

ENG 9CE: CREATIVE EXPRESSION IN WRITING

3 units, Winter 2016

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Course Description:

Creative Expression in Writing is a writing class that explores daily creative practice. This quarter, you'll be challenged to push your creative limits and to take risks in your work. Together we'll explore how we can become more alert to the world and how, through language, we can respond in fresh ways to the events of our lives. As we imagine other realities and engage in a conversation with the long tradition of art, we'll practice thinking flexibly and seeing opportunity in failure. In this class, you will be a member of a community of writers prepared to challenge and support each other as we navigate the process of creation.

This quarter, you'll generate ideas that you will develop and shepherd through revision. The course offers opportunities for you to experiment with form and content and to develop a vocabulary with which to discuss your own work. Through close reading, writing exercises, collaborative projects, performance, workshops, and discussion, you'll explore the role creativity plays in your own life.

Creative Expression in Writing fulfills Stanford's Ways of Thinking/Ways of Doing Creative Expression Requirement: *The ability to design, create, and perform – each enriches our lives in substantial and meaningful ways. Thinking creatively, giving expressive shape to ideas, and communicating those ideas with imagination and precision are not only indispensable to all artistic endeavors, they also represent broadly applicable skills that strengthen and enhance traditional academic pursuits, stimulate effective problem-solving, and foster originality and innovation in new areas.*

Course Objectives for Creative Expression students:

1. Explore your own potential and produce original creative projects.
2. Engage in artistic collaboration and the creative reinterpretation of art made by others.
3. Take creative risks beyond your comfort zones
4. Experience what it is to make the unimagined possible and real.
5. Appreciate how experimentation, failure, and revision can play a valuable role in the creation of successful and innovative works.
6. Consider multiple and possibly divergent solutions to a problem.
7. Explore the role of artistic expression in addressing issues that face society.

Schedule

Ten weeks; one class and one lab per week.

Required Materials

1. Course Reader - \$33, available in Thornton Center Lobby, 379 Santa Teresa Street, across from Terman Fountain and Roble Gym, from 9am-5pm during the first week of classes.
2. Creativity Journal
3. Class Notebook & Folder or Binder

Requirements

Participation (25%): Coming to class and lab prepared and on time; contributing thoughtfully to discussions; reading and responding insightfully to published or peer work; participating in group projects and activities; trying your best. Make sure to bring the required reading, any assignments, your notebook, and your journal to each class and lab. This class depends on the full participation of its members. Please keep the tone in the classroom professional, constructive, and respectful; it is possible to be both generous and rigorous.

Written Exercises (35%): Over the course of the quarter, you will be writing a lot! This class is about building and sustaining a creative practice, and thus you'll be generating a lot of raw material. To this end, you'll be completing many written exercises, both in class and out. These exercises will include imitations, flash fiction, poetry and prose poems, and many other things. You will turn in your exercises, typed, so that I can read your work and understand your process. Some, but not all, of these exercises will receive feedback, either in the form of written comments, peer exchange, or in a workshop. You will know, in advance, when you will be turning in a piece that will receive feedback—thus, you will be able to choose which pieces are most exciting to you. At the end of the quarter you will compile and turn in a portfolio that will include your revised work and a creative manifesto.

In addition to your typed exercises, you'll also be keeping a daily journal, which will include observations, illustrations, thoughts, quotations, ideas, and anything else you might like to include. You'll be encouraged to share something with us at the beginning of each class; so do bring your journal to every class meeting.

Project (15%): The Creative Expression Project! More about this later.

Reading & Performance Attendance (10%): You must attend at least three events over the course of the quarter, and write a one-paragraph response to each. There are many readings and events sponsored by the Creative Writing Program/English Department from which to choose. See the event calendar on the CW website: creativewriting.stanford.edu. There are also many other acceptable arts events happening on campus. Any event sponsored by the CWP/English Department will fulfill this requirement; check with me first if you're planning to attend a non-CWP event. Plan ahead and don't wait until the end of the quarter! You may turn in your (3) one-paragraph responses with your final portfolio.

Final Portfolio (15%): You will compile a portfolio of revisions and drafts of several of your writing exercises, as well as a Creative Manifesto, which will be due at the end of the quarter. More about this later.

Absences & Late Arrivals

You are allowed two absences over the course of the quarter, no questions asked. After that, your grade will drop one letter for every absence. If you do miss a class, you are responsible for making up any work you missed that day. Late arrivals are disruptive to the class; if you are more than ten minutes late, or leave early without prior permission, it will count as an absence. Repeated tardiness will be treated as an unexcused absence.

Content of Creative Pieces

Because this class is based on collective trust, you should not include references to any instructors or students in your work. The content of other students' work should not be discussed outside of class.

Email

I do not accept any work submitted through email, though you may email me with questions or concerns. I do my best to respond to email within two days.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will only receive half-credit, even if you've just forgotten to print out an exercise for class. Please don't email me late work—put it in the box outside my office.

Academic Honesty

All work submitted for this class must be your own and written for this class. Obviously. Please familiarize yourself with Stanford's Honor Code:
<http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/judicialaffairs/policy/honor-code>

Laptops, Cell Phones, Food

Laptops may be used only for select in-class writing exercises, with WIFI off. Feel free to bring them to class, but don't leave them on the table or open during general discussion. Because ringing and buzzing is disruptive, all cell phones should be switched *off* prior to entering the classroom. If for some reason you must be reachable, please talk to me before class. Snacks are permitted (encouraged if there's enough for everyone!) as long as they are eaten quietly and neatly and all garbage is disposed of, and as long as you can still participate fully in the discussion.

Students with Documented Disabilities

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the OAE as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone: 723-1066, URL: <http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/oae>).