

PELLISSIPPI STATE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING
ENGL 2630

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Revised: Spring 09

Catalog Course Description:

Writing of poetry and fiction in combination with study of models and techniques.

Entry Level Standards:

Students should have knowledge of expository writing and analytical skills derived from freshman composition; students should also be familiar with basic literary terminology and genres.

Prerequisite:

ENGL 1020 or consent of instructor

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

Bickham, Jack M. *The 38 Most Common Fiction Writing Mistakes*. Cincinnati: Writer's Digest Books, 1992.

Drury, John. *Creating Poetry*. Cincinnati: Writer's Digest Books, 1991.

Francisco, Edward. *Death, Child, and Love: Poems 1980-2000*. Knoxville: Walker Publishers, 2003.

Mills, Mark. *Crafting the Very Short Story: An Anthology of 100 Masterpieces*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2003.

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	Reading: CP 126-130; DCL 41 Writing assignment(s): English and Italian Sonnets
2	Reading: CP 106-109 Writing assignment(s): Haiku; Tanka; Somonka
3	Reading: CP 63-66 Writing assignment(s): Villanelle and Sestina
4	Reading: CP 60-61; 119-123; DCL 40 Writing assignment(s): Selected Fixed Forms
5	Reading: CP 66-71; DCL 4-6; 12-13; 37

	Writing assignment(s): Free Verse
6	Reading: CP 66-71; DCL 56; 67; 71; 82 Writing assignment(s): Free Verse—Sculpting Exercise
7	Reading: 38 Writing assignment(s): Plotting Complications
8	Reading: 38 17-25; 42-46; 66-68 Writing assignment(s): Character Development
9	Reading: 38 47-49; 53-54 Writing assignment(s): Dialogue
10	Reading: 38 61-63 Writing assignment(s): Scene Structure
11	Reading: 38 99-101; CVSS Selected Stories Writing assignment(s): Adaptation of Sources
12	Reading: 38 37-39; 34-36; CVSS Selected Stories Writing assignment(s): Point of View
13	Reading: 38 10-13; 102-104; CVSS Selected Stories Writing assignment(s): Beginnings, Middles, and Endings
14	Reading: 38 61-75; CVSS Selected Stories Writing assignment(s): Mechanics
15	Final Exam Period

II. Course Objectives*:

- A. Understand the techniques of imaginative literature and the critical approaches that clarify its nature and meaning. I.1, 4; II.1, 6
- B. Appreciate the quality of imagination and the discipline required to produce imaginative literature. I.1 ,4; II.6
- C. Develop and expand a sensitivity to and a thoughtful attitude toward life and its experiences. II.2, 4, 5; III.3
- D. Strengthen the skills of writing and revising introduced in English Composition. I.1, 4, 5
- E. Strengthen the skills of critical reading and thinking. I.1, 4, 7; II.1, 2, 6

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference TBR's general education goals.

III. Instructional Processes*:

Students will:

1. Collaborate in teams for peer review of drafts to analyze audience and message, to develop and organize ideas, and to evaluate drafts as to effectiveness and clarity. *Communications Outcome, Transitional Strategy, Active Learning Strategy*
2. Write and analyze manuscripts using word processing software. *Communication Outcome,*

Technological Literacy Outcome, Transitional Strategy, Active Learning Strategy

3. Listen to guest speakers who are published authors. *Transitional Strategy*
4. Read assigned manuscripts and participate in class discussion. *Communication Outcome, Humanities and/or Fine Arts Outcome, Transitional Strategy, Active Learning Strategy*
5. Develop oral presentation skills to present individual or group information. *Communication Outcome, Transitional Strategy, Active Learning Strategy*
6. Internalize the work ethic by regularly attending class, being punctual, being dependable, cooperating with the teacher and other classmates, contributing to class discussion and projects, and acting in a professional manner while in class. *Communication Outcome, Transitional Strategy, Active Learning Strategy*

*Strategies and outcomes listed after instructional processes reference TBR's goals for strengthening general education knowledge and skills, connecting coursework to experiences beyond the classroom, and encouraging students to take active and responsible roles in the educational process.

IV. Expectations for Student Performance*:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Read and analyze/critique poetry from the vantage of a working poet. A, B, D, E
2. Identify and write traditional fixed poetic forms. A, B, D
3. Identify and incorporate in writing more than a dozen types of figurative language. A, B, D
4. Identify and incorporate in writing various stanzaic structures and metrical patterns. A, B, D
5. Identify and incorporate in writing various sound devices. A, B, D
6. Learn the history and traditions of poetic forms that influence modern verse. A, B, E
7. Write and revise a short fiction portfolio. B, D, E
8. Learn to develop stories from premises and to plot complications. B, D, E
9. Learn to develop characters through description, explanation, and dialogue. B, D, E
10. Learn to use flashbacks, transition, and viewpoint. B, D, E
11. Learn to read short fiction with an eye for constructing stories (i.e., architectonics). B, D, E

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

V. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures:

Eighty percent (80%) of the final grade will be based on tests and quizzes. Twenty percent of the final grade will be based on a portfolio of fourteen completed fixed poetic and two short

fiction manuscripts (minimum of twelve pages).

B. Laboratory Expectations:

None

C. Field Work:

None

D. Other Evaluation Methods:

None

VI. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Attendance, promptness, and participation are essential to success in college courses. The general attendance policy of the College states that students must be present for at least 75 percent of scheduled class meetings in order to receive credit for the course; thus, students who miss 25 percent of class meetings will fail the course. Therefore, any student who must miss an excessive number of classes for any reason is advised to withdraw from the College under the "Mitigating Circumstances" provision as described in the *PSTCC Catalog*.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Any student found engaging in an act of academic dishonesty will be promptly dismissed from the course with a grade of F. According to the *PSTCC Catalog & Handbook*,

Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments
- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source
- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one's own work
- Taking an exam for another student
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor
- Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance-learning environment.

C. Accommodations for disabilities:

Students who need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) in order to receive accommodations in this course. Services for Students with Disabilities may be contacted by going to Goins 134 or 126 or by phone: 694-6751 (Voice/TTY) or 539-7153. More information is available at www.pstcc.edu/departments/swd/.

