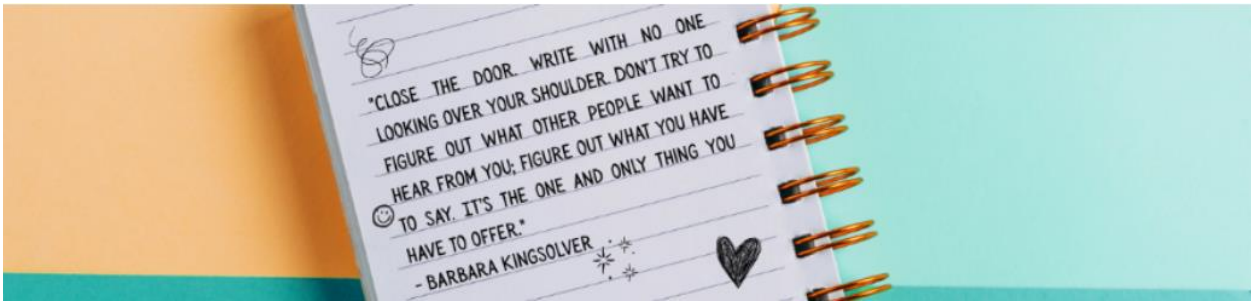
INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING

Ana N. June

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ENGLISH 2310-501 | CRN 64635 | 3 CREDIT HOURS | OCT. 12 to DEC 14, 2026

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Zoom and by appointment



Welcome to creative writing—I'm excited to write with you this semester!

During this course, you will read and discuss creative works in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction; explore prose style and story craft; and write. A lot. Our focus will be on learning how these genres work and building skills that can be applied across your writing life. The craft of creative writing is about using language and storytelling techniques to engage readers, evoke emotion, and convey meaning. It is also about imagining worlds beyond your own and bringing them to life on the page.

At the level of craft, writers pay close 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 shape of their work, making deliberate choices about structure so that a piece moves with intention from beginning through the middle to a satisfying end.

But creative writing is not only technical. Human beings are made of stories. We use them to understand ourselves, to make sense of the world, to remember, to imagine, and to survive. Long before stories were written down, they were spoken, shared, and carried forward as a way of preserving knowledge, values, and identity. In this sense, story is not a luxury—it is a human necessity.

Learning and improving one's craft involves studying published work, writing consistently, and receiving feedback from your peers and professors. It also involves risk: trying new things, writing into uncertainty, and accepting that not every attempt will succeed. Through this process, you will begin to develop a stronger voice and a more intentional relationship to story. Together, we will

work to understand how stories function and practice telling them with care, purpose, and imagination.

Our semester

This is an intensive eight-week course that covers sixteen weeks of material. We will dive into poetry for the first two weeks. You will read poems, read about poets, compose Quotes & Notes based on your readings, engage with your peers, and write a draft of your own poetry collection. In week 3 we will shift to a study of fiction, with a focus on the craft of story. As you did with poetry, you will read stories, compose Quotes & Notes, engage with your peers, and draft a short story of your own that demonstrates your understanding of the specific craft elements we will study. You are welcome to work with stories and story ideas you already have but with one caveat: You *must* come to any previous work with a new mind, new understanding, and new effort. **Please do not simply copy/paste any creative work from your past efforts into your assignments.** Instead, reimagine your characters, setting, plot, and structure to reflect your learning in our course.

After three weeks of studying fiction, we will shift to creative nonfiction (CNF), which is as its name suggests: True stories told using the craft tools of fiction (and sometimes poetry!).

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. Let's get to it.

Best,
Ana N. June

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Zoom Office Hours: Mondays 10 am-12 pm & 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 8 weeks during the Fall 2026 semester. Please plan for a *minimum* of 12 hours per week to learn course materials and complete assignments.

COURSE DETAILS (ALPHABETIZED)

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS

- This course follows a module structure. **Each Monday at noon,** our course homepage will refresh, and you will see a new live link for that week. Click that to proceed through the module.
- Discussions have **THREE** deadlines. Please pay close attention to these and budget your time accordingly. Your peers are relying on you to post, read and review, and respond in a timely fashion.
- Discussion posts **MUST** be copied and pasted into the post pane directly—**DO NOT UPLOAD DOCUMENTS TO DISCUSSION BOARDS OR I WILL DELETE YOUR POST AND YOU WILL HAVE TO POST AGAIN.**
- I do not accept assignments by email.
- 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, COMMUNICATIONS, & DROP POLICY:

Regular attendance is crucial for success in our course. Regular attendance means that you log in to Canvas at the beginning of each week (Tuesday at the latest), engage with the instruction, and complete the assignments. Missing several days or a week (or worse, more than a week) will set you back, and you may be unable to pass the class—especially in this intensive, eight-week course.

