

ENGLISH 3343-110 CREATIVE WRITING – Storytelling - Professor Gray
Spring 2021
Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

21 January – My 2021

Online Synchronous – Class will meet once a week, Wednesday nights at 6 pm.

There WILL be asynchronous online assignments, mainly responses to assigned readings and to classmates. Also written critiques will be submitted to each classmate after workshop.

(Class meetings, occasionally may change on certain weeks where we are not actively workshopping. But this will be rare.)

Wednesdays 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 [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) [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 ten poems (eight of which will be workshopped in class).

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

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):

Finch, Annie. A Poet's Craft, 2012, ISBN 978-0472033645

Hass, Robert. A Little Book on Form, 2017. ISBN 978-0062332424

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 (4 free verse, 2 forms, 2 student determined) (50%)***
- ***Class Participation – Workshop, Critiques (30%)***

* NOTE: Poems to be work shopped will be sent via email to the class, NLT than Friday 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 poem, stanza or line caught your attention and how that selection will help you as a writer.

Portfolios will be turned in on Week 8 and 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 January 20	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Finch Introduction Library of Congress Lecture: Natasha Trethewey
Theme: Identity	Read Billy Collins, Wallace Stevens and Gwendolyn Brooks poems
Synchronous:	Introductions The I Am Poem Discussion of assigned poems

	Lecture. The process.
Asynchronous Post Class	Respond to one or more of the poems.”
Week Two January 27	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Hass – How Free Verse Works Finch – Inspiration Poems by Heaney, Akhmatova, Rilke
Synchronous:	The Poetic House Importance, Accuracy, Ethics, Specificity Discussion of Assigned poems Creative Writing’s Answer to ‘official accounts’ and other myths
Asynchronous Post Class	First poem, free verse. The self. Upload by Friday 29 January (your first poem may be one you’ve written before, though the rest should be written during the semester)
Week Three, February 3	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Read classmate poems, critique, read assigned theory	Finch – Read Like a Poet (Nourishment) Poems by Hillman, Cope, Bishop
Synchronous: Workshop Night	The Self and Place, Description Discuss and Critique Poem One
Asynchronous Post Class	Begin revision based on class feedback Begin Poem 2 Memory/Reflection
Week Four, February 10	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Finch – Words and Roots Read Cervantes ‘Freeway 280,’ ‘Plath ‘Words,’ Lee ‘Persimmons’
Synchronous: Workshop Night	Language, Diction, Poetic Devices Discuss assigned reading Discuss and Critique Poem 2
Asynchronous Post Class	Revise Poem 2 Begin Poem 3
Week Five, February 17	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Finch – Modes of Poetry, Lyric, Narrative, Dramatic

	Read Browning 'My Last Duchess,' Soto, 'Red Palm,' Millay 'First Fig'
Synchronous: Workshop Night	Modes of Poetry discussion Discuss and Critique Poem 3
Asynchronous Post Class	Revise Poem 3 Begin Poem 4
Week Six, February 24	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Finch – Metaphor & Other Tropes Read WS Merwin, 'Last Questions,' Adrienne Rich 'Diving into the Wreck,' Gwendolyn Brooks, 'Boy Breaking Glass'
Synchronous: Workshop Night	Poetic Devices, the image, the simile, analogy, metonymy & symbols Discuss and Critique Poem 4
Asynchronous Post Class	Revise Poem 4 Begin Poem 5
Week Seven, March 3	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Finch – Revision Gray handout – Rhetoric and Structure Read Yeats and Frost excerpts, 593-596
Synchronous: Workshop Night	Putting it all Together: Revision 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, March 10	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	None, Revisions with Editing due on Essays one and two
Synchronous: Presentation Night	7 to 11 minute student presentations Discuss Formal Poetry vs. Free Verse
Asynchronous Post Class	Celebrate finishing two essays and your oral presentation Read Hass, Note on Genre and Ode Start Formal Poem 1 (Ode)
Week Nine, March 17	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Hass – Meter Read Frost 'Acquainted With the Night,' Bishop 'Visit to St. Elizabeth's'

