

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
English 71, Intro to Creative Writing (GE C2), Sec 6, Fall 2012

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Office Hours:	MW 13:30-14:45
Class Days/Time:	TTh 15:00-16:15
Classroom:	DMH 354
GE Category:	Letters C2

Course Description

Introduction to Creative Writing (English 71) is a 3-unit lower-division course designed, adopted, implemented, and administered by the Department of English & Comparative Literature at San Jose State University in accordance with the University's General Education Program Guidelines to fulfill Core General Education requirements in the Letters area of Humanities & the Arts. It is also an elective in the English major, a requirement in the Creative Writing minor, and a pre-requisite for taking upper division Creative Writing workshops.

In this course you will read, discuss, and write poetry, creative nonfiction, and fiction. Class meetings will feature a combination of discussion and writing workshops. We will discuss and analyze published works of creative writing that will serve as models for your own writing. We will workshop—that is, analyze and critique—your creative work, and you are required to participate in all workshops dedicated to the discussion of class members' work.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

English Department Student Learning Objectives:

SLO: 1 Students will demonstrate the ability to read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric;

SLO 2: Students will demonstrate the ability to show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature;

SLO 3: Students will demonstrate the ability to write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject;

SLO 4: Students will demonstrate the ability to develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively;

SLO 5: Students will demonstrate the ability to articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.

GE Area C2 Letters Student Learning Objectives:

SLO 1: Letters courses will enable students to recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns.

SLO 2: Letters courses will enable students to respond to significant works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses.

SLO 3: Letters courses will enable students to write clearly and effectively. Writing shall be assessed for correctness, clarity, and conciseness.

Course Objectives:

- Decipher and understand the form and content of assigned literary works;
- Comprehend the historical and cultural contexts of assigned literary works;
- Recognize the accomplishments of and issues related to writing by men and women representing diverse cultural traditions;
- Acquire through both individual and collaborative/ workshop efforts of a written and oral nature the skills necessary for reading, discussing, analyzing, interpreting, and—most importantly—emulating and writing works of poetry, creative non-fiction, and short fiction;
- Communicate such skills with clarity and precision;
- Develop an appreciation of literary works as expressions of human intellect and imagination, and as representations of diverse human cultures;
- Develop the ability to write literary works that express intellect and imagination and that represent diversity in human cultures;
- Respond to literature through clear and effective communication in both written and oral work;
- Read and respond to texts with both analytical acumen and personal sensibility;
- Appreciate how literary works illuminate enduring human concerns while at the same time representing their particular cultures;
- Write works of poetry, creative non-fiction, and short fiction that are of interest and value to the writer, to other students in the course, and to a diverse reading audience.

Information available online

You are responsible for reading the portions of the following information online that pertain to English 71 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/comp/policyforsyllabi.html>

Academic policies (academic integrity, plagiarism, ADA and DRC policies)

Adding and dropping classes

Required Texts/Readings

Sellers, Heather. *The Practice of Creative Writing*. Boston: Bedford / St. Martins, 2008.

You will need a blank notebook for a writing journal. Additional readings will be provided. Bring *The Practice of Creative Writing* and your notebook to every class meeting.

Classroom Protocol

Late Work:

Unless you make arrangements prior to the class meetings in which they are due and cite compelling reasons, all out-of-class assignments must be turned in when indicated on the schedule, and you will be penalized one-third of a letter grade for each day they are late. I do not accept email submissions. You will sign up for your workshop days, which if missed cannot be made up. If you do not provide copies of your work for the class with ample time before your scheduled workshop, you will lose your turn. No regular in-class work may be made up, including that missed because you were tardy.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Course Assignments, Grading Percentages, and Related Learning Objectives:

• Form Poem	3%	DSLO 3; GESLO 3
• Lyric Poem	4%	DSLO 3; GESLO 3
• Flash Fiction	6%	DSLO 3; GESLO 3
• Narrative Poem	8%	DSLO 3; GESLO 3
• Flash Nonfiction	9%	DSLO 3; GESLO 3
• Revised Poem or Flash	10%	DSLO 3; GESLO 3
• Short Story	10%	DSLO 3; GESLO 3
• Short Nonfiction	10%	DSLO 3; GESLO 3
• Revised Story or Nonfiction	10%	DSLO 3; GESLO 3
• Workshops	15%	DSLO 1, 5; GESLO 1, 2, 3
• In-class work and homework	10%	DSLO 1, 2, 5; GESLO 1, 2
• Diagnostic Self Portraits	5%	DSLO 3; GESLO 3

The specifics of each assignment will appear on the assignment sheets.

Grading is A-F: A=excellent; B=above average; C=average; D=below average; and F=failure. A+ ≥ 97%, A ≥ 93%, A- ≥ 90%, B+ ≥ 87%, B ≥ 83%, B- ≥ 80%, C+ ≥ 77%, C ≥ 73%, C- ≥ 70%, D+ ≥ 67%, D ≥ 63%, D- ≥ 60%, and F < 60%.

Creative writing is evaluated according to general standards used to determine how well a piece of writing *works*. These include: 1) Textual and/or technical competence and eloquence. 2) Imaginative risk. 3) Energy and freshness of language. 4) Effective use of metaphor and other forms of figurative language. 5) Clarity and precision of detail. 6) Capacity for mixed feelings and uncertainty. 7) Effective use of grammar, syntax, rhythm; also meter, rhyme, and other elements of poetic style and form. 8) Naturalness and believability. 9) Appropriateness of style to subject. 10) Compelling audience interest.

