

Introduction to Creative Writing I and II
ENG-211/ENG-212 (3/3)

Lecturer: Dominique Traverse Locke (Mrs. D)

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Classroom: 1:30-2:30 (iLinc) and online (Blackboard)

Class Hours: Year-round

ENG 211 - Creative Writing I

Introduces the student to the fundamentals of writing imaginatively. Students write in forms to be selected from poetry, fiction, drama, and essays. Prerequisite ENG 112 or divisional approval. Part I of II.

Lecture 3+ hours per week. 3 credits.

ENG 212 - Creative Writing II

Students will continue to develop their craft using advanced creative writing techniques. Students will also master the peer workshop and critique. Students write in forms to be selected from poetry, fiction, drama, and essays. Prerequisite ENG 211 or divisional approval. Part II of II.

Lecture 3+ hours per week. 3 credits.

This class is a dual enrollment course and college credit is offered through one of four community colleges based on the location of the high school the student attends. The four community colleges that may be awarding the credit are Mountain Empire Community College, Southwest Virginia Community College, Virginia Highlands Community College, and Wytheville Community College. To contact the A. Linwood Holton Governor's School:

A Linwood Holton Governor's School

P. O. Box 1987

Abingdon, VA 24212

(276) 619-4326

www.hgs.k12.va.us

Course Description and Requirements

This course is designed as an introduction to theories and practices in poetry, fiction, script writing, and creative non-fiction.

Students will learn how to read as writers and understand how texts achieve their many linguistic and literary accomplishments. Students will develop original writing, which they will share with peers during in-class workshops and critique, and continue to revise outside of class in order to satisfy the course portfolio requirements: poems (of any length or style), short stories (1500-3000 words each), playwriting (10 minute – one act), creative non-fiction essays (1500-3000 words), and works selected from a Genre of Choice (this is address later in the syllabus).

Additional writing exercises will be assigned in class and for homework.

Like the Loch Ness Monster, pop/reading-quizzes have been spotted lurking in the murky shadows.

Students will be expected to complete (400 – 600 words each) Response Papers regarding the required reading assignments and/or class discussion regularly.

Note: The skills and tools you will acquire and develop in Introduction to Creative Writing are equally valuable in the fields of business, communications, counseling, education, research, sales, team management, etc. That being said, the primary focus of Introduction to Creative Writing is to give students a cathartic outlet for self-expression, and to expose students to the innermost workings of the literary world (from the conception of an idea through the publication).

Student Learning Outcomes

- 📖 Writing Skills: Students will demonstrate effective exchange of ideas through appropriate use of written language.
- 📖 Critical Thinking (Reasoning): Students will identify, analyze, and evaluate arguments as they occur in their own and one another's work and will develop well-reasoned arguments.
- 📖 Reading Skills: Students will recognize effective use of literary techniques and devices.
- 📖 Information Management: Students will use basic research techniques, and locate, evaluate, and synthesize information from a variety of sources.
- 📖 Creative Thinking: Students will generate unique and original ideas and communicate those ideas verbally and via written word.

Additional Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, students should be able to:

- 📖 Define terms and discuss concepts essential to the study of poetry, fiction, script, creative non-fiction, and the creative writing process.
- 📖 Write poems, short stories, script(s), and essays that are aware of established conventions in their respective genres.
- 📖 Effectively revise their work, making use of concepts discussed in class and feedback from the lecturer and peers.
- 📖 Analyze and appreciate the work of established writers in the literary canon.
- 📖 Analyze and appreciate the work of peers.

Course Texts

Muscle Cars by Stephen G. Eoannou

Contemporary American Poetry, 8th Edition

Course materials will also include digital resources (WORD documents and online).

Course Delivery

Creative Writing I and II are taught in the virtual classroom of A. Linwood Holton Governor's School and utilizes iLinc and Coursesites programs. The asynchronous course will utilize Blackboard.

Course Archive – (Live Courses)

All class sessions will be archived. The archive for each class is available on the A. Linwood Holton Governor's School website for approximately two weeks after the date of each session. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to view the archived class session. (Specific information regarding absenteeism is addressed later in the syllabus.)

Portfolios and Grading

- Portfolios - *The portfolios will be considered the primary assessment tool and will be utilized in lieu of tests as Creative Writing and its processes cannot be scored numerically on content but rather quality and, to some extent, quantity.* Portfolios will include:

Genre Submissions – Draft, Critiques, Revision

Response Papers

Writing Exercises

Miscellaneous Assignments

Discussion (Boards – asynchronous)

- Participation in class discussion (boards) and involvement is highly important and is evaluated on the quantity and the quality of a student's contribution to the course. Attendance and late assignments are also factored into the participation grade. Quizzes will also be factored in when necessary.

Good writing grows out of an inner necessity antithetical to the grading process; because ours is a college writing workshop, however, grades are inevitable.

“A” is reserved for students who not only work hard but also demonstrate a very high level of proficiency at writing poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction—that is, at applying the techniques and concepts studied in this course to original and compelling subject matter.

