# ENGLISH 103: CREATIVE WRITING

Spring 2019

Ticket #1367

Meeting times: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:45am-12:10pm

Location: AU 207

Instructor: Angela Morales

Contact Info:

Office: Library #207

Phone: 241-1000 ext. 3207

Email: [*amorales@glendale.edu*](mailto:amorales@glendale.edu)(no text files or attachments, please)

Website: <http://www.angelamorales.net>

Office Hours: Tues-Fri 1-2pm and by appointment

**Required Text:**

***Creative Writing: Four Genres in Brief****, 3rd edition. David Starkey. Bedfords St.Martins 2017*

**Other Required Materials:** notebook for journal writing

Optional, but recommended: -- A good grammar handbook such as *Rules for*

*Writers* by Diana Hacker.

**Course Description:**

**Catalog Statement**

English 103 consists of an introduction to the theory and practice of creative verbal

expression in the major imaginative literary forms: (1) non-fiction and fiction prose, (2)

poetry, and (3) drama. Emphasis is placed on step by step instruction in creating the

finished piece of writing, with much group discussion of student writing. (Catalog Statement).

**Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. recognize and appreciate the elements of effective imaginative writing through

examples studied in the class

2. develop and apply effective concepts for creative pieces in the various creative forms,

3. synthesize critical commentary from the instructor and classmates in the process of revision,

4. maintain a journal comprised of regular entries drawing from life experiences,

5. conceive and execute several fully developed, entirely original imaginative pieces,

6. evaluate the work of classmates and participate in the process of mutual criticism.

**Course Prerequisite:**

Prerequisite: Eligibility for English 101, or equivalent

**Course**

**Overview/Workload:**

4 short genre pieces including:

\*free verse or structured poem (s)

\*essay/memoir (1000 -4000 words or 4-6 pages)

\*short story (1000-4000 words 4-6 pages)

\*one-act play

Class Presentation/Reading (This counts as the final exam). You will read your work for 3-5 minutes.

Active Participation in Writing Workshops—this means reading, critiquing, and discussing your classmates’ work as well as providing written feedback for your peers.

Regular Journal writing (to develop your ideas and write in an unrestrained format)

**Grading:**

I believe that in creative writing, grades are not as important as the effort, devotion, and hard work you put into your projects. I hope that you push yourself to do your best work this semester, work that you are proud of. I will give you the grade that I feel best represents the time, effort, and care you put into an assignment, but only you know when you are satisfied with your work. That said, grading for this class will be based on a holistic system in which I will take into consideration your overall effort (*effort* includes how carefully your work has been proofread and edited), improvement, and class participation. I will provide you with detailed comments and feedback throughout the semester, but I will not give letter grades for individual assignments. Please come see me during office hours if you would like to discuss your status in the class or if you have any questions.

Final grade roughly breaks down as follows:

4 writing projects

(poetry, short fiction, creative nonfiction, and one-act play) 60%

Journal 10%

Peer Workshop comments and class Participation 20%

Final Exam (Reading your work) 10%

**Journals:**

In addition to the 4 writing projects, I encourage you to write extensively in a journal to be submitted twice during the semester. Write freely in your journals without worrying unduly about grammar, punctuation, subject matter. Each class session, we will begin with a topic and a few minutes of journal writing. I will give you a topic each day to help you explore new ideas. I would recommend that you spend an additional 15 minutes per day to jot down new ideas, to experiment with different personas, to create new voices/characters, etc. I really believe that a journal is where all the magic happens. (DUE twice during the semester)

**Workshop Format**

This class operates on both the workshop and lecture format. After an assignment is due, I will choose several pieces to photocopy for class critique. Everyone in class will read those pieces and provide the readers with both written and verbal feedback. As a group, we will discuss the piece’s strengths and offer the writer suggestions for improvement. The workshop is meant to be positive and encouraging, yet honest and reflective. The workshop operates on the philosophy that writing is a work-in-progress and that the more we shape and revise a piece, the closer it gets to our original vision of what we were trying to convey to the readers. A great workshop relies greatly on the participation of all class members; therefore, it’s important to come to class prepared with your comments ready to share.

**Risks**

The best writing takes risks. By that I mean that sometimes that it’s necessary to write outside your safety zone and to be willing to face not only embarrassment or uncertainty with work that you find emotionally challenging, upsetting, or even ridiculous. As we read the published stories/poems/essays in our textbook and in online journals, notice when and how most writers take risks. Maybe it’s in their courage to use unusual language. Maybe it’s in their courage to talk about a dark time in their lives or in history. Maybe it’s about their willingness to look like a fool and to reveal their imperfections and crazy passions or obsessions. All these qualities are what make us human and thus relatable to others. Be willing to be weird. Embrace your quirkiness. *Lose the cool.* Also, good writing is not about style as much as it’s about telling a great story with honesty, care, and empathy.

**Completion and Having Faith in Your Work**

Two of my most deeply held beliefs as a writer are that, 1. Once you begin a project, you should see it through to the end. Look, nothing is perfect, so at some point we tend to get bored with our idea and abandon it before it’s through, thinking that we can move on and create something more interesting. But this semester, once you start an idea, try to see it through to the end. Even if you don’t like the final product, you’ve at least completed it and allowed yourself the time to develop that idea. The more you can complete a project (I mean being satisfied that you’ve finished the story, edited it sufficiently, and said all you can say), the more likely you are to complete a project *well*. And, 2. Once you’ve put good effort into an essay or a short story or a poem, you should learn to be proud of it. Stand by it. Get used to sharing it. Read it aloud and familiarize yourself with your unique voice. Because what’s the purpose of writing, if not an act of communication? You never know who will be grateful for that story or who might be inspired by your words. To know that our work has affected someone positively is the greatest gift of all!

**Class Policy:**

1. Regular attendance is required. This is a participation-based class and relies heavily on your presence as a member of a cohesive group. Missing more than 2 classes will result in being dropped from the class.

2. Arrive on time; depart on time. If you need to leave early, please let me know in advance.

3. Please, *No cell phones or texting during class*. Cell phones should be put away. CELL PHONES ARE THE DEATH OF CREATIVITY (and impolite).

4. All assignments are due on the due date at the beginning of class. Late assignments cannot be accepted due to the tight scheduling of workshops.

6. All work should look neat and professional. Papers should be typed in the MLA style. All work must be legible. Note: If I can’t read something, I won’t grade it. Please note also that attention to grammar, editing, and proofreading are very important in creative writing. All of these components contribute to clear communication and effective work.

7. Sometimes I’ll alter assignments or change the syllabus to suit the needs of the class. You are responsible for keeping current with assignments. Exchange phone numbers with someone so that you’ll know what’s going on if you’ve been absent.

8. Guests are not permitted to sit in the classroom; this includes children and pets.

Plagiarism Policy:

In academia, plagiarism is a *very serious offense*. GCC policy states that if you are caught copying, stealing, cheating, or “borrowing” someone else’s ideas, you may receive an “F” for the assignment, and in some cases, an “F” in the class. (In some cases, you may even be expelled). I do not tolerate plagiarism or any form of cheating. Please ask me if you have any questions about a specific assignment.

**Students with Disabilities:**

All students with disabilities requiring accommodations are responsible for making arrangements in a timely manner through the Center for Students with Disabilities. Please let me know how I can be of assistance.

Class Website:

Please visit our class website at [http://www.angelamorales.net](http://www.angelamorales.weebly.com)

Look for the “Classes” tab at the top of the page, and click on the “Creative Writing” button.

I will post updates and useful links, as well as all class handouts and lecture notes.

Class Contacts:

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