
ENGLISH 2310: 501
Intro. to Creative Writing
Spring 2020
CRN: 53379
Online Course
Phone: 505-925-8623

Asst. Professor Justin Bendell
Office Hours:
Mon 12-2, Tue 11-1
Wed 12-1, or by appt.
Email: jbendell@unm.edu

Introduction to Creative Writing

This course will introduce students to the basic elements of creative writing, including short fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction.

Students will read and study published works as models, but the focus of this "workshop" course is on students revising and reflecting on their own writing.

Throughout this course, students will be expected to read poetry, fiction, and non-fiction closely, and analyze the craft features employed. They will be expected to write frequently in each of these genres.

A large part of this course, much like all writing, will be experimentation. After reading and analyzing examples, we will create our own poems and short stories. When writing poems, we will experiment with crafting images, sounds, rhythms, and metaphors. In fiction, we will work on developing characters and, through their interactions, creating plots.

We will do weekly writing experiments to generate ideas that we can then develop into poems or stories. Some weeks will be dedicated to workshops where we will share our work and gain feedback from classmates. This is also part of the experimentation process, as it will help you learn how your writing affects other readers.

We will spend time revising our work in class and for homework. A key to good writing is recognizing the importance of revising drafts. The final portfolio will include revisions of four poems and a short story.

A typical week will include approximately 40-50 pages of reading, 1-2 writing activities, and at least one online peer engagement via Learn, online video, or chat forums.

Some important stuff to keep in mind:

- The assignment syllabus is a tentative schedule. Any changes will be announced and/or posted on the Blackboard Learn calendar.
- All weekly assignments are due Sunday at 10 pm.
- Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.
- Students who do not log in in the first week will be dropped.

Course Objectives:

In English 2310, you will progress toward the following student learning outcomes:

1. Participate in a constructive conversation and community about creative writing.
2. Read and critically engage with a variety of texts.
3. Compose creative works in various genres of creative writing.
4. Provide respectful, honest, and critical feedback to peers about their work.
5. Revise creative work based on peer feedback and critique.
6. Develop thoughtful workshop reflection on students' own writing and writing process.
7. Evaluate and engage with publication process.

Required Work and Grading

All formal writing assignments must follow MLA format and be typewritten, double-spaced in a 12pt. Times New Roman font. Grades will be determined on a traditional percentage system, with the appropriate plus or minus sign: 100-90% = A (1000-900 points); 89-80% = B (899-800 points); 79-70% = C (799-700 points); 69-60% = D (699-600); and below = F.

Points Breakdown

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Class Participation | 300 Points |
| <i>Discussions</i> | <i>(100)</i> |
| <i>Writing Workshops</i> | <i>(100)</i> |
| <i>Peer Reviews</i> | <i>(100)</i> |
| Homework | 500 Points |
| <i>Journal</i> | <i>(100)</i> |
| <i>Drafts & Process Work</i> | <i>(200)</i> |
| <i>Major Drafts</i> | <i>(200)</i> |
| Final Portfolio: | 200 Points |
| <i>4 Revised Poems (& Flash Memoir)</i> | <i>(100)</i> |
| <i>Short Story</i> | <i>(100)</i> |
| | 1000 Points Total |

