



ENGL 2250

Division: Humanities

Department: English

Course: ENGL 2250

Title: Creative Writing

Catalog Description:

This course is an introduction to the writing of fiction and/or poetry. Students read and discuss exemplary models and compose numerous projects of their own. For fiction, emphasis is placed on plot, character, dialogue, description, and theme. For poetry, emphasis is placed on language, structure, and voice.

This course may be repeated once for elective credit.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: Fall, Spring

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Justification:

Creative Writing is an extremely popular course for both majors and non-majors. For some students it may be the focal point of their two-year experience at Snow College.

Creative Writing is also an important adjunct to the traditional study of literature. Studying how writing is done can greatly enhance one's appreciation for works of literature that have stood the test of time.

ENGL 2250 articulates with ENGL 2060 at SUU, ENGL 2500 at U of U, ENGL 2250 at UVSC, and ENGL 2250 at WSU, and, subject to individual assessment, can be accepted as an equivalent for either ENGL 3420 or ENGL 3430 at USU.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Fiction: Students will understand the basics of plot, character, dialogue, description, and theme. They will be able to recognize when these elements are handled successfully by other writers, and they will be able to use them in a well-crafted short piece of fiction.

Poetry: Students will develop an awareness that language can be used carefully and artistically, and that voice is a product of craft rather than happenstance. They will understand a variety of poetic forms and devices. They will be able to discuss the theme of a poem, and to distinguish successful poetry from that which is clumsy or trite. They will be able to compose a series of well-crafted poems.

All students in ENGL 2250 will believe that they are capable of participating in the grand tradition of literature.

Content:

The typical section of ENGL 2250 focuses on fiction or poetry, but it is permissible for a section to focus on both.

A fiction section addresses plot, genre, character, dialogue, description, point of view, theme, style, and various mechanical issues. Students read a variety of fiction (long or short) and compose roughly 20 full pages of original material per semester.

A poetry section addresses form (e.g., sonnet, ode, sestina, verse libre), language (sound, sense, association), poetic devices (metaphor, metonymy, personification, apostrophe), voice, theme, and (of course) rhyme, rhythm, and meter. Students read a variety of poems and compose at least 12 original poems per semester. (Poetry is such a diverse form that it would be unfair to demand a more specific page count; let it be said simply that poetry students are expected to devote as much time and energy to their craft as fiction students.)

The course is conducted as a series of presentations mixed with "workshops"--i.e. group analyses of student work.

General Education Outcomes:

1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.

Students read and discuss a variety of primary texts. Readings are selected for their intrinsic quality and to highlight one or more aspects of the course content. During class discussions, students demonstrate their understanding of effective writing. Their writing assignments demonstrate their ability to incorporate the principles of effective writing introduced to them in the primary texts.

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.

This course discusses the art of writing. Students write clearly, informatively, or persuasively when doing so suits the project at hand. By the same token, however, they may also write obliquely or disingenuously. What matters is that they learn to recognize the differences and to make their choices consciously.

9) Respond with informed sensitivity to an artistic work or experience.

Students read and analyze a variety of poems, stories, or novels by respected authors. They study the techniques by which the works have been crafted, develop a set of standards by which literature can be evaluated, and intensify their understanding by putting it into practice.

Key Performance Indicators:

Students in a fiction section write 2-3 short pieces of fiction for a total of roughly 20 pages. Students in a poetry section write 12 or more poems for an indeterminate number of pages.

Although some instructors may supplement this work with quizzes, tests, or essays, the writing itself should count for 70-80% of the final grade. Workshop participation may also count toward the final grade.

All writing is assessed with reference to the standards set by the literary tradition, but adjusted to an apprenticeship level.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

There are many excellent books on writing fiction and poetry, and some instructors may feel more effective

using no text at all. Nevertheless, the following texts would certainly be adequate:

Wallace, Robert, and Michelle Boisseau. *Writing Poems*. Current edition. New York: Harper Collins.

Burroway, Janet. *Writing Fiction*. Current edition. New York: Harper Collins.

Optimum Class Size: 15

Maximum Class Size: 20

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Melanie Jenkins, MA, Associate Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the English Department:

Melanie Jenkins, MA, Associate Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Humanities Division:

Sheryl James Bodrero, PhD, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)