English 71, Fall 2012, Course Schedule

This schedule is a plan. As Robert Burns put it, "the best laid schemes o' mice an' men [and presumably women] gang aft a-gley," so be prepared for changes. You are responsible for all material covered and assigned in class, whether it appears on the schedule or not. Keep in touch. Complete reading assignments for the class date on which they appear. Print out the reading assignments on Desire 2 Learn (D2L) and bring to class.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 23	Instructor's expectations and assumptions made plain; Class introductions; DIAGNOSTIC SELF PORTRAIT ASSIGNED.
2	Aug 28-30	Reading: Introduction: How Creative Writing Works (1-8); Focus (11-26); GROUPS ASSIGNED; LISTS ASSIGNED. Reading: Writing and Reading (27-65); IMITATIONS ASSIGNED; DIAGNOSTIC SELF PORTRAIT DUE.
3	Sep 4-6	Reading: Energy (69-100); Reading: Structure: Forms (314-342); FORM POEM ASSIGNED; IMITATIONS DUE; LISTS DUE.

4	Sep 11-13	<p>Reading: Images (101-140); Bring Form Poem work-in-progress for in-class work.</p> <p>FORM POEM DUE; LYRIC POEM ASSIGNED.</p>
5	Sep 18-20	<p>Reading: Tension (141-198); Bring Lyric Poem work-in-progress for in-class work.</p> <p>LYRIC POEM DUE; FLASH FICTION ASSIGNED.</p>
6	Sep 25-27	<p>Reading: Pattern (199-228); Bring Flash Fiction work-in-progress for in-class work.</p> <p>FLASH FICTION DUE; NARRATIVE POEM ASSIGNED.</p>
7	Oct 2-4	<p>Reading: Insight (229-278); Bring Narrative Poem work-in-progress for in-class work.</p> <p>NARRATIVE POEM DUE; FLASH NONFICTION ASSIGNED.</p>

8	Oct 9-11	<p>Reading: Structure: Elements (279-313); Bring Flash Non-fiction work-in-progress for in-class work.</p> <p>FLASH NONFICTION DUE; SHORT STORY AND SHORT NONFICTION ASSIGNED.</p>
9	Oct 16-18	<p>Reading: Workshop (29-30); Workshop Etiquette (D2L);</p> <p>Workshop Logistics (D2L); FLASH OR POEM WORKSHOP DRAFT DUE.</p> <p>WRITING WORKSHOP— FLASH OR POEM.</p>
10	Oct 23-25	<p>WRITING WORKSHOP— FLASH OR POEM.</p> <p>WRITING WORKSHOP—FLASH OR POEM.</p>
11	Oct 30-Nov 1	<p>WRITING WORKSHOP— FLASH OR POEM.</p> <p>WRITING WORKSHOP—FLASH OR POEM.</p>

12	Nov 6-8	<p>Reading: Molly Giles (D2L); Revision (367-381). Bring work-in-progress on prose workshop piece to class.</p> <p>REVISED FLASH OR POEM DUE; WORKSHOP PROSE PIECE, STORY OR NONFICTION, DUE.</p>
13	Nov 13-15	<p>WRITING WORKSHOP—STORY OR NONFICTION. WRITING WORKSHOP—STORY OR NONFICTION.</p>
14	Nov 20-22	<p>WRITING WORKSHOP—STORY OR NONFICTION.</p> <p><i>THANKSGIVING</i></p>
15	Nov 27-29	<p>WRITING WORKSHOP—STORY OR NONFICTION. OTHER PROSE PIECE, STORY OR NONFICTION, DUE.</p> <p>WRITING WORKSHOP—STORY OR NONFICTION.</p>

16	Dec 4-6	REVISED WORKSHOP STORY OR NONFICTION DUE; POST-SEMESTER DIAGNOSTIC SELF PORTRAIT ASSIGNED. Post mortem on the semester; All graded work returned; POST- SEMESTER DIAGNOSTIC SELF PORTRAIT DUE.
Final Exam	Thurs, Dec 13	14:45-17:00

Important SJSU dates Fall 2012

Wednesday	August 22	First Day of Instruction – Classes Begin
Monday	September 3	Labor Day - Campus Closed (L)
Tuesday	September 4	Last Day to Drop Courses Without Permanent Record
Tuesday	September 11	Last Day to Add Courses & Register Late (A)
Wednesday	September 19	Enrollment Census Date (CD)
Monday	November 12	Veteran's Day Observed - Campus Closed (V)
Wednesday	November 21	Classes that start at 5:00 PM or later will not meet.
Thursday	November 22	Thanksgiving Holiday - Campus Closed (T)
Friday	November 23	Rescheduled Holiday - Campus Closed (RH)
Monday	December 10	Last Day of Instruction - Last Day of Classes
Tuesday	December 11	Study/Conference Day (no classes or exams) (SC)
Wed-Tues	Dec 12-18	Final Examinations (exams)
Wednesday	December 19	Final Examinations Make-Up Day (MU)
Thursday	December 20	Grade Evaluation Day (E)
Friday	December 21	Grades Due From Faculty