

Fall 2023 Introduction to Creative Writing

Assistant Professor Ana N. June | OFFICE: A 142 D | CAMPUS PHONE: 505-925-8906
(please note that you will reach me more quickly via email)

ENGLISH 2310-501 | CRN 64635 | 3 CREDIT HOURS | AUG. 21 to DEC. 17, 2023

OFFICE HOURS/STUDENT TIME: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm
on Zoom and by appointment

WELCOME TO INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING!

I'm super excited to write with you this semester!

During this dynamic course, we will read and discuss creative works in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. We will also talk about the craft of "story" itself.

THE CRAFT OF WRITING

In the context of creative writing, "craft" refers to the skills, techniques, and artistry employed by writers to produce compelling literary works. Craft encompasses the mastery of various elements of writing, such as language, style, structure, characterization, dialogue, plot development, and narrative pacing. The craft of creative writing involves using words and storytelling techniques effectively to engage readers, evoke emotions, convey themes, and create a cohesive and impactful piece of literature.

Craft in creative writing goes beyond simply having good ideas; it involves the deliberate use of literary devices, figurative language, and storytelling tools to enhance the overall quality of the work. Writers who focus on honing their craft often pay attention to details such as word choice, sentence structure, and the balance between showing and telling, or in writer-speak, scene and exposition. Writers also consider the overall structure of their work, ensuring it has a clear beginning, middle, and end, and that it follows a logical and satisfying progression.

Learning and improving one's craft in creative writing involves studying published creative works, writing consistently, and receiving feedback from peers and instructors. It also involves taking risks and trying new things—even if you're not sure you'll succeed. By continually refining your craft, you will develop a unique voice and style, as well as the ability to connect with your audience on a deeper level through storytelling.

Story is the beating heart of most any creative work—often including poetry—and we will strive to understand this concept and practice telling stories. Of course, you will also write. A lot.

OUR SEMESTER

The first two weeks of class will be introductory. We'll get to know each other and I'll get to know each of you through a Flash Essay writing assignment. You'll also take a quiz on this course syllabus. This is the one and only quiz this semester!

During weeks 3-7, we will study the craft of writing in all three genres. We will engage in weekly discussions either on Zoom or in a Canvas Discussion Board, and you will write in your Course Journal.

Week 8 is the week to compose and turn in Project Proposals for *both* of your major projects. There will be no other requirements this week in part because the last two days of the week are Fall Break!

Project 1 will be your focus from weeks 9-11 (October 16-November 5). During that time you will complete three reflections on readings that connect to your project idea, Zoom or discuss once with your peers and me (during week 10), and compose your creative work along with a thorough and thoughtful introduction.

You will repeat the process for Project 2 during weeks 12-14 (November 6-26), with the Zoom or Discussion Board scheduled during week 13.

Finally, weeks 15 & 16 will be focused Final Portfolio (FP) weeks. For your FP you will complete a **substantive** revision of one of your project pieces and a **creative** revision of the other. You will then make a presentation in which you talk to me and walk me through your learning during the course and the choices you made for your revisions. You have two deadline options for your FP: December 13 at 5 pm if you want feedback from me on your work, or December 17 at 11:59 pm if you just want the grade. Your choice!

This is not an *easy* class, per se, but anyone who puts forth the effort can ace it. That is my promise to you. I am not looking for perfect writing (is there even such a thing?); I am looking for your effort, willingness, openness, and curiosity.

Story turns the wheels of society. We all have stories to read and stories to tell. And anyway...it's fun to make stuff up. 🍷

Let's get to it.

Best,

Ana N. June

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, UNM 2017
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English Program Coordinator
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[Zoom student time](#)

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:30am-1:30pm [& by appointment](#)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

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.

Prerequisites:

- Complete 1 of the following
 - Earned a minimum grade of C in at least 1 of the following:
 - [ENGL1110](#) - Composition I (3)
 - [ENGL1110Y](#) - Composition I: Stretch II (3)
 - [ENGL1110Z](#) - Enhanced Composition (4)
 - ACT English =26-28 or SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing =660-690.

