

Introduction to Creative Writing

Global Program on Economics and Finance (Fall 2022)

Course Title	Introduction to Creative Writing		
Credit	3	Credit Hours	48 credit hours
Course Objectives	<p>By the end of the course, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● understand the basic techniques and terminology of fiction writing, non-fiction writing, and poetry writing ● analyze and synthesize information in sophisticated and complex rhetorical/logical structures ● employ critical reading skills for critiquing fiction, essays, and poetry (both one's own and peers') ● identify, analyze, and target readers ● demonstrate facility with ideas and language ● write creatively, communicate effectively, and work collaboratively ● prepare for a workshop of critiquing creative writing ● know the importance of revision in creative writing 		
Course Description	<p>The course is designed to introduce the craft of creative writing—its terminology, techniques, and practice. The classes will focus on short fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. You will hand in written works, receive feedback from the instructor, and practice peer critiquing. We will also read and discuss memoirs, short fiction, and poetry by contemporary writers. You will be asked to be open to experimentation, share your work-in-progress, and revise your work afterwards.</p>		
<p>Course Requirements:</p> <p>Prerequisites</p> <p>The course is designed for students who have a good command in English composition and wish to develop their writing skills further in short prose narratives and poetry.</p> <p>Requirements</p> <p>You will be expected to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attend all class meetings prepared. (Habitual late for the class will be noted.) 2. Participate actively and constructively in class discussions. 3. Participate in writing exercises during class and outside of class. 4. Participate in draft workshops and group work (a draft for workshop must be a complete draft: it has a beginning, middle, and end and is ready to share). 5. Conduct textual research in the library and on the Web. 6. Submit all work on time (on the hour/day it is due; late papers will be docked half of a letter grade per day, unless you communicate ahead of time with legitimate reasons for an extension before the due date). Please note: Passing the course requires timely completion of all assignments. 			

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to abide by the academic policy of Fudan University. Plagiarism, the presentation of someone else's words or ideas as one's own, is a violation of the academic community and of Fudan University. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating

1. using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class
2. the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise
3. helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism

Examples of plagiarism

1. submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another
2. submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source
3. incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit

Other Suggestions

1. Work hard and be kind. Do not be afraid to work hard and feel challenged in this class. But also, create a classroom of mutual civility and respect. It is fine to disagree or have a different perspective, but do so in a respectful manner, in ways that do not devalue anyone in the room.
2. See the Syllabus as a starting point, not as an ending point. If you find something outside of class (an article, book, website, etc.) that you think would be interesting, feel free to share. If you have an idea for a particular project that extends beyond options given, please let me know. The class is open to suggestions.
3. Discover what inspires you. A lot of what we are doing in creative writing is exploring our inner self – consider what motivates you and inspires you in your discipline. Consider the language and skills valued in your discipline, and what about it motivates you.

Practice makes perfect!

Teaching Plan/Methods:

Teaching Schedule

- Week 1 Course Introduction, Writing and Identity
- Week 2 Improvisation and Intention, Setting Your Writing Goals
- Week 3 Image and Metaphor, Writing and Nature
- Week 4 Form, Rhythms, Patterns, and Repetitions
- Week 5 Narrative Technique in Memoir and Fiction
- Week 6 Telling a Story through Monologue/Dialogue, Exploring Point of View
- Week 7 Workshop
- Week 8 Workshop
- Week 9 Character and Voice
- Week 10 In-class Narrative Writing, Story Continuation
- Week 11 Feedback and Review
- Week 12 Final Portfolio Due

Course Schedule

12 Weeks: Weekly meeting of 4 class periods (13:30-17:00). **TBD**

The design of class discussion or exercise, practice, experience and so on:

Workshop criticism

Each presenter will have 10 minutes. Upload your work a week in advance to give everyone a chance to read it before discussion. After students present their creative piece, the rest of the class will offer their comments in discussion and/or using the Discussion feature on eLearning. **TBD**

Grading & Evaluation:

Your final grade will be a combination of the following factors: attendance; class participation; in-class narrative writing/quiz; workshop; writing a critique; a Final Portfolio (revised poem and short story).

5 % Attendance (According to the school policy, **if you miss more than 1/3 of the semester**, you are no longer eligible for a final grade.)

10 % Class participation (engagement, involvement in small and large group discussions, readings)

10 % Poetry Writing Due: Week 5

10% Workshop Week 7-8

10 % Peer Critique (If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make the work up outside of class time) Due: Week 9

10 % In-class Narrative Writing/Quiz

15 % Short story continuation

30 % Final Portfolio Due: Week 12

Grading:

Grade	100-point	Description
A	90-100	Superior
A-	85-89	Superior
B+	82-84	Good
B	78-81	Good
B-	75-77	Good
C+	71-74	Satisfactory
C	66-70	Satisfactory
C-	62-65	Satisfactory
D	60-61	Poor
F	<60	Failure

Revision Policy

After you receive your assignment with assessment and feedback, you have the opportunity to revise it for a higher grade. You may take advantage of this **ONCE** during the semester, but any revised materials are due by the last day of class (Week 12).

Teaching Materials & References:

There is no textbook for this class -- all class material will be via handouts and/or from material, which you will be able to access and/or copy from eLearning/cloud/WeChat group. **TBD**

Selected Works from

Annie Dillard, T.S. Eliot, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Robert Frost, Alice Munro, Ezra Pound, and Flannery O'Connor

Recommended readings

Behn, Robin, and Chase Twichell. *The Practice of Poetry: Writing Exercises from Poets Who Teach*. Collins Reference, 2005.

Burroway, Janet. *Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft*. Pearson, 2015.

Frank, Thaisa, and Dorothy Wall. *Finding Your Writer's Voice: A Guide to Creative Fiction*. St. Martin's Press, 1997.

Jason, Philip K., and Allan B. Lefcowitz. *Creative Writer's Handbook*. Pearson Longman, 2010.

Strunk, William. *The Elements of Style*. Auroch Press, 2020.

*** The instructor reserves the right to revise or alter the schedule. Any revision or alteration will be announced in class.**