Course Calendar

| Date | Readings | Assignments due Sunday night |
|--|--|---|
| <i>Week 1: Intro to Narrative Craft</i> | (1) Read Syllabus (2) Professor Video #1 (3) Readings - Learn & WF | (1) Learn; videos; student contract (2) Discussion 1 (3) Journal Exercise 1 (4) Writing Activity 1 |
| <i>Week 2: Fiction Showing & Telling</i> | (1) Professor Video #2 (2) Readings - Learn & WF | (1) Discussion 2 (2) Journal Exercise 2 (3) Writing Activity 2 |
| <i>Week 3: Fiction Characters</i> | (1) Professor Video #3 (2) Readings - Learn & WF | (1) Discussion 3 (2) Journal Exercise 3 (3) Writing Activity 3 |
| <i>Week 4: Fiction Setting/Workshop</i> | (1) Professor Video #4 (2) Readings - Learn & WF | (1) Discussion 4 (Workshop) (2) Journal Exercise 4 (3) Writing Activity 4 |
| <i>Week 5: Fiction Plot</i> | (1) Professor Video #5 (2) Readings - Learn & WF | (1) Discussion 5 (2) Writing Activity 5 |
| <i>Week 6: Fiction Point of View</i> | (1) Professor Video #6 (2) Readings - Learn & WF | (1) Discussion 6 (2) Prose Drafts Due! |
| <i>Week 7: Fiction Revision/Workshop</i> | (1) Professor Video #7 (2) Readings - Learn & WF | (1) Discussion 7 (Workshop) (2) Journal Exercise 7 (3) Writing Activity 7B |
| <i>Week 8: Nonfiction</i> | (1) Professor Video #8 (2) Readings - Learn & WF | (1) Discussion 8 (2) Journal Exercise 8 (3) Writing Activity 8 |

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| <i>Week 9: Nonfiction</i> | (1) Professor Video #9 (2) Readings - Learn & PC | (1) Discussion 9 (2) Writing Activity 9 |
| <i>Week 10: Poetry Foundations</i> | (1) Professor Video #10 (2) Readings - Learn & PC | (1) Discussion 10 (2) Journal Exercise 10 (3) Writing Activity 10 |
| <i>Week 11: Poetry Image /Workshop</i> | (1) Professor Video #11 (2) Readings - Learn & PC | (1) Discussion 11 (Workshop) (2) Writing Activity 11 |
| <i>Week 12: Poetry Figurative Language</i> | (1) Professor Video #12 (2) Readings - Learn & PC | (1) Discussion 12 (2) Journal Exercise 12 (3) Writing Activity 12 |

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| <i>Week 13: Poetry The Line</i> | (1) Professor Video #13 (2) Readings - Learn & PC | (1) Discussion 13 (2) Journal Exercise 13 (3) Writing Activity 13 |
| <i>Week 14: Poetry Meter, Rhyme, Form</i> | (1) Professor Video #14 (2) Readings - Learn & PC | (1) Discussion 14 (2) Journal Exercise 14 (3) Writing Activity 14 |
| <i>Week 15: Poetry Revision / Workshop</i> | (1) Professor Video #15 (2) Readings - Learn & PC | (1) Discussion 15 (Workshop) (2) Journal Exercise 15 (3) Course Evaluation (4) Writing Activity 15 (Revision) |
| <i>Week 16: Portfolio</i> | (1) Professor Video #16 | (1) Portfolio Due (2) Journal Exercise 16 |

Important Dates:

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|-----------------|---|
| Tuesday, Jan 21 | First day of classes |
| Friday, Jan 31 | Last day to Add or Change Sections |
| Friday, Feb 7 | Last Day to Drop with 100% refund |
| M-F, Mar 9-13 | Spring Break – no class |
| Friday, Apr 12 | Last Day to Withdraw <i>w/o</i> approval of Student Services |
| Friday, May 7 | Last Day to Withdraw <i>with</i> approval of Student Services |

Navigating this Online Course

Because this class is administered fully online, it is important to have a high level of skill in operating computers. It is not recommended for students with limited computer skills to take an online course. The following tips will help students navigate the course. If you have computer problems, including log in or technical issues call 277-5757. For issues with Blackboard Learn, tutors in the Learning Center can advise you at 925-8907.

Please:

- Be familiar with your syllabus. The syllabus is located on the Blackboard Learn home page for English 224. Refer to the syllabus throughout the semester when you have questions. Feel free to stop by my office hours, as well, for personal attention regarding essay requirements or e-mail for an appointment if the hours do not fit into your schedule.
- Become familiar with Blackboard Learn software. Click on all the Course Tools to discover what is available to you in your online course. You may want to visit The Learning Center at UNM Valencia Campus if you need additional help learning how to navigate.

- Keep copies of all your work. Saving all writing is necessary. Learn how to save Word or RTF files to your desktop or a flash drive. If you do not know how to save files, go to The Learning Center or call 277-5757.

