ENG 281: Creative Writing
Syllabus, Summer 2017

CRN #2079/Online
Course Runs from 7/5-8/8

Course Prerequisite: ENG 101
Course Credit: 3 credits; credit counts toward meeting degree requirements

Instructor: Christine Ruggiero, Professor of English
Office: Snow, 520; **Office Phone:** (860) 343-5878
Summer Office Hours: Phone Conference and/or by appointment

The best way to reach me is through E-mail. If you have a question on a specific assignment which I may need to look at in order to answer, then you should e-mail me in Blackboard. However, for inquiries that do not require my looking at Blackboard files, for a more immediate response, you can e-mail me at cruggiero@mxcc.edu E-mail sent to this address goes directly to my cell phone which I check often.

Required Texts:
The Poet's Companion: A Guide to the Pleasures of Writing Poetry (Addonizio & Laux)
What If? Writing Exercises for Fiction Writers (Bernays & Painter)

Recommended Text:
The Synonym Finder by J.I. Rodale

Course Description:
Students will learn and practice the craft elements of writing poetry, fiction, and/or non-fiction, examine the works of writers in the genres, and receive and offer critique. Students will submit pieces for possible publication in MxCC's literary journal, *Pegasus*.

Scope of Course:
Students will explore and hone their creative skills in writing poetry, short fiction, and personal narrative while reading, examining, and discussing works in the various genres. Students will use models for understanding and putting into practice the cause and effect relationships of style, form and meaning, while developing voice and technique. As students look to their own lives as a guide or driver for inspiration, they will also aim to reflect in their works recognition of the reader within the writer, expressing the human experience which connects us all. Students will provide peer feedback on their original works, giving thoughtful and critical comments and suggestions, always beginning with what they like about a piece and then moving to what areas may be confusing or alarming or inconsistent in some way. Feedback should be as specific as possible. Students will not have a comprehensive exam but will be required to submit 3-5 pieces for possible publication in our college's literary journal, of which I am the faculty editor. Submissions are read and selected by English faculty and student officers in the Creative Writing Club. This is a fast-paced course, and so meeting deadlines are crucial to being successful.

ENG 281, Creative Writing
This course is important because it will introduce students to various genres of creative writing, such as poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction, among others, as well as hone their skills in the creation of the works they produce. English 281 meets all general education core competencies but Mathematical Reasoning.

- **Communication**:
  The interactive process through which there is an exchange of verbal and/or nonverbal information.
- **Cultural Awareness:**
  Acknowledgement that society is diverse with groups of individuals possessing differing beliefs, values, attitudes, and customs that are shared from one generation to the next.
- **Social and Civic Responsibility:**
  Behavior that demonstrates adherence to legal/ethical standards established by society.
- **Critical Thinking:**
  Modes of reasoning including analyzing data, evaluating alternatives, setting priorities, and predicting outcomes.
- **Mathematical Reasoning:**
  Determination of approach, materials, and strategies necessary to solve a problem.
- **Technology Utilization:**
  Use tools of the trade to achieve a specific outcome.

These core competencies are important personally, academically, and professionally.
The outcomes, as stated in the syllabus, are covered in this course. This course may be used to meet program requirements in General Studies and other select programs.

Course Requirements:

- ❖ Meet all assignment guidelines. Complete all exercises (in My Grades, these will be marked by a check, as "complete" or "incomplete")

- ❖ Write four poems; one short story, and one non-fiction (memoir) piece.

- ❖ Incentive: revise two poems and one short story by August 8. Please be sure these are labeled appropriately and sent as attachments to Blackboard e-mail (more explanation given closer to due date).

- ❖ Submit pieces for possible publication in MxCC's creative writing journal, *Pegasus*. Submit 1-2 poems, one short fiction, or your memoir piece. Include submissions with final portfolio packet labeled *Pegasus* Submissions, and provide submissions electronically, through this e-mail: MX-Pegasus@mxcc.edu.

