

Eng 281, Creative Writing, McNulty– Summer, 2015

Instructor: Terence McNulty

Email: tmcnulty@mxcc.edu -- email anytime, but don't expect a response after 9 p.m.! My goal is always to get back to you within 24 hours of your email to me.

Phone: (860) 343-5889

Office: Snow 520

Office Hours: By appointment (online or in person)

Meeting Times: ONLINE

Credit Hours: This course is 3 credit hours.

CRN: 2041

Prerequisites:

Successful completion of English 101.

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 in workshop setting. Students will submit end of semester portfolio and work for possible publication in *Pegasus* literary journal. *Prerequisite: Either ENG*101ALP, ENG*101E, or ENG*101.* (Existing course, published September 2013) (Updated November 2014).

Required Texts:

None. Internet access is required, as we will make extensive use of BlackBoard.

Scope of Course

ENG 281 focuses on the practice of writing poetry and fiction. Students in this class will be required to produce 3 polished poems, and 3 polished short stories. Students will be required to critique their peers. Students will be required to submit a portfolio containing 2 revised poems and 2 revised stories.

All students are expected to submit select work to *Pegasus*, the college's literary journal.

Structure of Course

On An Average Week

- ✓ Each week an assignment will be released to you on Sunday night
- ✓ You will have until Thursday at midnight to submit your response to the assignment.
- ✓ You will have until Sunday at noon to provide constructive feedback to two of your peers.

Grading:

Your grade in this course will be figured by the following formula:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Timely Submission of Work | 50% |
| Revisions/Portfolio | 20% |
| Critiques and Participation | 30% |

- **Your portfolio will contain drafts and revisions of four submissions.**
- Your portfolio grade will not be based on the “quality” of your creative writing. **Rather, you will be graded on its completeness and the *quality of your revisions*.**
- Because we need to have your work submitted on time in order to make the class functional,
**LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WILL NOT RECEIVE
INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK. LATE WORK IS AN AUTOMATIC ZERO.**

Discussion Rules

1. No personal attacks are permitted. If there is a difference of opinion, mature discussion and conflict resolution are expected. We’ll learn to give constructive criticism.
2. **The expectation of this course is 9-12 hours per week of work.** Good poetry and good fiction require thoughtful construction. Do not use old creative work you have “lying around” – it won’t fit the assignment.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty:

“At Middlesex Community College we expect the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in accordance with the Board of Trustees’ Proscribed Conduct Policy in Section 5.2.1 of the Board of Trustees Policy Manual. This policy prohibits cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaborations on assignments, unauthorized access to examinations or course materials, plagiarism and other proscribed activities. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another’s idea(s) or phrase(s) and representing that/those idea(s) as your own, either intentionally or unintentionally.” (Board of Trustees’ Policy 5.2.1)

You must use proper citation. Presenting another person’s ideas or language as your own will result in an F for that paper without the right to revise it. It may also result in an F for the course and escalation to the office of the Dean.

Very often students plagiarize because of deadline stress or confusion regarding an assignment. It’s my job to help you if you’re confused. It’s your job to ask for help and **to not plagiarize.**

General Education Core Competencies

This course is important because it will strengthen critical thinking skills and written communication. Additionally, English 281 meets all general education core competencies but one: 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. 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.

Additional Syllabus Information

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/emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/



In Order to Succeed in This Course

Please keep in mind that this course is rigorous. It requires you to manage your time well, employ good study skills and keep ahead of assignments.

Course Plan

UNIT ONE -- POETRY

Week 1 (6/15)

Read: “How to Critique a Poem” (PowerPoint) “Steps,” (O’Hara) “The Red Wheelbarrow,” (Williams) “Anecdote of The Jar,” (Stevens) “Moreover the Moon” (Loy).

Write: A detail-based poem

Submit:

- Your detail based poem, to the discussion board, by 11:59 PM on Thursday, 6/18
- Your critique of two peer pieces by Sunday, 6/21 at Noon

Week 2 (6/22)

Read: “Poetic Form: Found Poem” (poets.org), “Found Poem,” (Nemerov) “Figure One ...” (Jarnot) “Gee Whizzies,” (Bern Porter, via UBUWeb) from *Testimony* (Reznikoff), “Phone Book: Bangor, Maine” (McNulty).

Write: A found poem

Submit:

- Your found poem, to the workspace, by 11:59 PM on Thursday, 6/25
- Your critique of two peer pieces by Sunday, 6/28 at Noon

Week 3 (6/29):

Read: Poems by Elaine Equi, Ben Friedlander, Jennifer Moxley, and Julianna Spahr.

Write: A word count poem

Submit:

- Your word count poem, to the workspace, by 11:59 PM on Thursday, 7/2
- Your critique of two peer pieces by Sunday, 7/5 at Noon

UNIT TWO -- FICTION

Week 4 (7/6):

Read: “How to Critique Fiction” (PowerPoint) .“Who’s Irish?” (Gish Jen).

Write: A character based short story.

Submit:

- Your 2 page (max) story, to the workspace, by 11:59 PM on Thursday, 7/9
- Your critique of two peer pieces by Sunday, 7/12 at Noon

Week 5 (7/13):

Read: “The Cask of Amontillado,” (Edgar Allen Poe), “Hills Like White Elephants” (Ernest Hemmingway), “Girl” (Jamaica Kincaid), “Where Am I?” (Daniel Dennett).

Write: A dialogue based short story.

Submit:

- Your 2 page (max) story, to the workspace, by 11:59 PM on Thursday, 7/16
- Your critique of two peer pieces by Sunday, 7/19 at Noon

Week 6 (7/20)

Read: “The Veldt” by Ray Bradbury. “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” by Ursula LeGuin.

Write: Syllable, noun/verb story

Submit:

- Your 2 page (max) story, to the workspace, by 11:59 PM on Thursday, 7/23
- Your critique of two peer pieces by Sunday, 7/26 at Noon

Week 7 (7/27):

Completed portfolios due containing all revised work ON Sunday 8/2, AT NOON.