

PALOMAR COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR
DEGREE CREDIT COURSE

 X Transfer course A.A. degree applicable course

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: English 135 - Introduction to Creative Writing

UNIT VALUE: 4

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS: 64

BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS: Appropriate language skills

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

PREREQUISITE: Eligibility for English 100

COREQUISITE: None

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION: None

SCOPE OF COURSE:

Provides practice, instruction, and analytical research in writing fiction and poetry. Students submit both creative and analytical writing which will be presented for workshop discussion and critique. Lectures present a variety of prose and verse forms.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Successful students will

1. Understand the characteristics of poetry.
2. Understand the characteristics of fiction.
3. Demonstrate techniques and skills needed to compose a poem; for example, the use of figures of speech, meter, sound devices, structure, narrative, conflict, the relationship between text and page, and so forth.
4. Compose poems in a variety of forms.
5. Demonstrate techniques and skills needed to compose fiction; for example, characterization, structure, descriptions, use of symbol, metaphor, conflict, point of view, multiple voices, and so forth.
6. Compose fiction.
7. Analyze the works of a variety of writers working in various styles and from different cultural contexts.

8. Demonstrate critical thinking skills through the analysis of poems and fiction to investigate how fictional texts are produced and received.
9. Compose a research project on some aspect of the creative process.

CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:

- I. The specific natures of literatures in relationship to other forms of cultural production.
 - A. The characteristics of fiction. For example:
 1. theme
 2. point of view
 3. structure
 4. plot
 5. characterization
 6. symbol
 7. imagery
 8. description
 9. conflict
 10. stream of consciousness
 11. oral tradition
 12. cybertext
 13. metafiction
 14. performance text
 - B. The characteristics of poetry. For example:
 1. the various forms
 2. formal experimentation
 3. theme
 4. structure
 5. meter
 6. sound devices--alliteration, onomatopoeia, assonance, caesura, etc.
 7. imagery--simile, metaphor, oxymoron, etc.
 8. symbol
 9. description
 10. multiple voices
 11. textual self-reference
 12. collaborative texts
 13. found texts
 14. cybertext
 15. tag poetry
 16. performance text

- II. Practice composing poems and short fiction by using the techniques listed in "I."
- III. A wide range of poems and fiction including a range of writers such as Sappho, Petrarch, Basho, Shakespeare, Whitman, Dickinson, Rossetti, Baudelaire, Akiko, Williams, Borges, Soyinka, Gordimer, Cisneros, Morrison, Erdrich, Silko, de Lillo, Soto, Carver.
- IV. The fiction and poetry written by the students in the class.
- V. Critical thinking techniques as applied to the discussion of the ideas in poetry and fiction and as applied to the composing of a poem or a piece of short fiction.

REQUIRED READING:

Typically, a poetry and a short fiction anthology. Examples:

Burroway, Janet. Writing Fiction. New York: Harper, 1996.

Drake, Barbara. Writing Poetry. San Diego: Harcourt, 1994.

Joris, Pierre, and Jerome Rothenberg, eds. Poems for the Millenium: From Postwar to Millennium. Berkeley: U. of California P, 1998.

Kennedy, X.J. An Introduction to Poetry. Reading: Addison-Wesley, 1998.

---. An Introduction to Fiction. Reading: Addison-Wesley, 1999.

McCaffery, Larry, ed. After Yesterday's Crash: The Avant-Pop Anthology. New York: Penguin, 1995.

SUGGESTED READING:

The poetry and fiction published in little magazines, college-based journals, and periodicals such as New Yorker, Atlantic Monthly, Rolling Stone, and Fiction International. Texts about writing by writers such as Annie Dillard's The Writing Life and Anne Lamott's Bird by Bird.

REQUIRED WRITING:

Ten poems or four or five fictions and seven to ten pages on a research topic to be agreed upon with the instructor.

OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short term classes.

1. The composing of poetry and fiction. It is difficult to put a time value on these assignments, but they are sufficiently rigorous and specific to require a great deal of work.
2. Reading from the anthologies. Approximately three hundred pages during the semester.
3. Researching topics for formal papers and presentations.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

Check all that apply:

- lecture
 laboratory
 lecture-laboratory combination
 directed study

This course may be offered as a distance education course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, check all that apply:

telecourse

mediated instruction

computer assisted instruction

GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS

The grade is derived from the writing assignments and presentations. The assignments are graded according to the standard college measurements--A through F.

IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?

Yes _____ No Number of times course may be taken for credit:
1 .

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