CREDIT-HOUR STATEMENT:

This is a three-credit-hour course delivered in an entirely online modality over 16 weeks during the Fall 2023 semester. Please plan for a *minimum* of 6 hours per week to learn course materials and complete assignments.

COURSE DETAILS (alphabetized)

ASSIGNMENTS

Discussions | 360 Points Total

- Introduce yourself! | Discussion Board | 40 points
- Week 3 | Zoom or Discussion Board | 40 points
- Week 4 | Zoom or Discussion Board | 40 points
- Week 5 | Zoom or Discussion Board | 40 points
- Week 6 | Zoom or Discussion Board | 40 points
- Week 7 | Zoom or Discussion Board | 40 points
- Project 1 | Zoom or Discussion Board | 40 points
- Project 2 | Zoom or Discussion Board | 40 points
- Final Portfolio | Zoom or Discussion Board | 40 points

Quiz | 25 Points Total

- Syllabus Quiz | 25 points

Journal | 215 Points Total

- Flash Essay | 10 points (This assignment is required. If you do not turn it in, and do not reach out to me if you have trouble meeting that deadline, I will drop you from the class.)
- Journal entries for weeks 3-7 | 25 points each | 125 points total
- Proposal for Projects 1 & 2 | 10 points each | 20 points total
- Reading reflections for both projects | 10 points each | 60 points total
 - All points will be given at the beginning of the semester and reduced for missing entries over time
 - Specific deadlines apply for each entry

Project 1 | 125 points

Project 2 | 125 points

Final Portfolio | 150 points

SEMESTER TOTAL: 1000 POINTS

Important information about assignment submissions:

All of your assignments this semester must be submitted through the appropriate assignment portal. To find these portals, click on the Assignments tab in the left sidebar. Discussion posts and journal entries **MUST** be copied and pasted into the post pane directly—**DO NOT UPLOAD DOCUMENTS TO DISCUSSION BOARDS OR YOUR COURSE JOURNAL.**

Please note that I do not accept assignments by email for any reason.

Always double-check all your assignment submissions to ensure they've uploaded correctly and completely, and save your submission receipts! If Canvas glitches, I will not hold you responsible for any late work, but you **MUST** have proof of the glitch. If you do not see a preview of your submission after clicking submit, try again. If it still doesn't work, please reach out to tech support.

ATTENDANCE:

If you signed up for this course, I assume that you plan to log in to Canvas and do the work! Students who miss the first assignments or an entire project, or who do not log in regularly will be dropped. If you're having trouble keeping up for any reason, [please reach out to me](#). I will work with you to the best of my ability but ghosts are not allowed in our class. ;)

GOALS:

1. Become comfortable participating in constructive conversations on either Zoom or a discussion board about creative writing.
2. Read and critically engage with a variety of texts.
3. Express the idea of "story" as detailed through course instruction.
4. Compose creative works in various genres of creative writing.

5. Provide respectful, honest, and critical feedback to peers about their work.
 6. Revise creative work based on instructor and peer feedback and critique.
 7. Reflect on your own writing and your writing process.
 8. Evaluate and engage with the publication process.
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GRADING AND FEEDBACK:

NEWSFLASH: Grades are rarely an accurate representation of learning. That said, I also understand that they are the currency of school and it feels good to see a reward for your efforts. Plus, I'm required to assign you a grade at the end of the semester. So, here's how things work around here: You will earn full credit for each assignment that reflects thought, effort, learning, and rubric alignment. You will also receive feedback on your work when appropriate and you are expected to read or listen/watch that feedback, depending on how I deliver it.

The total points possible this semester: 1000. You need to earn at least 73% to pass the class. A C- is *not* a passing grade in college.

