4. **Effort:** I can only help you to the extent you are willing to put effort into this class; you must participate in the writing process in order to improve. This means you must revise your work and participate in class exercises. In fact, I encourage you to push your creativity and imagination as much as possible. Have fun!
5. **Problems:** If you are having difficulty with an assignment (or any other part of the class), come to me immediately. I'll be happy to conference with you. Do not wait until the due date or until you're failing the course.
6. **Fulfilling the assignment:** Each assignment has parameters (length, purpose, goal, etc.). Failure to fulfill the parameters could damage your grade.

Late Work:

1. **Penalty:** For every day an assignment is late, you lose one letter grade or a quarter of the points, whichever is applicable. For example, if the assignment is due on Tuesday and is turned in on Wednesday, the highest grade you may get is a *B*. If a 10-point exercise is due Tuesday is turned in on Thursday, you will get 5 points. Do not ask for extensions.
2. **Workshop handouts:** All workshop pieces must be emailed or handed out the class day prior to your "presentation" day. This is to give people time to read and respond to your work. Anything not submitted prior to or at the beginning of class will be counted late.

Professionalism:

1. **Computers, phones, etc.:** Be smart about it. Don't disrupt the class or distract your classmates.
2. **Participation:** You are expected to participate in an on-topic, valid way in classroom discussions and other activities. For some of you, participating well will mean learning to speak up, while for others it will mean learning to step down and allow others a chance to speak.
3. **Workshop Discussions:** Providing feedback during workshops is a major portion of your participation grade. Read the workshop papers ahead of time and come prepared to discuss both the strong points and your suggestions for improvement. Use tact.

The Evaluation

Grades will be calculated per the plus/minus grading scale (A+: 100-98, A: 97-94, A-: 93-90, etc.).

Participation, etc.: 90 points
 4 book exercises (2 pgs per): 80 points
 Personality exercise: 20 points
 Poetry assignment and workshop: 50 points
 Fiction assignment and workshop: 50 points
 Critical analysis and conference: 120 points
Russell Creek Review editing and assignments: 40 points
 Drama assignment and peer review: 50 points
 Final piece and workshop: 150 points
 Total points for the course: 650 points

Formal Assignments

You will receive assignment sheets with further details for each of these.

Fiction Workshop. Short story, 5 pages. Story will be workshopped by the class.

Poetry Workshop. Three poems in the form of your choice. At least one poem will be workshopped by the class.

***Russell Creek Review* Editing.** You will be asked to practice your editorial skills on submissions for the *Russell Creek Review*. Help selecting pieces, editing of pieces, and electronic submission of edited pieces will be required. Also, you will be required to submit two pieces yourself, although they do not have to be accepted.

Critical paper with conference. From our textbook, pick a poem, play, short story, or chapter 1 of a novel. Analyze it for something specific that you wish to work on in your own writing, such as P.O.V, characterization, pacing, line breaks, rhythm, or dialogue. You will conference with me on this piece.

Drama Performance. A one act play. 5-8 pages. We will informally perform them in class.

Final Workshop. This is your masterpiece, and as such, it will be graded on quality, effort, and workshop participation. The genre is your choice:

Short story: 10-12 pages

Chapter 1 of a novel (fiction or nonfiction): 12-15 pages

Poetry or song lyrics: 8 poems or lyrics

Drama (for stage or screen): One act play or first act of a longer play. 10-12 pages

The Workshops

As an integral part of this course, the workshops are an opportunity for you to get multiple perspectives on your work, and this requires you to follow the directions perfectly. You will sign up for a workshop day; two or three others will be presenting their pieces on that same day. (See class schedule below.) The class day *before* you present, you will hand out enough copies for the class. You may print it double-sided in order to save paper, but you must have one-inch margins and at least a size 10 font. You may also mass email it to the class, but you must use a read receipt and make sure everyone got it. (Don't rely solely on TigerNet to do this because there are independent studies students in the class.)

The class will take your piece home, read it, and write suggestions on it. (Or, conversely, they will either print out or read your piece on screen and then jot down comments.) The day you present, this is what will happen: the class and professor will discuss your piece while you *silently* take notes on what is said, and then you will have a few minutes to ask questions. The class will hand back their copies of your paper or their sheet of comments, which they will have signed, and you will read over everyone's comments and your notes before revising. **Handing out your piece on time is of extreme importance; lateness will destroy the whole purpose of the exercise.**

Participation by the class is also required and is part of the participation grade.

Rules for emailing workshops:

- The usual rules still apply. If you were going to hand out the paper at the beginning of class on Tuesday because your workshop is Thursday, then you must email the paper by 9:30 on Tuesday.
- For every day the email is late, you lose one letter grade. (See late work policy)
- If a workshop paper doesn't come in by 5PM the evening before it will be presented, I reserve the right to not read it. The class is granted the same right.
- Use MLA format—e.g., name and class information and page numbers
- Poetry is single spaced; stories are double spaced. Drama is a mix.
- Put all poems into the same file together; do not email them separately.
- I reserve the right to revoke this allowance if the email system is abused too much.

Disabilities Modification Statement

Campbellsville University is committed to reasonable accommodations for students who have documented physical and learning disabilities, as well as medical and emotional conditions. If you have a documented disability or condition of this nature, you may be eligible for disability services. Documentation must be from a licensed professional and current in terms of assessment. Please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services at 270-789-5192 to inquire about services.

Title IX

Campbellsville University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment and to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and guidance from the Office for Civil Rights, the University requires all responsible employees, which includes faculty members, to report to the University's Title IX Coordinator incidents of sexual misconduct that are shared by students.

Title IX Coordinator: Terry VanMeter
 Address: UPO Box 944, 1 University Drive
 or Administration Office 8A
 Phone: 270-789-5016
 Email: twvanmeter@campbellsville.edu

Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence is set forth at: www.campbellsville.edu/titleIX