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Course Description: A course designed to introduce the students to the forms, strategies, and techniques involved in creative writing. The student may be given a series of directed assignments, which may be critiqued in class. Prerequisite for Creative Writing: ENGL 1301 or permission from the Department Chair. 3 credits (3 lecture). Prerequisite for Creative Writing II: Currently enrolled or have taken Creative Writing I.

English Program Student Learning Outcomes

1. Write in appropriate genres using varied rhetorical strategies.
2. Write in appropriate genres to explain and evaluate rhetorical and/or literary strategies employed in argument, persuasion, and various genres.
3. Analyze various genres of writing for form, method, meaning, and interpretation.
4. Employ research in academic writing styles and use appropriate documentation style.
5. Communicate ideas effectively through discussion.

Creative Writing Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand literary tropes and points of craft.
2. Apply terms to specific examples and written exercises.
3. Analyze representative works of published writers.
4. Analyze and evaluate other students' works.
5. Write creative works in a variety of genres.
Texts:

*The Literary Terms Handbook*, Sunflower Education  
*The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, Steven Chbosky  
*This Is How You Lose Her*, Junot Diaz  
*The Bell Jar*, Sylvia Plath  
*Just Kids*, Patti Smith  
*Citizen: An American Lyric*, Claudia Rankine  
*Walt Whitman: Selected Poems*, Walt Whitman and Harold Bloom  
*Ariel: The Restored Edition*, Sylvia Plath  
*Wind in a Box*, Terrance Hayes

A Little Information Regarding the Course:

Like most genres of art, to become a better writer, one must do primarily two things to improve: write and read. Ultimately, in order to become the kind of writer you want to be, you need to read the works that come the closest to the kind of writer you would like to be. However, before getting there, it helps to read a variety of different writers, styles, forms, etc. To that end, we will read a selection of books in poetry, nonfiction, and fiction, so that you can get the opportunity to see the kind of writing being published today, as well as works that influenced contemporary writing.

In this course, we will discuss the books we read for the class, and you will write poems, nonfiction, and fiction modeled after the books that we read. You will also write response pieces to these books, and you will respond to your fellow writers in the class through a peer review system. Ideally, we'd have what is called workshop, which is a group discussion on a person's writing, and what informs most of creative writing classes in colleges and universities, including graduate school programs in creative writing. However, creative writing workshops are best with a small group of students - and since we have a very large class! - I don't think it will be as conducive. So, instead, we will use a peer review system for getting feedback.

Phew! So, that's our class, in a nutshell! I know it seems that we have an awful lot of textbooks - but I have worked hard to pick texts I think you'll really get into and that should open your horizons regarding how genres are employed in creative writing publishing today.
Course Requirements:

Our course assignments will be as follows: Creative Assignments, Responses to Texts, Responses to others' writing, and Final Portfolio. Each of these sections of assignments are 25% each.

We will also have a Facebook group for this course, which will only be accessible to you and me. In order to add this Facebook group, you will need to add me – under the name Addie Tsai, and I will add you to the group. If you feel private about your personal account, just create an account for this class that you can check every week. We will use this for class announcements, and I will also post links that I think apply to our course, and expect you to comment on those links. If there are any supplemental readings for the course, I will most likely attach them to the group. This will be part of your participation grade for the course.

GENERAL CLASS POLICIES

The State of Texas has begun to impose penalties on students who drop courses excessively. For example, if you repeat the same course more than twice, you have to pay extra tuition. Beginning in Fall 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a law limiting first time entering freshmen to no more than SIX total course withdrawals throughout their educational career in obtaining a certificate and/or degree.

To help students avoid having to drop/withdraw from any class, HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor may “alert” you and/or the counselors that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance. It is your responsibility to visit with your professor or a counselor to learn about what, if any, HCC interventions might be available to assist you – tutoring, child care, financial aid, job placement, etc. – to stay in class and improve your academic performance.

If you plan on withdrawing from your class, you MUST contact a counselor or your professor prior to withdrawing (dropping) the class for approval and this must be done PRIOR to the withdrawal deadline to receive a “W” on your transcript. **Final withdrawal deadlines vary each semester and/or depending on class length; please visit the online registration calendars, HCC schedule of classes and catalog, any HCC Registration Office, or any HCC counselor to determine class withdrawal deadlines. Remember to allow a 24-hour response time when communicating via email and/or telephone with a professor and/or counselor. Do not submit a request to discuss withdrawal options less than a day before the deadline. If you do not withdraw before the deadline, you will receive the grade that you have earned by the end of the semester. Zeros averaged in for required assignments/tests not submitted will lower your semester average significantly, most likely resulting in a failing grade (“F”).
Attendance: According to official HCCS policy, if you miss more than 12.5% of instruction (6 hours in a 3-credit hour course), you may be dropped from the course. You should beware of missing (including being more than ten minutes late for) more than two on-site classes this term. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late will be counted absent. Students leaving before class is dismissed will be counted absent. If you need urgently to leave before the class will be over, please let me know before class begins. Frequent requests are not acceptable.

I hold participation extremely high. Your overall grade will reflect your participation, or lack thereof, in our weekly discussions.

If you have an unexpected situation arise that causes you to miss a significant amount of class (or assignments), please speak with me directly as it happens so that I can help with a solution that you can stay caught up in class. I can't promise that I can accommodate all situations, but the sooner I know, the better I can assist in your overall success in this course.

Plagiarism: According to the Student Handbook for the HCCS, scholastic dishonesty includes cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating on a test includes:

- copying from another student’s test paper;
- using (during a test) materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- collaborating with another student during a test without authority;
- knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test;
- bribing another person to obtain a test that is to be administered.