Synchronous:	Poetic Forms – Rhythm, Meter, Scansion Poetic Structure Discuss Frost, Bishop
Asynchronous Post Class	Submit Formal Poem 1 – The Ode
Week Ten, March 24	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	The Turn, The Stanza, Types of Houses Theune Handout Read Kunitz, ‘Halley’s Comet,’ Louis Simpson, ‘Carentan O Carentan’
Synchronous: Workshop	Discuss Kunitz, Simpson Discuss and Critique Formal Poem 1
Asynchronous Post Class	Revise Formal Poem 1 Begin Formal Poem 2 (Descriptive Meditative Structure)
Week Eleven, March 31	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Hass The Ode Lorca’s ‘Ode to Walt Whitman,’ and Neruda’s Odes
Synchronous: Workshop Night	Discuss Lorca, Neruda poems Discuss and Critique Poem 2
Asynchronous Post Class	Revise Formal Poem 2 Begin Formal Poem 3
Week Twelve, April 7	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Read Hass Sestina and Villanelle Read Marilyn Nelson, ‘Daughters 1900,’ Anthony Hecht ‘Book of Yolek,’ Donald Justice ‘Pantoum of the Great Depression’
Synchronous: Workshop Night	Repetition Discuss Nelson and Hecht Discuss and Critique Poem 3
Asynchronous Post Class	Revise Poem 3 Begin Poem 4 (Villanelle, Sestina, or Pantoum)
Week Thirteen, April 14	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Read Hass Blank Verse Read Frost ‘Birches’
Synchronous: Workshop Night	Structure, Blank Verse Discuss and Critique Poem 4
Asynchronous Post Class	Revise Poem 4

	Begin Poem 5
Week Fourteen, April 21	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Hass, 'Sonnet' Read Shakespeare Sonnet 29; Millay 'Love is Not All,' Natasha Trethewey, 'Kitchen Maid with Supper at Emmaus'
Synchronous:	The structure of the Sonnet, the Turn Discuss and Critique Poem 5
Asynchronous Post Class	Continue Revisions
Week Fifteen, April 28	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Revise
Synchronous: Presentation Night	Where do we go from here Student led presentation of favorite poem
Asynchronous Post Class	Revise
Week Sixteen, May 5	
Asynchronous Prior to Class: Readings for this Class with Guided Discussion Questions	Revise
Synchronous: Workshop Night	Student Led Reading
Asynchronous Post Class	Thanks for participating, Celebrate a completed course.

IMPORTANT CLASS DATES:

- January 21, First Class
- January 30, Poem 1 Due
- February 7, Poem 2 Due
- February 14, Poem 3 Due
- February 21, Poem 4 Due
- February 28, Poem 5 Due
- March 10, Student Reading 1, Portfolio 1 Due
- March 19, Poem 1a
- March 26, Poem 2a Due
- April 2, Poem 3a Due
- April 9, Poem 4a Due
- April 16, Poem 5a Due
- May 5, Student Reading 2, Portfolio 2 Due

**** Poems are uploaded on Fridays to give classmates maximum time to read and prepare notes for workshop**

Important University Dates:

January 19, 2021 Classes Begin for Spring Semester

January 19, 2021 Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for 16- and First 8-week Classes
\$25 Fee assessed for late registrants

January 21, 2021 Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for 16- and First 8-week

February 3, 2021 Deadline to drop 16-week Classes with No Record

February 26, 2021 Deadline to Drop First 8-week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)

March 12, 2021 Classes End for First 8-week Session

March 22, 2021 Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for Second 8-Week Classes \$25 Fee
assessed for late registrants

March 22, 2021 Classes Begin for Second 8-Week Session

March 22, 2021 Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for Second 8-Week Classes

March 29, 2021 Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with No Record

April 30, 2021 Deadline to Drop 16-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)

May 14, 2021 Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)

May 14, 2021 Spring Semester Ends

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

This 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): [<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 [Drop Request Form](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].

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) [<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](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) 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.

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 [WCOonline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [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 [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [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 [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.

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.

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