dENGLISH 3343-110 CREATIVE WRITING – Storytelling - Professor Gray Fall 2020

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

24 August – 11 December 2020

Online Synchronous (This may change on certain weeks where we are not actively workshopping. You can count on a blend of asynchronous (guided written discussions and reading) and synchronous (WebEx meetings, or the equivalent) discussions.

Tuesdays 6:00 – 9:00 pm on WebEx

The primary focus of this course will be online discussion -- 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

Office Hours:

I will be available primarily through email. If you need a conference please feel free to request through email. Due to the ongoing issues with COVID 19 and concern for your safety any meeting will be through electronic media or telephone.

During the second half of the course expect a one-on-one (online) meeting for feedback and to talk about the final project. More to follow as the semester progresses.

Student-instructor interaction:

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 <u>911Cellular</u> [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 (Prose) will focus on Crafting Your Own Narrative and will be divided into two parts: Creative Nonfiction and Fiction (Short Story).

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 two stories.

Students should be able to define and discuss the elements of a story.

Students should apply critical reading practices necessary to give constructive feedback, analyze a literary essay and story, and present one's work to a small group.

 $Students\ should\ demonstrate\ accurate\ grammar,\ usage,\ spelling\ \&\ mechanics.$

Required Reading and Textbook(s):

Phillip Lopate, To Show and To Tell, ISBN 978-1451696325

Janet Burroway, Writing Fiction, ISBN 978-0226616698

Suggested Supplemental Texts (not required but useful):

Donald Murray, Crafting a Life

Natalie Goldberg, Writing Down the Bones

Sample essays and short stories will be provided by the professor and occasionally may change based on opportunity or a teachable lesson. You can find the stories listed in the weekly schedule of the syllabus.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- -- Access to computer with MS Word, or equivalent software.
- -- Network access, TAMUCT email account, and Canvas required.
- -- At a minimum a microphone for use in online discussions (camera preferred)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

NOTE: While Creative Writing is normally seen as an elective, even a fun class (and it is), it is also a process class, meaning you will need to develop the habit of reading theory, analyzing stories, critiquing your classmates and writing – each day.

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

- Short Assignments Analysis 2.5% each (20%)
- Major Projects -Portfolios (2 Nonfiction, 2 Fiction) (50%)

• Class Participation – Workshop, Critiques (30%)

* NOTE: Short Stories and essays to be work shopped will be sent via email to the class, NLT than Thursday at midnight the week before workshop.

Short Assignments – a One Paragraph response to one of the assigned readings which will be a discussion of what essay or story caught your attention and how that selection will help you as a writer.

Portfolios will be turned in on Week 16, the same night as our student reading.

Individual Participation. This is critical. In order for the workshop to be helpful each student must come prepared with suggestions as well as points in each of your peers' work that are deserving of praise. Taking part in workshops as well as guided discussions is expected.

All assignments must be completed on the due date unless you have coordinated with the instructor in advance. In workshop being timely is even more critical because your peers need your assignment to do their part.

Posting of Grades

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

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR Complete Course Calendar

Online Classroom Norms:

- 1. Be courteous to your classmates by doing the readings and guided discussions before class begins.
- 2. Submit drafts of essays and stories on time so that your classmates have time to read and critique them before workshops.
- 3. Read and critique peer essays prior to workshops
- 4. Have video and audio during synchronous course time
- 5. Mute yourself to prevent background noise as a courtesy to classmates when not speaking
- 6. Expect to contribute to the conversation every class period
- 7. Synchronous Course time 6 to 9 via Webex
- 8. Encouraged—form a triad or quartet subgroup within the class to have some "study-buddies"
- 9. Be patient as we adjust to communication in the virtual world; it may feel awkward at first, but we can develop a rhythm and have a great class.

