

**ENGLISH 3343-110 CREATIVE WRITING – Professor Gray**  
**Fall 2019**  
Texas A&M University-Central Texas

**COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION**

*26 August – 13 December 2019*  
*Face to Face Instruction*  
*Founders Hall Room 203*  
*Tuesdays 6:00 – 9:00 pm*

*The primary focus of this course will be face to face instructions, blending aspects of lecture, in class exercises and workshops*

**INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dwight A Gray

**Office:** N/A

**Phone:**

**Email:** [d.a.gray@tamuct.edu](mailto:d.a.gray@tamuct.edu)

**Office Hours:**

*I will be available on Monday and Wednesday afternoons by appointment. I do not maintain an office on campus so we will coordinate a meeting place, usually in the library or in another public space.*

*During the second half of the course I will plan to set up a one-on-one meeting for feedback and to talk about the final project. More to follow as the semester progresses.*

**Student-instructor interaction:**

*If you have concerns that can't wait for an appointment please feel free to email me. Barring any unforeseen circumstance I will respond within 1 day.*

**Warrior Shield:**

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](#)

[<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Overview and description:** This introduction to Creative Writing will focus on **Crafting Your Own Narrative** and will be divided into two parts: **Prose (primarily Creative Nonfiction) and Poetry.**

**Course Objective:** To develop a working knowledge of craft, a working portfolio, and the ability to analyze and critique the work of one's peers.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

*Students, by the end of the course, should have a working portfolio of at least two personal essays and six poems. Students should also master the art of giving constructive feedback, analyzing a literary essay and poem, and presenting one's work to a small group.*

## **Required Reading and Textbook(s):**

Burroway, Janet. *Imaginative Writing: the Elements of Craft*. 4th ed., Pearson, 2015.

Theune, Michael. *Structure & Surprise: Engaging Poetic Turns*. Teachers and Writers Collaborative, 2007.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Course Requirements: (include point values for each- not just a percentage)

- *Short Assignments – Analysis 2.5% each (30%)*
- *Major Projects – 2 Portfolios (1 poetry, 1 prose) (50%)*
- *Class Participation – Workshop, Critiques*

\* NOTE: Poems and essays to be workshops will be sent via email to the class, NLT than Thursday at midnight the week before workshop.

## **Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion**

### **Posting of Grades**

- *Turn Around Time. Feedback for assignments will be returned on the following week.*

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR**

### **Complete Course Calendar**

Week One

FOCUS: Identity, The Danger of the Single Story

READING: in Class. Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie

Writing: I am. The Author's identity

Week Two

FOCUS: Elements of Writing, Importance of Writing

READING: Burroway Chp 1. George Orwell 'Politics and the English Language'

Writing: The importance of accuracy. The dangers of obscure writing.  
Creative Writing's answer to 'official accounts' and other myths.  
First essays assigned.

#### Week Three

FOCUS: Image and Description

READING: Burroway Chapter 2, Didion 'At the Dam' and 'Marrying Absurd'

Writing: In class write. Description. First Essays critiqued

#### Week Four

FOCUS: Voice

READING: Burroway 3. Alice Walker 'When the Other Dancer is the Self,' Michael Herr from 'Dispatches'

Writing: Who I Am, in class. 2<sup>nd</sup> half of first essays.

#### Week Five

FOCUS: Character

READING: Burroway 4. Jamaica Kincaid 'Girl' and Alexander Hemon "Book of my Life"

Writing: Write a persona give an inclass prompt. 2<sup>nd</sup> essay due.

#### Week Six.

FOCUS: Setting

READING: Wendell Berry, Zora Neale Hurston

Writing: Burroway 5 Place description using imagery, history, cultural knowledge. 2<sup>nd</sup> group, essay 2.

#### Week Seven

FOCUS: Putting it all together, the personal essay

READING: Burroway 7 & 8. A revision narrative.

Writing: Talk about the first portfolio due on Week 8.

#### Week Eight

FOCUS: Personal Essay and Presentation

READING: None – revisions due on essays.

Writing: An oral presentation. Students will introduce your work (1-3 min), read an excerpt (6-8 min). Upload 2 revised essays.

We will discuss poetry and the second half of class before going home.

Homework. Read Burroway 10 and handout 'Reading a Poem'

#### Week Nine:

FOCUS: Poetry intro. Reading and critiqueing

Reading: In class. Poems by Elizabeth Bishop, Wallace Stevens, Patricia Smith, Jericho Brown, Li Young Lee. Read Theune Introduction.

Writing: Wordplay exercise. First poems assigned.