LATE WORK POLICY:

Deadlines are a reality you will face your entire life. In our class, deadlines ensure that I can assess and return your work to you so that the feedback is helpful to your learning. It's very hard for me to complete a grading cycle only to have another part of that grading cycle show up in my grading queue. That said, your assignments are due on Sundays at 11:59 pm, but the assignment portal will remain open until I finish grading that particular assignment for everyone. After that, I will close the portal and we will move on. As long as the portal is visible to you, you may turn in your assignment.

If you have an urgent situation that makes it difficult to complete your work at any time, please be in touch. I will work with you to support your success by helping determine a new deadline or other accommodation.

Remember: If in doubt, reach out! I will not judge you and you do not have to explain yourself (although I am always happy to listen).

OUR COMMUNITY:

Before anything else, we are a community of scholars working, thinking, learning, and writing together! To that end, this class will be conducted respectfully at all times. This means that though we might disagree sometimes (in fact, discussion and debate are an important part of a well-rounded education), we will always communicate with respect for each other as human beings.

Kindness is the rule in our class. We will all show respect for each other and actively honor the risks we take in sharing our experiences through discussions and writing.

I will not tolerate any expressions of racism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, ableism, ageism, classism, sexism, religious prejudice, or any other form of speech or interaction that may in any way diminish another person or people. **I will not tolerate such things in anybody's written work either.** There are some topics that are not appropriate for debate or written argument, and I am happy to expand on what that means if you're unsure. If you do not know what the terms above mean, please Google them. This applies to any other words you don't know this semester.

If you have a pronoun preference or are at all concerned that you will be misgendered, I invite you to let me know by [email](#) or course message.

Our classroom is a safe and dynamic space, and I expect you to respectfully push the boundaries of your ideals, beliefs, and thoughts. I will, in return, protect and respect your personal integrity to every degree possible. If you have any questions about any of this, please let me know.

It is my strict policy to never disclose any student's personal information, including immigration status, to anyone without explicit student consent. All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. I will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. UNM as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of our undocumented community. The Administration's welcome is found on our website: <http://undocumented.unm.edu/>.

We all have a shared responsibility for ensuring that learning occurs safely and equitably. UNM has important policies to preserve and protect the academic community, especially policies on student grievances (Faculty Handbook D175 and D176), academic dishonesty (FH D100), and respectful campus (FH CO9). These are in the *Student Pathfinder* (<https://pathfinder.unm.edu>) and the *Faculty Handbook* (<https://handbook.unm.edu>).

Please ask for help in understanding and avoiding plagiarism or academic dishonesty, which can both have very serious consequences.

Support: [Center for Academic Program Support](#) (CAPS). Many students have found that time management workshops can help them meet their goals (consult the CAPS website under "services").

OFFICE HOURS/STUDENT TIME:

Student time will be held on [Zoom](#) Tuesdays and Thursdays (except holidays) from 10:30 am-1:30 pm. This is your opportunity to discuss your work or progress in our class. You are welcome to just stop by unannounced but priority will be given to students who schedule a time. Please email me to do so and when you do, let me know what you'd like to discuss!

If you have an appointment, I will wait for no more than five minutes before I move on to another student. Students who make time to meet with me outside of class typically do better overall!

WRITING GUIDELINES:

All of your assignments must be typed and turned in as a Word doc or a PDF. Unless you are taking creative liberty with your formatting in a way that serves your writing (poetry for example) please format your writing to [MLA](#) style, which is the standard in the Humanities, as closely as you can. Basically, write in 12 pt., Times New Roman font with double-spaced paragraphs and 1" margins. All work must be uploaded to the proper assignment portal in Canvas.

Again: I do not accept work via email!