Week One August 24	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for	Lopate Chapter 1
this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie Film Clip "The
	Danger of A Single Story
Synchronous:	Story Telling Introduction
	Tools of the Craft

	I Am
	The Author's Identity
	Who is the Speaker
Asynchronous Post Class	Begin Essay One "Self, place, descriptive
Asylicinolious I ost Class	writing"
	Witting
Week Two Sept 1	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for	Lopate—The Necessity of Turning Ones Self
this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Into A Character
	George Orwell 'Politics and the English
	Language'
	Alice Walker 'When the Other Dancer is Self'
Synchronous:	Elements of Writing
	Importance and Ethics of Writing
	The importance of accuracy
	The dangers of obscure writing
	Creative Writing's Answer to 'official
	accounts' and other myths
Asynchronous Post Class	Submit Essay One due Sept 3
	Read and Critique Essay One Group A prior
	to Sept 8
	Read and Critique Essay One Group B prior
	to Sept 15
W. Len G. 40	
Week Three, Sept 8	1 1
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for	Lopate—Imagination Thin and Thick (72)
this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Facts have Implications (77) Edwidge
G 1	Danticat "We are Ugly, but We are Here"
Synchronous:	The Self and Place
Workshop Night	Discuss and Critique Group A Essay 1
Asynchronous Post Class	Group A Begin revision based on class
	feedback
	ALL Begin Essay 2 Memory/Reflection
Week Four, Sept 15	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for	Lopate—The Made Up Self (112), Research
this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	(116), Alice Walker 'Use"
Synchronous:	Limitations of the Self
Workshop Night	Discuss and Critique Group B Essay 1
Asynchronous Post Class	Group B Begin revision based on class
-	feedback
	ALL: Submit Essay 2 September 17
	ALL: Read and Critique Essay Two Group A
	prior to Sept 22
	Read and Critique Essay Two Group B prior

	to Sept 29	
	10 Sept 25	
Week Five, Sept 22		
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for	Lopate—Retrospection (26)	
this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Toni Morrison 'Memory, Creation, Writing'	
Synchronous:	Memory and Reflection	
Workshop Night	Discuss and Critique Group A Essay 2	
Asynchronous Post Class	Group A Begin revision based on class feedback	
Week Six, Sept 29		
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for	Lopate, Contrariety (64), Ethics (82), Baldwin	
this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	TBD	
Synchronous:	What is Fact? What is Truth? Is there a	
Workshop Night	Difference?	
	Place Description using imagery, history,	
	cultural knowledge	
	Discuss and Critique Group A Essay 2	
Asynchronous Post Class	Group A Begin revision based on class feedback	
Week Seven, Oct 6		
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for	Lopate, Ending an essay (45) 8. A revision	
this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	narrative excerpt.	
Synchronous:	Putting it all Together: Revision	
Workshop Night	Talk about Portfolio Due on Week 8	
Asynchronous Post Class	Finalize Revisions and Prepare Oral	
	Presentations 1-3 minutes introduce your	
	work, 6 to 8 minutes read an excerpt of your works	
Week Eight, Oct 13		
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for	None, Revisions with Editing due on Essays	
this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	one and two	
Synchronous:	7 to 11 minute student presentations	
Presentation Night	Discuss Fiction	
Asynchronous Post Class	Celebrate finishing two essays and your oral	
	presentation	
	Start Story Number One	
Week Nine, Oct 20		
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for	Burroway "Whatever Works" (1)	
this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Alice Munro "Train"	
Synchronous:	Fiction—What Makes a Story?	

