English 2307 Syllabus
Richland College

Instructor Information
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Office Hours: To Be Announced
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Course Information
Course Title: Intro to Creative Writing
Course Number: ENGL 2307
Section Number: 83401
Semester/Year: Spring 2020
Credit Hours: 3
Class Meeting Time/Location: Internet, all week
Certification Date: 2/3/20
Last Day to Withdraw: 4/23/20

Required Course Materials
No Textbook Required. All course materials will be on eCampus.

Course Prerequisites
Prerequisite Required: Successful completion of ENGL 1301 and 1302

Course Description
Practical experience in the techniques of imaginative writing. May include fiction, nonfiction, poetry, screenwriting, or drama, as according to the school’s description. More accurately, we will be intensively reading short fiction and creative nonfiction, applying the principles of these forms and various “writer's moves” to create our own
creative writing. (3 Lec.)
Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 2313025112

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of short fiction and nonfiction as an artistic form.
2. Develop your own appetite for certain types of stories and creative expression, using these inclinations to create your own original creative work.
3. Analyze, interpret, and evaluate a variety of texts for their artistic and logical worth to you are a creative writer.
4. Write in a style that clearly communicates your intended meaning as a creative artist.
5. Apply the lessons from previous creative writers to show a deeper understanding of both short fiction and creative nonfiction as important tools of communication between artists and audiences.

Texas Core Objectives
The College defines essential knowledge and skills that students need to develop during their college experience. These general education competencies parallel the Texas Core Objectives for Student Learning. In this course, the activities you engage in will give you the opportunity to practice two or more of the following core competencies:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills** - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. **Communication Skills** - to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
3. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
4. **Teamwork** - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
5. **Personal Responsibility** - to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
6. **Social Responsibility** - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Graded Work
Your overall grade will be based off of discussion board, short critique essays, and workshops. Each assignment will come with written instructions, and you will be expected to complete each assignment on time (no late work is accepted). Every assignment will be graded on 100 scale, and each one will fit into one of the three percentage categories below. I will update the gradebook in eCampus on a weekly
basis, and you can expect assignments to be graded within the week that they are due. If for any reason grades will not be given back within the week, you will be informed promptly. Furthermore, you can expect a fair amount of feedback in the class from both me and your fellow students. Some of the grades and work will be group-driven, so please make sure you are working hard together and helping each other out along the way. Writing is a solitary practice, but it is based off of the ideas of others, the input of others, and the help of others. No writer got to where he or she is alone.

Summary of Graded Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Writing Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Critiques</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentages</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Description of Graded Work

**Short Writing Assignments:** Short Writing Assignments are creative writing assignments intended to stretch you as a creative writer and springboard you into different forms of expression. You will have approximately 8 of these over the course of the semester. You will also occasionally have a discussion board based off of a video that will lead towards open creative discussions.

**Reading Critiques:** Reading Critiques are short assignments meant to display your understanding of both story and practical classwork readings. You will answer the questions provided and reply to a couple of your classmates as well.
Workshops: You will be graded as both a “critiquer” and “artist” in workshops. You will respond to everyone’s written stories over the course of the semester, and you will submit your own artistic work as well. This is at the heart of the class, and it should be taken very seriously if you want to achieve a strong grade.

Attendance and Your Final Grade
As this is an online class, attendance is not required at a specific time, but it does require that you come online between certain windows to respond to other's work and turn in your own.

Participation is required in this class, and the more effort you give (especially to your peer’s when working through workshops), the better your overall grade will be. You are expected to draft, revise, read, and critique creative work, both individual and in groups in this class. Every semester, the students who place the most work into class time are the ones who receive an A rather than a B or C, a B rather than a C or D, and so on. Practice does not make perfect in every case, but it almost always leads to improvement and a pattern of repetition, and this can lead to success. If you’re an athlete, think about how much time you spend practicing versus playing actual games or competing in races. The same applies if you play an instrument, are interested in painting, or are trying to become a more accomplished writer. Even though this class is meant to be engaging and fun, do take it seriously as an art form. Work hard all the time, in everything you do, and the time when it counts the most you will be proud of the results and effort you give.

Your final grade is a calculation of the grading scale provided above. If you are failing at any point in the course, it is your responsibility to find a time to speak with me about it and see what you need to do to work on getting ahead. I will not approach you about this, and I will not be able to help you find a pathway toward earning the grade you want if you ask me about your grade in the last few weeks of class—the time to do this is much sooner, when you have time to make tangible improvements. There will be no assigned extra credit in this class or last minute assignments to pull up grades, though I may offer the entire class an extra opportunity or two at my discretion.

Late Work Policy
No late work is accepted. Anything turned in late will be counted as a zero unless it is accompanied by a documented instance of something unavoidable (i.e. an emergency room visit, not something like a regular physical at the doctor’s office that could have been scheduled at another time). If you can provide documentation and believe you
have a valid excuse for why you could not finish your work, I will consider it, but rarely do I accept late work.

Computer or technology issues: It is understandable that technology issues can happen from time to time, but you need to plan ahead to help avoid missing deadlines because of last minute technology issues. You will be granted one half day extension if a technology related issue occurs, but you will only be granted one during the semester, and I will only grant them if the case is documented through screenshots, time stamped emails to me, etc.

**Other Course Policies**

The instructor has the right to amend this syllabus due to unforeseen conflicts or for the overall benefit of the class.

**Institutional Policies**

Institutional Policies relating to this course can be accessed using the link below. These policies include information about tutoring, Disabilities Services, class drop and repeat options, Title IX, and more.

Richland Institutional Policies (http://www.richlandcollege.edu/syllabipolicies)

**Course Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Assignments</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| week 1 | Danger of a Single Story Discussion Board  
Sticks by George Saunders Critique | 1/26 |
| week 2 | Waiting for the Miracle by Lara Vapnyar Critique  
1st Short Writing Assignment | 2/2 |
| week 3 | Workshop  
The Swimmer by John Cheever Critique  
Girl and Boys Critique  
2nd Short Writing Assignment | 2/9 |
| week 4 | Workshop  
Paper Losses Critique  
Redeployment Critique | 2/16 |
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| week 5  | Workshop  
           Neighbors Critique  
           Bullet in the Brain Critique  
           3rd Short Writing Assignment   | 2/23      |
| week 6  | Workshop  
           Junot Diaz Discussion Board  
           Happy Trails Critique          | 3/1       |
| week 7  | Workshop  
           Cutting Horse Critique  
           4th Short Writing Assignment  | 3/8       |
| week 8  | TBD                                    | 3/15      |
| week 9  | TBD                                    | 3/22      |
| week 10 | Workshop  
           Critique                         | 3/29      |
| week 11 | Workshop  
           Critique                         | 4/5       |
| week 12 | Workshop  
           Critique                         | 4/12      |
| week 13 | Workshop  
           Critique                         | 4/19      |
| week 14 | Workshop  
           Critique                         | 4/26      |
| week 15 | TBD                                    | 5/3       |
| week 16 | Final Portfolio Submission              | 5/10      |