In addition, please check your UNM email and Canvas Course Messages at least once each weekday. I will communicate with you through Canvas, and those messages also come through in your UNM email. Not checking email means you will miss very important communications!

Finally, I will not drop you for disengagement or a low grade unless **you request** that I do so. This does not mean that you can ghost most of the semester then make up the work at the end—you can't (see deadline policy). It just means you will receive a letter grade on your transcript rather than a W. If you ghost, I will email you to check in. If I don't hear from you, I will submit an academic CARE report on your behalf.

COURSE GOALS:

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. OPTIONAL: Evaluate and engage with publication process.

DISCUSSION BOARD ETIQUETTE:

Every writer needs feedback to improve but it's critical to remember that feedback is about the work, not the writer. Constructive kindness is the absolute rule in our class.

GRADING AND FEEDBACK:

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. In addition, 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 it's delivered. I often make screen-recorded videos for feedback because it allows me to say more in less space!
- I do not weight grades or grade using point scales because the impression is that some assignments are more valuable or valid than others. Thus, each separate writing assignment is worth 100%, and you can earn no less than 50%—no matter how big or small—for any assignment.
- If an assignment has a staged grading requirement that process is explained in the assignment itself—make sure you read the instructions closely.
- I will excuse the lowest grade in the gradebook before entering final grades. This applies to ONE assignnment.
- Rubrics are an important tool for both of us. They make assessment transparent, and help guide your process.
- Final grades are averaged over the entire semester.
- You need to earn at least 73% overall to pass the class. A C- is *not* a passing grade at UNM-Valencia:

SCORE	**GRADE**
97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
TO PASS THE CLASS, YOU NEED A 73% OR HIGHER OVERALL.	**GRADES BELOW THIS LINE ARE NOT PASSING**
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
50-59	F

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 assignment in that grading cycle show up in my queue. That said, most assignments are due on **MONDAYS 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 for submissions and we will move on. **As long as the portal is visible to you, you may turn in your assignment with no penalty.** I have reserved Tuesdays as my grading days this semester, but it sometimes takes me longer.

Please note that discussions often have multiple deadlines! I will keep a close eye on participation and be in touch if you miss a deadline.

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:

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 writing assignments in this class, 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—including AI use—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").

Our classroom and university should foster mutual respect, kindness, and support. If you have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or violence, please seek support and report incidents. Find confidential services at LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, the Women's Resource Center, and the LGBTQ Resource Center. UNM prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including gender, sex stereotyping, gender expression, and gender identity). All instructors are "responsible employees" who must communicate reports of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence to Compliance, Ethics and Equal Opportunity. For more information, please see UAP 2720 and UAUAP 2720P 2740.

OFFICE HOURS:

Office hours will be held on **Zoom** Mondays from 10 am-12 pm. That doesn't mean I will be sitting there with my Zoom open, however. If I step away from my desk I close my Zoom, but anytime someone joins I get a notification and will return, open my Zoom, and admit you. Please give me a few moments to do this.

Office hours represent an 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 using my Book Me. Please email me to do so and when you do, let me know what you'd like to discuss!

If that block of time doesn't work for you, please make an appointment with me.

If you make an appointment, please note the time in your calendar. I will wait for no more than ten minutes. After that, you will need to reschedule. Students who make time to meet with me outside of class typically do better overall.

STUDENT SUPPORT:

Pasos Resource Center: An on-campus center that serves as a "one-stop" for both advising and non-academic needs of UNM-Valencia students. (505) 925-8546, or email: pasos@unm.edu

UNM Valencia Learning Commons: 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 houses 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. If you are making an email appointment with the Writing Center, email your draft to tutor@unm.edu after you fill out Learning Commons Bookings form. 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.

Student Health and Counseling (SHAC at UNM Albuquerque): 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 at (505) 277-3136.

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

UNM has many resources and centers to help you thrive, including opportunities to get involved, mental health resources, academic support including tutoring, resource centers, free food at Valencia Campus Food Pantry, and jobs on campus. Your advisor, staff at the resource centers and Academic Affairs Office.

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.