POLICIES AND UNIVERSITY SUPPORT (alphabetized)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Having academic integrity is paramount to your success in any class. Plagiarism or cheating is not tolerated. Any instance of this will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Here is the link to the UNM Academic Dishonesty Policy:

<https://policy.unm.edu/regents-policies/section-4/4-8.html>. The policy states:

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or who otherwise fails to meet the expected standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic Dishonesty is defined as:

"Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

UNM is committed to providing courses that are inclusive and accessible for all participants. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an accessible classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity. If you are experiencing physical or academic barriers, or concerns related to mental health, physical health and/or COVID-19, please consult with me after class, via email/phone or during office/drop-in hours (I am not legally permitted to inquire about the need for accommodations). We can meet your needs in collaboration with [UNM Valencia Campus community](#) (505) 925-8910 and/or the Accessibility Resource Center (<https://arc.unm.edu/>) at arcsrvs@unm.edu or by phone (505) 277-3506. Support: Contact me via email (anajune@unm.edu) or Canvas messaging or during [student hours](#).

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:

While Artificial Intelligence has been around us for some time (map-based navigation and virtual assistants— just to name a few), the release of Generative AI (GenAI) like Chat GPT has caused quite a stir, especially in the world of education. GenAI does not replace human experience and has some known issues:

- GenAI has a tendency to “hallucinate,” making up information that is incomplete, incorrect, or nonexistent.
- GenAI reiterates bias and is prone to discriminatory, non-inclusive language.

For this reason, you should assume that every fact or bit of information it gives you is wrong. Make it a habit to verify the information that it gives you.

Each of your professors might feel differently about using GenAI, but for the purposes of this class, here are some guidelines on using AI in your work. Please note, these are “emerging best practices,” and will likely be refined as time goes on.

In our class, the use of GenAI is permitted for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas
- Fine-tuning research questions
- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts
- Checking grammar and style

You may not use GenAI to produce an assignment in its entirety. Any use of AI for an assignment must be acknowledged at the end of your work as a citation that includes the prompt you developed for the AI.

Please note that Canvas has an AI checker built into Turnitin, which is activated for your projects and final portfolios.

A few more thoughts:

Artist and writer Lynda Barry, when discussing the quality of lines that she sees in student artwork at the beginning of her class says, “There is something beautiful in the lines made by people who stopped drawing a long time ago.”

She continues, “But what if the way kids draw— that kind of line that we call ‘childish’—what if that is what a line looks like when someone is having an experience by hand? A live wire! There is an aliveness in these drawings that can’t be faked, and when I look at them, that aliveness seems to come into me. I’m glad to see and feel them. Real aliveness of line is hard to come by. When someone learns to draw— to render— that goes— the aliveness— And it’s what some artists spend their whole lives trying to get back.”

What Lynda Barry calls “aliveness,” we often call “voice” in writing. In this class, I care more about your voice—the “aliveness” of your writing—than I do about polish, perfection, or sheen. GenAI tools are very good at producing writing that is technically proficient, that has a sort of “sheen.” Aliveness, however, can only come from you. Like Lynda Barry’s students, you come to this class with varying backgrounds and skill levels. Depending on your educational experience, you likely have adopted habits and mindsets about writing that may or may not serve you at this point in your life. Part of our work together is to figure out what to keep and what to rebuild. Central to this

process is your willingness to engage with your own writing voice, to put your unique “aliveness” on the page or into pixels. That’s work that will allow you to learn and grow, and it’s work that only you can do.

[This statement about AI is borrowed and edited from this document.](#)

STUDENT SUPPORT:

[PASOS](#) Resource Center (505) 925-8546, or email: pasos@unm.edu. The Resource Center is an on-campus center that serves as a “one-stop” for all non-academic needs of UNM-Valencia students.

[UNM Valencia Learning Commons \(tutoring\)](#)

Tutoring is available to you in math, science, writing, and other subjects through the Learning Commons: Learning and STEM Centers and Writing Center. In-person tutoring is in these centers in the LRC (the building that also has the library). Tutoring in Zoom and, for writing, through email, is also available. Making use of tutoring is a fantastic way to use your resources and set yourself up to learn deeply and well in your courses. To schedule an appointment, please go to: [Learning Commons Bookings Links to an external site](#). If you are making an email appointment with the Writing Center, email your draft to tutor@unm.edu after you fill out the form above. If you have difficulty with the scheduling link above, would like an appointment in a subject not listed at that link, or have a question, email tutor@unm.edu. You’ll get answers during business hours Monday through Friday. The webpage, with more details about available hours, is here: [Learning Commons: Tutoring Services webpage](#).