“B” will reflect clearly evident application of significant effort and a generally high proficiency at writing poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction.

“C” will reflect adequate proficiency and application of effort.

“D” and “F” will reflect marginal and unsatisfactory effort and proficiency respectively.

NOTE: SAVE EVERYTHING.

Response Papers

A *labeled folder* containing the all Response Papers. No original draft or revision is necessary. Response papers are 400-600 word papers that are both directed and non-directed, and will demonstrate the students' knowledge, understanding, and engagement with literature/writing selections that have been discussed in class. Response Papers will be due regularly, and are not given a numeric grade, but rather graded on a basis of content and completion.

YPF

Students will participate in the Barter Theatre Young Playwrights Festival. Guidelines and specific requirements for this project will be provided by Barter Theatre.

Writing Exercises

A *labeled folder* containing all writing exercises completed in class and for homework. Each in-class exercise must include the date of completion. Each homework exercise should also include the date of completion. Like Response Papers, writing exercises are not given a numeric grade, but rather a grade based on content and completion.

Discussion Boards (Asynchronous)

Discussion Boards are posted on Blackboard with specific instructions as to how to approach each topic. Follow directions carefully.

Quizzes and Tests

Quizzes will be assigned when students are suspected of not completing the reading in an effort to stress the importance of accountability. Quizzes are unannounced and made up of 5 questions and a bonus.

"Tests" are rarely scheduled if all other requirements are being met. The primary method of "testing" will be the portfolios as there is no "right or wrong" in Creative Writing. In the event that "tests" are given, tests are closed book, but often will be open note, and are primarily essay based. (The use of notes on "tests" is a privilege, not a right, and can be taken away at any time. Open note "tests" are utilized solely because good note taking should be rewarded.)

MLA Format

All assignments, with the exception of in class writing exercises, *must* be in MLA Format. *No exceptions and no other format will be accepted.*

Course Calendar

TBA

Information and Instructions for Individuals with Disabilities

Students may request academic accommodations for identified disabilities through A. Linwood Holton Governor's School's Main Office (276 – 619 – 4326). The request will be evaluated and a consultation with appropriate officials from the student's home school will be utilized to develop a plan for necessary and reasonable accommodations. All correspondence will be confidential.

Emergency and Unforeseen Circumstances

If a major interruption occurs affecting the lecturer, the student, or student's school, the offices of A. Linwood Holton Governor's School or the community college through which a student is receiving his/her credit-course requirements, class meeting times or schedules, assignment deadlines, and grading schemes are subject to changes that may include alternative delivery methods, alternative methods or interaction with the instructor, alternate class materials, changes to class membership, a revised attendance policy, a revised semester calendar, etc.

For more information, please consult the following resources:

- College website
- Your school's emergency notification and response plan
- A. Linwood Holton Governor's School website

In the event of such a situation, the A. Linwood Holton Governor's School Administrator will work closely with the appropriate school division and college personnel to resolve it as soon and as conveniently as possible. Students will be contacted through available forms of communication and given specific directions as to how they will proceed to complete course work, assignment deadlines, etc.

Course Policies

Attendance: It is essential, not optional. Please refer to your A. Linwood Holton Guide Books and Code of Conduct for specific information regarding attendance related issues.

Absence: When absent, the student must contact the lecturer via email and make arrangements to submit any work due that day. The student will return to class prepared to participate in scheduled activities. Please refer to your A. Linwood Holton Guide Books and Code of Conduct for specific information regarding absence related issues.

Late /make-up assignments: Late work (especially pre-assigned work) will result an automatic deduction of five points per day per assignment from the final average for the grading period and will NOT be accepted after three days. This is a privilege, and if abused, will be taken away. If an assignment was scheduled, it is still due on the due date, or in special cases (please consult the lecturer) upon the student's first return day. Special circumstances may merit extensions or accommodations, but it is the student's responsibility to communicate honestly and promptly to receive additional time.

Academic Dishonesty: It is the student's responsibility to read and understand the policy on all aspects of Academic Dishonesty as published in the A. Linwood Holton Guide Book and Code of Conduct. Plagiarism and/or other forms of dishonesty will reduce a student's grade in this course to "F," and the student will be reported.

While in class, please remove "entertainment related" earphones and ear buds, and turn off cell phones, Smart Phones, PDAs, iPhones, iPods, iPads, Kindles, cameras, personal use laptops, notebooks, pagers, Discmans, Walkmans, Walkie Talkies, Gameboys, transistor radios, boom boxes, messenger pigeons, smoke signals, and any other electronic, battery-operated, and/or distracting devices.

Syllabus subject to change. Updates will be provided in class, by email, and/or Blackboard.

Note: The lecturer will assume that any student who continues to attend this course after reviewing the syllabus is in agreement with the policies.

*Proposed Trips

Emory and Henry Literature Festival, Emory, VA
National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, TN
Barter Theatre, Abingdon, VA
Rhythm and Roots Reunion, Bristol VA-TN
Reading(s) and Signing(s) at various locations
William King Art Center and Abingdon Arts Depot, Abingdon, VA
Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC