

INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING

Associate Professor Ana N. June | OFFICE: A 142 D

ENGLISH 2310-501 | CRN 53379 | 3 CREDIT HOURS | JAN. 20 to MAY 10, 2026

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays from 1:00 to 3:00 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

The first week of class will be introductory. You'll read the syllabus, get to know your writing community through an introductory discussion, and compose your first journal entry. You will

also have access to the Poetry Packet so you can begin reading the curated poems for our first focused sequence.

Starting in week two, we will begin our exploration of the three primary genres through lessons, annotated reading assignments, discussions, and journal entries.

Finally, weeks 15 & 16 will be focused revision and polishing weeks. For your final project, what I call your showcase, you will complete a **substantive** revision of one of your project pieces and a **creative** revision of the other. You will then compose a substantive reflection on your process and your learning.

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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[Office Hours](#) Mondays 1-3 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 16 weeks during the Spring 2026 semester. Please plan for a *minimum* of 6 hours per week to learn course materials and complete assignments.

COURSE DETAILS (ALPHABETIZED)

ASSIGNMENTS

- **7 Discussions:**
 - **1 intro discussion board**
 - **2 Zoom conferences with me**
 - **4 peer review boards**
- **15 Journal Entries**
- **1 Showcase Reflection**
- **1 Showcase**

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 assignment is worth 100%, and you can earn no less than 50%—no matter how big or small—for any work that you submit and is accepted for grading. The process of staged grading is explained in the assignments.

Final grades are averaged over the entire semester.

Important information about 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.

- You'll notice that many of our 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, so please don't ask.
- 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 week will be dropped to make room for a student on the wait list. If you miss an entire project or do not log in regularly you might also be dropped. See INTERVENTIONS below. 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. 🧛

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 might miss very important things including drop notices if you fall behind!

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. 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. 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 your peers and I deliver it.

As I mentioned previously, every assignment is worth 100 points, which translates into 100% or a fraction thereof. Grades are averaged over time to yield an overall grade for the course. You cannot earn anything less than a 50% in this course for ***submitted and accepted assignments***.

Again, if you repeatedly miss assignments, I will drop you from the course. See **INTERVENTIONS**, below, for more details.

You need to earn at least 73% to pass the class. A C- is *not* a passing grade in college.

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

INTERVENTIONS:

I check each Tuesday for logins from the previous week. If you do not log in for a whole week, the following will happen:

- 1st time: I'll send you an email to check in.
- 2nd time: I'll submit your name to the university for what we call an early alert. An adviser will reach out to you.
- 3rd time: I'll email you that a drop is pending. I will give you until the following Friday to respond and *rectify* the situation. If you do not, you *will* be dropped.
- 4th time: You will be dropped with no notice.

Missed discussion participation (any step):

- 1st time: I'll send you an email checking in.
- 2nd time: I'll submit your name to the university for what we call an early alert. An adviser will reach out to you.
- 3rd time: I'll email you that a drop is pending. I will give you until the following Friday to respond and *rectify* the situation. If you do not, you will be dropped.
- 4th time: You will be dropped with no notice.

Missed journal entry:

- 1st time: I'll send you an email checking in.
- 2nd time: I'll submit your name to the university for what we call an early alert. An adviser will reach out to you.
- 3rd time: I'll email you that a drop is pending. I will give you until the following Friday to respond and *rectify* the situation. If you do not, you will be dropped.
- 4th time: You will be dropped with no notice.

Missed Showcase:

- I'll send you an email reminder at the deadline if your work is not uploaded.
- The portal will remain open for 24-36 hours while I grade, and as long as you see it, you may turn in your work
- Once the portals close, your grade will be a 0.

Assignment flagged for plagiarism and/or AI:

- 1st time: Your work will receive the minimum grade and I will share the AI report with you. I will regrade you if you resubmit work that is not composed by AI within 5 days of notification.
- 2nd time: I'll email you that a drop is pending. I will give you until the following Friday to respond and *rectify* the situation. If you do not, you will be dropped.
- 3rd time: You will be dropped with no notice.

I WILL NOT READMIT YOU IF YOU ARE DROPPED.

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, 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. I have reserved Tuesdays as my grading days this semester, but it sometimes takes me longer.

Please note the three different deadlines for each peer review discussion!! I will keep a close eye on participation and be in touch if you miss a deadline. See **INTERVENTIONS**, above.

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 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 [UAP 2740](#).

OFFICE HOURS:

Office hours will be held on [Zoom](#) Mondays (except holidays) from 1-3 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 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 five minutes before I move on to another student. 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>.