	Fiction, Description, Great Characters	
Asynchronous Post Class	Submit Story One Oct 22	
•	Read and Critique Group A by Oct 27	
	Read and Critique Group B by Nov 3	
Week Ten, Oct 27		
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for	Burroway (22) Showing and Telling	
this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	O'Brien "The Things They Carried"	
Synchronous:	The Thing Itself	
Workshop	Description	
	Discuss and Critique Group A Story One	
Asynchronous Post Class	Group A begin Story One Revision	
	ALL: Begin Story Two	
Week Eleven, Nov 3		
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for	Burroway (44) Characterization (75), ZZ	
this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Packer Discussion "Every Tongue Shall	
-	Confess" or "Drinking Coffee Elsewhere"	
Synchronous:	Character	
Workshop Night	Discuss and Critique Group B Story One	
Asynchronous Post Class	Group B begin Story One Revision	
	Submit Story Two by Nov 5	
	Read and Critique Group A by Nov 10	
	Read and Critique Group B by Nov 17	
Week Twelve, Nov 10		
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for	Burroway 101, Erdrich Story	
this Class with Guided Discussion Questions		
Synchronous:	Setting	
Workshop Night	Discuss and Critique Group A Story Two	
Asynchronous Post Class	Group A begin Story Two Revision	
Week Thirteen, Nov 17	Dynamovycy (124) Stoyyant Ded. dr (WY- D. 1. 342)	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for	Burroway (124) Stewart Dybek "We Didn't"	
this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	or "If I Vanished"	
Synchronous:	Structure Discuss and Critique Group P. Story Two	
Workshop Night	Discuss and Critique Group B Story Two Group B begin Story Two Revision	
Asynchronous Post Class	Group B begin Story I wo Revision	
Week Fourteen, Nov 24		
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for	Burroway 153, Don DeLillo "Videotape" or	
this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Joy Williams "The Excursion"	
Synchronous:	Point of View	
	Explain Student Lead Presentations/Portfolio	
Asynchronous Post Class	Continue Revisions	

Week Fifteen, Dec 1	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for	Burroway 201 Revision Chapter
this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	
Synchronous:	Portfolio
Presentation Night	Student Lead Presentations
Asynchronous Post Class	Celebrate Completion of Portfolios and
	Student Lead Presentations
Week Sixteen, Dec 8	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for	
this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	
Synchronous:	Feedback, Where do we go from Here
Workshop Night	Publishing, Revision, Developing A Process
Asynchronous Post Class	Thanks for participating, Celebrate a
	completed course.

IMPORTANT CLASS DATES:

September 3, Group 1, first essay uploaded

September 10, Group 2, first essay uploaded

September 17, Group 1, second essay uploaded

September 24, Group 2, second essay uploaded

October 13: Student Reading, Revised Essays turned in

October 22, Group 1, first story

October 29, Group 2, first story

November 5, Group 1, second story

November 12, Group 2, second story

December 1, Student Reading, Fiction, Portfolio turned in

Important University Dates:

August 24, 2020	Classes Begin for Fall Semester
August 26, 2020	Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for 16- and First 8-week Classes \$25 Fee assessed for late registrants
August 31, 2020	Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for 16- and First 8-week
September 7, 2020	Labor Day (University Closed)

September 9, 2020	Deadline to drop 16-week Classes with No Record
October 2, 2020	Deadline to Drop First 8-week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
October 16, 2020	Classes End for First 8-week Session
October 19, 2020	Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for Second 8-Week Classes \$25 Fee assessed for late registrants
October 19, 2020	Classes Begin for Second 8-Week Session
October 19, 2020	Class Schedule Published for Spring Semester
October 20, 2020	Deadline for Faculty Submission of First 8-Week Class Final Grades (due by 3pm)
October 21, 2020	Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for Second 8-Week Classes
October 26, 2020	Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with No Record
November 2, 2020	Registration Opens for Spring Semester
November 6, 2020	Deadline to Drop 16-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
November 11, 2020	Veteran's Day (University Closed)
November 26-27, 2020	Thanksgiving (University Closed)
November 27, 2020	Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
December 11, 2020	Deadline to Withdraw from University for 16- and Second 8-Week Classes
December 11, 2020	Fall Semester Ends

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORTThis course will be online and will require use of email and networking capability.

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 Phone: (254) 519-5466

Web Chat: [http://hdc.tamu.edu]

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

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy.

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a <u>Drop Request Form</u> [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 <u>information regarding the Student Conduct process</u>, [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html]. If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may <u>submit a report</u>, [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=o].

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 <u>Access & Inclusion</u> 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 <u>will not</u> 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.

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 WCOnline [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at 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 <u>Library website</u> [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

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 <u>Title IX webpage</u> [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 <u>referral</u> online

 $[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas\&layout_id=2].$

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the <u>Behavioral Intervention Team</u> 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.

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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