#### Week Ten:

NOTE: The aspects we've read while discussing prose hold true for poetry. Your poems

will have a place, an image, a voice, a speaker – possibly history and character. You are expected to use these tools but we will focus also on Structure.

FOCUS: The Thing Itself

Reading: Theune 2. Emblem Structure. Komunyakaa 'Facing It' Trethewey 'Flounder,' Auden's 'Musee de Beaux Arts'

Writing: First week of poems workshopped. 2<sup>nd</sup> Poems Turned in.

Week Eleven:

FOCUS: The Past

READING: Theune 4, 'Retrospective Prospective Structure' James Galvin 'Dear May Eighth' Ada Limon 'Downhearted' Dunya Mikhail 'Pomegranate Seeds'

Writing: 2<sup>nd</sup> group of poems, workshopped. 3<sup>rd</sup> turned in.

Week Twelve:

FOCUS: Descriptive Meditative

READING: Theune 7 Susan Mitchell 'Wave' Robert Penn Warren 'Evening Hawk' Robert Lowell 'Skunk Hour'

Week Thirteen:

FOCUS: Form, Rhyme and Meter

READING: Handout. Frost 'Acquainted with the Night' Yeats' 'Circus Animals Desertion' Claude McKay 'If We Must Die'

Week Fourteen

FOCUS: Form Repetition

READING: Handout. Patricia Smith 'Incendiary Art, Elizabeth Bishop 'One Art' Angel Nafis 'Ghazal for Becoming Your Own Country'

Week Fifteen

FOCUS Portfolio

READING: Student Lead Presentations. Submit revised portfolio for grade.

Week Sixteen

FOCUS Feedback, Where do we go from here?

READING: Handout on publishing, revision, developing a process

### **Important University Dates:**

August 26, 2019 Classes Begin for Fall Semester

August 26, 2019 Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for 16- and First 8-week Classes \$25 Fee assessed for late registrants

August 28, 2019	Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for 16- and First 8-week
September 2, 2019	Labor Day (University Closed)
September 3, 2019	Deadline to Drop First 8-week Classes with No Record
September 11, 2019	Deadline to drop 16-week Classes with No Record
October 1, 2019	Deadline for Teacher Education and Professional Certification Applications
October 4, 2019	Deadline to Drop First 8-week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
October 15, 2019	Deadline for Clinical Teaching/Practicum Applications
October 18, 2018	Classes End for First 8-week Session
October 18, 2019	Deadline to Withdraw from University for First 8-Week Classes (WF)
October 21, 2019	Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for Second 8-Week Classes \$25 Fee assessed for late registrants
October 21, 2019	Classes Begin for Second 8-Week Session
October 21, 2019	Class Schedule Published for Spring Semester
October 22, 2019	Deadline for Faculty Submission of First 8-Week Class Final Grades (due by 3pm)
October 23, 2019	Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for Second 8-Week Classes
October 25, 2019	Deadline for Graduation Application for Ceremony Participation
October 28, 2019	Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with No Record
November 4, 2019	Registration Opens for Spring Semester
November 8, 2019	Deadline to Drop 16-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
November 11, 2019	Veteran's Day (University Closed)
November 28-29, 2019	Thanksgiving (University Closed)
November 29, 2019	Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)

December 13, 2019	Deadline for Applications for Tuition Rebate for Fall Graduation (5pm)
December 13, 2019	Deadline for Degree Conferral Applications to the Registrar's Office \$20 Late Application Fee
December 13, 2019	Deadline to Withdraw from University for 16- and Second 8-Week Classes
December 13, 2019	Fall Semester Ends

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

*While much of the course will be face to face, and using hard paper copies, students will need to access Canvas to access supplemental literature.*

### Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

### Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

### Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

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## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

### Drop Policy.

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [[https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop\\_Request\\_Form.pdf](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf)].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the

Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

### **Academic Integrity.**

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html),

[<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0),

[[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\\_id=0](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0)].

### **Academic Accommodations.**

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required)

[<https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717>]

### **Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students.**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](#)

[<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html>]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](#) online, please visit the website [<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

### **Tutoring.**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. Tutor.com tutoring **will not** offer writing support beginning August 1, 2019.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at [deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu](mailto:deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu).

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

### **University Writing Center.**

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University—Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!



Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

### **University Library.**

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

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## **OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS:**

### **A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas**

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX](#)

[webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

### **Behavioral Intervention**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, who are exhibiting behaviors that pose a threat to safety, or individuals causing a significant disruption to our community, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

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### **INSTRUCTOR POLICIES.**

*Late work. I generally do not accept late work since writing must be distributed to your classmates for critique. If there are circumstances you believe are beyond your control please let me know as soon as a problem arises and we will discuss the appropriate direction to take.*

### **Copyright Notice.**

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

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