- ❖ Relinquish the notion of anonymity! You must be willing to share your work in a workshop style format—small group and whole class discussions, listening, helping, and supporting one another in meeting personal writing goals.

- ❖ Offer thoughtful feedback to others; be respectful in your critique of others' works, providing both positive feedback and constructive criticism, starting with what you liked about the pieces before offering suggestions for improvement.

- ❖ Pay attention to grammar, syntax, and mechanics for stylistic achievement (i.e., know the difference between a sentence fragment and a stylistic fragment).

Grading Criteria:

Poetry:	4 poems, 10 points each =	40
Fiction:	1 story, 20 points each =	20
Memoir:	1 narrative, 25 points =	25
Participation:		15

Students must regularly and actively evaluate and critique others' works; thoughtfully revise pieces once, carefully edit their own works; and demonstrate a solid command of Standard English and how to manipulate and stylize it. Please note that participation points are earned by the following: completing the exercises which are graded "complete/incomplete;" reviewing and evaluating peers' work and giving thoughtful and helpful written feedback; and completing discussion postings.

Course Withdrawal:

Course Withdrawal: You may withdraw from this class any time by Monday, July 31. A completed and signed withdrawal form must be on file in the Records Office in order to receive a "W" on your transcript. If you fail to complete this process on time, you will receive a letter grade at the end of the session, which will include zeroes for any work not submitted. Course withdrawals may affect financial aid and veteran benefits. Please make this decision carefully and with the help of your advisor and or me. See the Academic Calendar and the College Catalog for specific dates and procedures regarding the withdrawal process. I encourage you to see me if you have any questions.

College Policies:
For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather and emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/ or scan the QR code with your smart phone. Also, please become familiar with the policies regarding nondiscrimination, sexual misconduct, and general student conduct at the following website: www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT
Middlesex Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, national origin, marital status, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or genetic information in its programs and activities. In addition, the College does not discriminate in employment on the additional basis of veteran status or criminal record. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding non-discrimination policies and practices:

Primary Title IX Coordinator	*Secondary Title IX Coordinator*
Dr. Adrienne Maslin	*Ms. Queen Fordham*
Dean of Students/	*Coordinator, the Meriden Center Welcome Desk*
Title IX and Section 504/ADA Coordinator	*qfordham@mxcc.edu; 203-608-3011*
amaslin@mxcc.edu; 860-343-5759;	
Founders Hall Room 123|	

"The wastepaper basket is the writer's best friend." *Isaac Bashevis Singer*

"Good writing is rewriting." *Truman Capote*

"The only need is the eye to see." *Willa Cather*

"Let the reader find that he cannot afford to omit any line of your writing because you have omitted every word that he can spare." *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

"The Six Golden Rules of Writing: Read, read, read, and write, write, write."
Ernest Gaines

"Writing is the only thing that, when I do it, I don't feel I should be doing something else."
Gloria Steinem

"Reading makes immigrants of us all. It takes us away from home, but more important, it finds homes for us everywhere." - Jean Rhys

This is a fast-paced course. However, it is not at your own pace. I will make available to you assignments a week prior to their due dates. Under course content there are folders that indicate homework due dates and supply documents, links when applicable, and directions for readings and writing requirements.

I will be online every day, twice a day, checking e-mail, answering any non-technical questions as they arise. If I forget something, such as to make a document available, please do not panic; that's called human error. And, as soon as I recognize an error or one is pointed out to me, I will work to correct it as quickly as possible and you will never be penalized, in this instance. If you don't hear back from me right away, keep in mind that I am probably indisposed but will check-in again at a later time.

A couple of important items:

1. Poems should always be submitted as an attachment to discussion boards. If they are not submitted as an attachment, I will not read them, and you will get a zero for that assignment. I cannot use track changes otherwise, so remember to attach.

2. Titles of your poems and story documents should include your first initial, full last name, and the assignment title. For example cruggieroaddressingpoetry

3. Most assignments will be given a due date of 11:59 p.m. of whatever day it's due.

4. Most assignments will be due every two days and will include quite a bit of reading to support the writing task.