- Be proficient in Mail in Blackboard Learn. If you need to send me a message, do the following: 1) click on “Mail” in Course Tools, 2) then click on “Browse for Recipients,” 3) choose my name, 4) follow guidelines for writing e-mails (see the section on E-mail Netiquette, and 5) type your message and click on “Send.” It is important to send e-mails following the netiquette guidelines and standards of professionalism. If you begin your email with text speak or informal language like, “Hey Professor,” I will not respond.

- Create a routine—here is a suggested routine to help you get started.

1. Log on! Lessons open on Monday morning and close the following Sunday night at midnight. On Monday, log in and read the list of assignments for the week. Make sure you have all materials you need to complete the assignments, such as page numbers or links. Jot down due dates and print out assignments.

2. Read the assignments actively, highlighting important ideas. Use any resources (dictionaries, asking questions, etc.) to help you acquire the information the session is trying to relay. Be pro-active and disciplined in your study habits.

3. Log on periodically throughout the week to check course e-mails and review new threaded discussions or blog responses. Watch for new announcements.

4. Check Discussions. Read questions I have posted for the week, your classmates’ and my responses, and enter your own answers. Your responses are an important part of your grade, so please take these exercises seriously. In responses, respect others. Finally, run spell and grammar check on your postings.

5. Importantly, give yourself ample time to submit work well before the deadline. You can submit work right at 10 pm Mountain Time, but this practice is very, very risky. For example, computer failures, corrupted discs, and Blackboard Learn outages are no excuse for work not completed (UNM-V policy). Plan for problems like these because meeting deadlines will help you successfully complete the course.

Professor Bio:

Justin Bendell is an assistant professor of English at UNM-Valencia. He earned an MFA in Creative Writing from Florida International University, an MA from Northern Arizona University, and a BS from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. A practicing writer and musician, his stories and poems have been published in *3:AM Magazine*, *Harper's Ferry Review*, *Meridian*, *Washington Square Review*, and elsewhere. He likes camping, capsaicin, crime fiction, and spaghetti westerns. He lives in Albuquerque with his family. For more info: www.justinbendell.com

Brass Tacks and Policy Stuff

Instructor Information

My office hours are Monday 12-2, Tuesday 11-1, Wednesday 12-1, or by appointment. My office is Academics Affairs, Room A-142E. Email me anytime. Often, I will answer quickly, but please give me 12-24 hours to respond, Monday through Friday. I do respond to weekend emails, but sometimes I am out of town and will not be able to respond until Monday morning.

Tutoring

Free tutoring is available at the Learning Center (505) 925-8907 <http://www.unm.edu/~tutor/>. Writing Lab tutoring sessions are scheduled weekly for all English classes. Students may receive up to 30 points (5 points each session) for attending tutoring sessions or Writing Labs.

Required Texts and Materials

- Addonizio, Kim and Dorianne Laux. *The Poet's Companion: A Guide to the Pleasures of Writing Poetry*. 1st ed. W.W. Norton, 1997
- Burroway, Janet. *Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft*. 1st ed. The University of Chicago Press, First Edition, 2019
- UNM email address and access to UNM Blackboard Learn
- Access to Internet and Microsoft Office (available on UNM-VC computers)
- A desire to think critically and to deepen your writing and reading skills

Attendance Policy and Overall Participation

It is your responsibility to keep up with reading and assignments, and/or to contact me if you have questions about the material. **Students who fail to log in in the first week or submit the diagnostic essay will be dropped.**

Plagiarism

Plagiarism means using language and/or ideas without acknowledging their source. Plagiarism includes such activities as copying another student's papers or ideas, downloading and turning in papers from the Internet, or copying passages from sources without proper documentation, or rephrasing an author's ideas and presenting them as the student's new, original thoughts. Plagiarism in this course may result in one or more of the following consequences: failure of the assignment, failure of the course, or disciplinary action by the University. To learn how to avoid plagiarism, students can speak to me, consult a tutor, or refer to <http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/>.

Online Behavior

- Our class is an inclusive environment where everyone is welcome. Treat each other with **respect**. Derogatory remarks, name-calling, trolling, bullying, and bigotry are prohibited.

