

University of Indianapolis
School for Adult Learning
SAL 280 – AU2 Creative Writing
Term 1, Session 2, 2008
Mondays, September 29, October 6, 13, 20, and 27
6:00 – 9:45 PM
Location: Esch Hall 162

Instructor: Lylanne Musselman/SAL adjunct professor

Contact: musselmanl@uindy.edu

lylanne22@yahoo.com

317.432.8477 Emergency only

My mailbox is located in Esch 102.

Also, I will be in the classroom 30 minutes prior to our class, and 15 minutes following for any questions or concerns.

Welcome to Creative Writing! This will be an interactive class with a lot of writing, discussion, and sharing of your creative writing endeavors. However, don't worry if you're shy because no one is here to be judged or to be put on the spot – but it is essential for you to get the most out of this course to participate as much as possible in the workshops, and by asking questions. As mentioned above be prepared to write a lot, but most importantly be prepared to discover the creative writer within and have fun!

Required Text and Materials

Imaginative Writing, by Janet Burroway, 2nd edition, 2007, ISBN #0-321-35740-X

A composition notebook/daybook (bring to class each meeting)

A folder with pockets or a small binder for final portfolio

Several dependable roller ball pens

Course Description

SAL 280 Creative Writing is a general introduction to creative writing styles, forms, and genres. Students need not have written extensively in the past, but I expect students to come to the course with some basic writing skills and, most importantly, a sincere interest in the craft of creative writing. This course will focus on poetry, short fiction, creative non-fiction, and short drama. Each of the four genres will be highlighted by a workshop each week. There will be weekly readings and out of class assignments. Although creative writing can be quite enjoyable, it does require a significant time commitment from students. This class is for writers with a sincere desire to develop their craft.

Course Objectives

Creative writing is used to express one's self and to communicate with others. The course will allow each individual the opportunity to apply the craft of creative writing to their own unique ideas and experiences, as well as learn to appreciate the creative writings of famous and obscure writers.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the successful student will be able to:

- explain the differences between the four genres of creative writing
- define the differences between creative writing and other types of writing
- define image, character, voice, and setting as it pertains to creative writing
- analyze various pieces of creative writing
- generate ideas for their own creative writing
- create works from each of the four genres
- produce a polished piece suitable for publication

Course Policies

Attendance: Due to the accelerated format of the classes in the School for Adult Learning, attendance is expected at each class. Our class meets the last Monday of September and all Mondays during October; during each class we will discuss, have writing exercises, and have workshops of first draft pieces. Attendance is essential to succeed in this class. If you do have a conflict for any reason, please contact me as soon as possible.

Blackboard: We will utilize Blackboard as much as possible in our five weeks together. We will have discussions each week on Blackboard. I will also use it to post assignments, announcements, and other course materials as needed. It is your responsibility to obtain a Uindy account and password.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is not tolerated. Although it seems far-fetched to think that someone would want to plagiarize someone else's creative work, it has happened. I expect you to do your own creative writings and assignments. I will follow the University Academic Misconduct Policy, which means that the affected work will be given a zero and a statement of the incident will be placed in your permanent file. For more info on Academic Integrity please read page 51 of the current Academic Catalog.

Withdrawal: It is the responsibility of the student to withdraw from class. Students must withdraw by Friday, October 3, 2008, in order to receive a refund.

Grading Criteria

Because this class stresses the process of writing, you will not receive an official grade on drafts of stories, poems, creative nonfiction, and plays submitted for workshop. Instead

you will receive suggestions for revision. Other assignments will receive a numerical grade as they are returned to you. If you are concerned about your grade, please don't hesitate to ask, and we will find time to discuss your work.

Your grade will be calculated at the end of the semester as follows:

Final Portfolio – 300 points

After completing the workshops and receiving comments and suggestions on your first drafts, you will be asked to choose several of your best pieces to be revised and submitted for a grade in a portfolio. You must complete all assignments in order to be eligible to turn in a portfolio. *First drafts* will not be accepted in a portfolio. (If you like your drama piece and want to include that in your portfolio we will work around that). Detailed guidelines will be handed out well in advance of the due date.

Assignments – 150 points

Creative journal – 50 points

Blackboard discussions – 50 points

Literary magazine submission project – 50 points

Workshops – 200 points (4 @ 50 points each)

Each presenting writer will submit one typewritten copy of the subject work to the instructor and *select** class members by Uindy email at least three days prior to our class meeting. Ideally, this will be by 6PM on the Saturday before we meet. You will be able to access all emails through Blackboard. Each student will submit a piece of work of the specific genre for the appropriate workshop.

**Select class members will swap creative works on a rotating basis.*

Each class member will study all of the works and prepare two copies of typewritten critiques (critique forms will be available from Blackboard) for the workshop sessions. Critiques are due on the day we discuss the work – so make sure you print them out and bring them with you to class. One copy goes to the writer and one to me for workshop points. You will receive points for participating in discussions during the workshops and for the written critiques which can total up to 50 points each week.

Class Participation – 50 points

Active participation in workshops and other class discussions, completion of collected writing prompts and other miscellaneous assignments are included in participation as well as attendance and promptness for all assignments. I will *not* accept late assignments.

Grading guidelines:

Points:	Range:
700 – 636	A range
635 – 571	B range
570 – 506	C range
505 – 441	D range
440 and below	Failing

I will post points in the Blackboard electronic gradebook accordingly so that you can keep track of your points.

Creative Journal

You are expected to write a lot during this course. Your journals will consist of not only assigned exercises, but your own musings and thoughts. You are expected to have a *minimum* of 40 pages (or more) written by the end of the course. These writings could be the seeds to your major works that will be in your portfolio, or they could just be writings to keep you in practice and your mind in writing mode.

Blackboard Discussions

I will have discussion questions posted each week either about things that you have read in our text or that we have mentioned in class. I expect you to respond to any or all of the questions with a minimum of 250 words, and to respond to at least two of your classmate's responses with a minimum of 150 words each.

Magazine Submission Project

During the course of the session we will look at various literary journals and other outlets that accept the type of work that you do. You will target one of these journals to send your work to. By the end of the session you should have at least one polished, finished piece that is ready to be sent off in hopes of publication. Guidelines will be given for this project early in the course.

Extra Credit

There will be some extra credit opportunities available – going to hear a writer that is visiting Indianapolis during our session, attending and participating in the open-mic reading that I host in Irvington on Thursday, October 23rd, or by doing an in depth writing on a poet or writer that you discover during this course. Extra credit opps will be announced during class time.

Tentative Class Schedule

Before Class Starts

Purchase your text and materials. In your text, *Imaginative Writing*, read "Invitation to the Writer," pp. xxi –xxviii, "Images," pp. 3 – 34, and "Creative Nonfiction," pp. 237 - 271; in your journal write as much as you can about why you are interested in taking this course; go to our Blackboard site and respond to the intro discussion question(s).

Monday, September 29: Introductions in class; be prepared to discuss the readings "Invitation to the Writer," "Images," and "Creative Nonfiction." Be prepared to do a lot of in class writing exercises and sharing. Preparations for next week's workshops will be discussed. We will also make sure everyone knows how to email their work to me and classmates.

Things to complete before Week 2: Read in your text "Voice," pp. 37 – 76, and "Poetry," pp. 309 - 334; do at least two of the "try this" exercises in your journal; write your first draft for Workshop 1 – Creative Nonfiction. Please send your writings via emails to me and all classmates by 6 PM Saturday, October 4th; have all critiques ready for Monday, October 6th; go to our Blackboard site and respond to Week 2 discussion questions.

Monday, October 6: Be prepared to discuss the readings "Voice," and "Poetry." Be prepared to critique and discuss all works during our Workshop 1 – Creative Nonfiction. Be prepared to do writing exercises. Discussion of Lit magazines. View film *Poetry in Motion*. Complete film worksheet.

Things to complete before Week 3: Read in your text "Character," pp. 79 – 128, and "Fiction," pp. 273 – 306; do at least two of the "try this" exercises in your journal; write your first draft for Workshop 2 – Poetry. Please send your writings via emails to me and all classmates by 6 PM Saturday, October 11th; have all critiques ready for Monday, October 13th; go to our Blackboard site and respond to Week 3 discussion questions. If you're interested in extra credit by writing on a poet from the movie we watched see me to complete your extra credit paper. Revise your Creative Nonfiction piece.

Monday, October 13: Be prepared to discuss the readings "Character," and "Fiction." Be prepared to critique and discuss all works during our Workshop 2 – Poetry. Be prepared to discuss any literary magazines you have discovered; be prepared to do writing exercises in class. More poetry sharing, and view film, *Slamnation*.

Things to complete before Week 4: Read in your text "Setting," pp. 131 – 161, and "Drama," pp. 337 – 373; do at least two of the "try this" exercises in your journal; write your first draft for Workshop 3 – Fiction. Please send your writings via emails to me and your classmates by 6 PM Saturday, October 18th; have all critiques ready for Monday, October 20th; go to our Blackboard site and respond to Week 4 discussion questions. Revise your Poetry piece.

Monday, October 20: Be prepared to discuss the readings "Setting," and "Drama." Be prepared to critique and discuss all works during our Workshop 3 – Fiction. Be prepared to discuss possible lit magazines to send work out to; be prepared to do writing exercises and activities in class. We will go over the magazine submission assignment in depth. We will also discuss final portfolios, and any questions relating to the final class meeting.

Things to complete before Week 5: Read in your text "Story," pp. 163 – 205, and "Development and Revision," pp. 207 – 235; do at least two of the "try this" exercises in your journal; Write your first draft for Workshop 4 – Drama. Please send your writings via emails to me and your classmates by 6 PM Saturday, October 25th; have all critiques ready for Monday, October 27th; go to our Blackboard site and respond to week 5 questions. Prepare your portfolio to be turned in at the end of Week 5. Prepare your Magazine Submission Assignment. Prepare at least one of your pieces of creative writing for a presentation to the class from your portfolio. Revise your Fiction piece.

Monday, October 27: Be prepared to discuss the readings and especially talk about Revision (Which will be highlighted on our Blackboard Discussion Board before this final class). Be prepared to critique and discuss all works during our Workshop 4 – Drama. Be prepared to present your favorite piece written during this session to the class. Be prepared to turn in your *final portfolio, *creative journal, and literary magazine submission.

*Because I know that you will be anxious to get your portfolios and creative journals returned to you we will make arrangements to do so after they are graded. You can contact me via email, or we can make arrangements on a place for you to pick them up on campus.

Did I mention that you'll write a lot during this course? ☺ I look forward to meeting you on September 29th! Have fun in all of your creative writing endeavors!