[Student Health and Counseling](#) (SHAC at UNM Albuquerque) at (505) 277-3136. If you are having active respiratory symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, etc.) AND need testing for COVID-19; OR If you recently tested positive and may need oral treatment, call SHAC.

[LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#) (505) 277-2911 can offer help with contacting faculty and managing challenges that impact your UNM experience.

We all have shared responsibility for ensuring that learning occurs safely, honestly, and equitably. Submitting material as your own work that has been generated on a website, in a publication, by an artificial intelligence algorithm, by another person, or by breaking the rules of an assignment constitutes academic dishonesty. It is a student code of conduct violation that can lead to a disciplinary procedure. *Please ask me for help in finding the resources you need to be successful in this course. I can help you use study resources responsibly and effectively.* Off-campus paper writing services, problem-checkers and services, websites, and AIs can be incorrect or misleading. Learning the course material depends on completing and submitting your own work. UNM preserves and protects the integrity of the academic community through multiple policies including policies on student grievances (Faculty Handbook D175 and D176), academic dishonesty (FH D100), and respectful campus (FH CO9). These are in the *Student Pathfinder* (<https://pathfinder.unm.edu>) and the *Faculty Handbook* (<https://handbook.unm.edu>).

Connecting to Campus and Finding Support: UNM has many resources and centers to help you thrive, including [opportunities to get involved](#), [mental health resources](#), [academic support including](#)

[tutoring](#), [resource centers](#) for people like you, free food at [Valencia Campus Food Pantry](#), and [jobs on campus](#). Your [advisor](#), staff at the [resource centers](#) and [Academic Affairs Office](#), and I can help you find the right opportunities for you.

Our classroom and our university should always be spaces of mutual respect, kindness, and support, without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence. Should you ever need assistance or have concerns about incidents that violate this principle, please access the resources available to you on campus. Please note that, because UNM faculty, TAs, and GAs are considered "responsible employees" any disclosure of gender discrimination (including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence) made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported by that faculty member, TA, or GA to the university's Title IX coordinator. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct and reporting, please see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>.

Support: [LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#), the [Women's Resource Center](#), and the [LGBTQ Resource Center](#) all offer confidential services.

TITLE IX:

Our classroom and our university should always be spaces of mutual respect, kindness, and support, without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence. Should you ever need assistance or have concerns about incidents that violate this principle, please access the resources available to you on campus. Please note that, because UNM faculty, TAs, and Gas are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education, any disclosure of gender discrimination (including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence) made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported by that faculty member, TA, or GA to the university's Title IX coordinator. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, please see <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>.

Course Summary:

Date	Details
Sun Sep 3, 2023	Discussion Topic Introduce yourself!
	Quiz Syllabus Quiz
Sun Sep 10, 2023	Discussion Topic Week 3 Discussion
Sun Sep 17, 2023	Discussion Topic Week 4 Discussion
Sun Sep 24, 2023	Discussion Topic Week 5 Discussion
Sun Oct 1, 2023	Discussion Topic Week 6 Discussion
Sun Oct 8, 2023	Discussion Topic Week 7 Discussion
Sun Oct 22, 2023	Discussion Topic Project 1 Discussion
Sun Nov 5, 2023	Assignment P.1 Introduction & Creative Work
Sun Nov 12, 2023	Discussion Topic Project 2 Discussion
Sun Nov 26, 2023	Assignment P.2. Introduction & Creative Work
Sun Dec 3, 2023	Discussion Topic Final Portfolio Discussion
Sun Dec 17, 2023	Assignment Final Portfolio
	Quiz Course Journal