- Students may discuss with me complaints about the course; however, students must do so in the proper environment, such as via email or during office hours.
- Discussion boards are a professional learning environment. Treat them as such.
- Sexual harassment will not be tolerated.
- Students violating any of these rules will be dropped.

Email Netiquette Policy

Keep the following in mind when you write emails and discussion posts:

- Please avoid text-speak. Learning to write professional emails is a skill you need as you progress to higher academic levels and career pursuits.
- Emails that you write to me during the semester should include professional language, addressed with a subject heading including the type of question you are asking. For example, “Essay 1” would be an appropriate subject heading for a question regarding the first essay.
- Use short paragraphs (in general, 3-4 lines maximum) to make the email easy to read. In addition, be sure to skip lines between paragraphs.
- Be sure to proofread your email for grammatical errors.

Equal Access:

Services located in Student Services provides academic support to students who have disabilities. If students think they need alternative formats for completing coursework, they should contact this service right away to ensure their needs are met in a timely manner. Students are responsible for getting all documented forms to me as soon as possible. I cannot accommodate any special needs without the proper authorization from UNM Valencia Campus Accessibility Services. They are located at Advisement & Counseling Services, Student Services Building, 280 La Entrada Rd., Los Lunas, NM 87031, 505-925-8560. <http://www.unm.edu/~vcadvise/equalaccess.htm>. Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), I accommodate documented special needs and encourage students to discuss their concerns with me.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

To meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered “responsible employees” by the Department of Education (see page 15: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (oeo.unm.edu). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>.

Blackboard Learn: Students are responsible for posting responses to discussion questions/prompts that I have posted on our UNM Blackboard Learn site. These questions are designed to generate discussion, promote further inquiry into our topics, and scaffold the essays.

Drafts: You will be required to write at least four poems and multiple drafts/scenes for a ~1500 word short story. I expect these drafts to be saved in Microsoft Word and formatted following the guidelines in the Formatting section below. I will comment on your drafts using MS Word *Comments* and *Track Changes*. Both of these editing tools are located under Insert on the MS Word Menu. If you're not familiar with these tools, you might want to take time to familiarize yourself.

Final Portfolio: We will not have an exam during the final exam period; rather you will be submitting your final portfolio the previous week. The final portfolio will contain the four final poems, one short story, along with other drafts and journals, reflecting the culmination of everything you have learned. You may revise the four poems and your short story for the final portfolio to make sure you are submitting the very best writing you are capable of at the end of the semester, while also making clear your progress. Keep in mind, however, you may only turn in as many poems as you submitted during the semester. For example, if you failed to write one of the four poems during the semester, you may only turn in three poems in your final portfolio—both deductions for late assignments and zeros carry over to the final portfolio.

Formatting: All work, unless otherwise noted, should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font with black ink. All prose should be double-spaced. Poetry should not be double-spaced. Pages should be numbered and should have standard one-inch margins on all sides.

Late Policy: I will not accept stories or poems submitted more than a week after the assigned date, so make sure to turn in your essays in a timely manner.

Participation: Participation is mandatory in this course. Participation means actively participating in discussions and completing assignments on time; if you do not log-in to Learn and complete assignments on a regular basis you will be dropped.

Student Privacy Student privacy is strongly protected by professors at UNM-VC. The federal FERPA strictly prohibits the instructor or administrators from talking to anyone but the student about his/her progress. If a student has questions about a grade on an assignment or about the final grade for the course, FERPA dictates that the student is the only one who may speak to the instructor regarding their grades. All other outside requests for information release must be sent to and approved by the UNMVC registrar: (505) 925-8580
<http://www.unm.edu/~unmvc/Admissions/admiss.htm>

Technical Support: If you have questions about computer-related problems, call 277-5757, M-F, 8:00 am-12:00 noon and M-F, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm MST. Computer technicians are available and happy to help you solve those difficult problems.

Tutorials: If you do not know how to use Blackboard Learn, try one of the tutorials available on the information page at <http://online.unm.edu/help/learn/students/>

Tutors: Tutors are available at The Learning Center, both face-to-face and online, to help you navigate Blackboard LEARN. Call for an appointment: 505-925-8907.