Plagiarism means the appropriation of another student’s work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work into one’s own written work offered for credit.

Collusion means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.

Please note the possible consequences of such dishonesty, as stated in the current Student Handbook: “Possible punishments for academic dishonesty may include a grade of 0 or F for the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation or dismissal from the College System” (41).

“Basic Intellectual Competencies”: According to the 2008 - 2009 Catalog for HCCS, students should be challenged in their work according to six basic competencies: reading, writing, speaking, listening, critical thinking, and computer literacy. All of these criteria are included in the work you will do for this course. See the Catalog, pp. 33 - 34, for further information. Student Grievances Students who wish to complain about any aspect of their education should first speak with their instructor. If the situation remains
unresolved, then the student has the right to file a student grievance. Forms can be picked up in the office of the Dean of Instruction. These forms are first submitted to the Department Chair who will then consult with the student and other parties involved in an effort to come to a reasonable resolution of the problem. Read your Student Handbook, paying particular attention to the section on Student Policies. Within this section is a segment on Grievance Procedure as well as one on Academic Dishonesty. It is important that you familiarize yourself with both your rights and responsibilities as a student. Student Handbooks are available from the Office of the Registrar.

“NOTICE: Students who **repeat a course three or more times** may soon face significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. Please ask your instructor/counselor about opportunities for tutoring/other assistance prior to considering course withdrawal, or if you are not receiving passing grades.”

Web site for HCCS **Cancellation, Delayed Opening/Early Closing:** In the event of severe weather or other conditions that pose a threat to the health or safety of students and/or employees, college administrators may make the decision to close campuses in affected areas. In this case, students, faculty, and staff are advised to monitor local radio and television stations for information and updates. In addition, students can log on to [http://www.school-closings.net](http://www.school-closings.net) to find out about delays and canceled classes.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Tutoring:** Free tutoring is available in the Library, temporarily housed in the Learning Hub. Check with the Writing Center Web Site for hours of operation: [http://learning.sec.hccs.edu/courses/tutoringcenters/writingcenter](http://learning.sec.hccs.edu/courses/tutoringcenters/writingcenter)

The email address is: [se.writingcenter@hccs.edu](mailto:se.writingcenter@hccs.edu); the phone number is 713 718 7023.

On the website you can also find a link to WCOnline, where you can schedule appointments with our Writing Tutors; a link to Askonline.net (available Week 3), an online tutoring resource developed by HCCS English professors; a page of Links to Internet resources helpful to writers; and self-study resources for grammar, research, and other writing issues.

**Library:** HCCS Libraries are located on all campuses. Be sure to talk to the Librarians about getting both your HCCS Library card and a Texshare Card, which allows you to check books out at several other libraries. Also, you should have a Library Card for the Houston Public Library and/or the Harris County Public Library.

Throughout most libraries, you can access databases and the catalogue online. Since you will need to do research, also be prepared to visit university-level libraries such as UH
(M.D. Anderson on the UH Central Campus), Rice’s Fondren Library, or another such facility to which you have access.

**Email:** HCCS now offers email accounts to all students.

**Open Computer Labs:** Room 210 Angela Morales. There are machines elsewhere on campus, including in the Library.

**Reasonable accommodations:** “Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, developmental, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Support Services (DSS) Counselor at the beginning of each semester. Faculty members are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the DSS Office. Phone: 713 718 7218.

**New Policy:** “Students who repeat a course for the third time or more will be required to pay an extra $50/credit hour fee at HCC. Please ask your instructor/counselor about opportunities for tutoring or other assistance prior to considering course withdrawal or if you are not receiving passing grades.” The extra fee does not apply to repeated developmental courses.

**International Students:** Receiving a W in a course may affect the status of your student Visa. Once a W is given for the course, it will not be changed to an F because of the visa consideration. Please contact the International Student Office at 713.718.8520 if you have any questions about your visa status and other transfer issues.
Schedule of Assignments (Tentative, Subject to Change)

**Week 1**
T: Diagnostic Essay  
TH: Read: Literary Terms Handbook

**Week 2**
T: Exercise: Use five literary terms from the handbook to write a piece in any genre.  
TH: Work on exercise, begin reading *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

**Week 3**
T: Exercise due, Finish *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*  
TH: Assignment: Book Response, Epistolary Series (in any genre)

**Week 4**
T: Work on epistolary series  
TH: Assignment due, Peer Review, begin reading *This Is How You Lose Her*

**Week 5**
T: Finish *This is How You Lose Her*, Assignment: Book response, First Chapter of a Novel, with a description of the entire novel

**Week 6**
AWAY AT RESIDENCY  
Work on Assignment – Report status on group

**Week 7**
T: Assignment due, Peer Review, Begin reading *The Bell Jar*  
TH: Finish *The Bell Jar*, Assignment: Autobiographical story, while using metaphor, Book Response

**Week 8**
T: Work on assignment  
TH: Assignment due, Peer Review

**Week 9**
SPRING BREAK

**Week 10**
T: Begin *Just Kids*  
TH: Finish *Just Kids*

**Week 11**
T: Read *Citizen*, Assignment: Book Responses, Personal/Lyric Essay
TH: Work on Essay

**Week 12**
T: Assignment due, begin Whitman (selections), *Ariel*, and *Wind in a Box*
TH: Finish poetry selections, Assign: Poetry Responses, Litany, Ecstatic, Confessional, or Dramatic Monologue

**Week 13**
T: Finish Assignment
TH: Assignment due, Peer Review

**Week 14**
T: Assign Portfolios
TH: Approve Topics, Brainstorming

**Week 15**
T: Work on Portfolios
TH: Work on Portfolios

**Week 16**
Portfolios Due