

Professor Michael Sofranko

Syllabus: Creative Writing 1

Academic Discipline

English

Course Title

Creative Writing I

English 2307, Section # 43131

Location and Meeting Days and Times

Spring Branch Campus

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-2:00p.m.

Room 312

Course Semester Credit Hours (SCH)

3 Semester Credit Hours – Spring Semester, 2015

Contact Hours

48 Contact Hours

Course Length

16 weeks

Type of Instruction

Lecture and Workshop

Instructor

Professor Michael Sofranko

English Department

(713) 718-5680 (office phone)

michael.sofranko@hccs.edu (email contact address)

Instructor Office Location and Hours

Campus: Spring Branch

Office: AD8

Office Hours: 2:00-3:00 MW, 2:00-3:00 T/R or by appointment.

Course Description

A course designed to introduce the student 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.

Prerequisites: English 1301 or permission of the Department Chair.

Course Information

Students in English 2307 are introduced to the forms, techniques, and themes of poetry, narrative, and non-narrative prose. They develop reading, writing and critical thinking skills, and they demonstrate this acquisition by examining written texts, writing in a variety of forms, using new devices, and articulating an understanding of meaningful themes.

The course features a culturally diverse sample of readings, which exemplify the connection between the originator of written works and the ways in which gender, race, ethnicity and culture affect self-identity and creative expression. Substantial critical analysis (written and oral) is applied to these texts, as well as to the original works of students enrolled in the class. The reading and writing assignments serve to develop an understanding of written artistic expression, to foster mastery of dramatized communication in the written arts, and to establish the practice of creating works that reflect cultural themes and human values.

Students scrutinize published works and write original creative works designed to demonstrate their understanding of the rhetoric, form and themes discussed. They also use class conversations and written critiques as grounding for the instructional workshops and tutorials that gradually form the nucleus of the class. Each student develops a portfolio of his/her writing that includes revision, produces written and oral critiques, and collaborates in the editing and revision of creative works produced by peers.

Required Textbook:

Super Sad True Love Story, By Gary Shteyngart, Random House Press.

Student Learning Outcomes

The following are the Learning Outcomes for English 2307:

- Students will **understand** literary tropes and points of craft.
- Students will **apply** terms to specific examples and written exercises.
- Students will **analyze** representative works of published writers.
- Students will **analyze and evaluate** other students' works.
- Students will **write** creative works in a variety of genres.

Course Calendar:

A course calendar accompanies this syllabus.

Grades

The final grade in ENGLISH 2307, Creative Writing I, is determined by the following percentages:

Writing and Notebook Portfolio 60%
Critical Essay 20%
Quizzes / Participation 20%

Portfolio: Portfolio grades are determined by the completeness of the portfolio, the timeliness of completed assignments, the mastery of the techniques discussed in class, the quality, clarity and originality of the assignments, and the quality, clarity and originality of revisions.

All formal assignments written or revised for class or for the final portfolio must be typed.

Important: Do not throw away anything that you write for the class. Save your drafts. You will need to submit all of your work and notes, whether written in class or out of class, in your final portfolio.

Quizzes/Tests: Quizzes and tests will cover assigned reading material and will usually be unannounced. Unless special arrangements are made in advance with the professor, a student missing a quiz or test will receive a grade of zero. These missed quizzes and tests may not be made up.

Late Assignments: Late papers will be lowered by one letter grade for each class past the due date. A paper is late if it is not handed in at the start of the class period it is due. Papers less than the required length will not be accepted.

HCC Grading Scale – A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D=60—69; F = 59 or lower
W = Withdrawn/Dropped

*****Use of cellular telephones or any other electronic devices during class time is strictly prohibited. If your cell phone goes off during class, or if any electronic device is operational, you will be immediately asked to leave for the remainder of that class session.**

Students with Disabilities:

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty is authorized to provide only the accommodations

requested by the Disability Support Services Office, and to do so in a reasonable manner. To visit the ADA Web site, log on to www.hccs.edu, click Future Students, then scroll down the page and click on the words Disability Information. For questions, please contact the ADA District Coordinator or the Disability Counselor at your college.

Handling Your Responsibilities If You Are Absent

Students are responsible for materials covered in class, and it is the student's responsibility to contact and consult with the instructor for make-up assignments. Assignments are due on the due-date assigned, and students are responsible for handing in all assignments on time, despite absences. Except for a serious medical excuse or documented family or personal emergency, there is no exemption from these rules.

Attendance Requirements

HCC Students are expected to attend class regularly. A daily record of absences will be maintained throughout the semester. According to State of Texas and HCC educational policies, any student missing more than four class periods (absences that total more than 6 hours of class time) may be WITHDRAWN from the course by the professor.

IMPORTANT NOTE: IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO DROP, OR OFFICIALLY WITHDRAW FROM THIS COURSE IF, FOR ANY REASON, THAT STUDENT WISHES TO BE REMOVED FROM THE OFFICIAL CLASS ROLL. NEW RULES ARE IN EFFECT THAT GREATLY CHANGE HOW AND WHEN THAT CAN BE DONE. FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE POSSIBLE PENALTIES OTHER THAN LOSING ONE'S PAID TUITION THAT EVERY STUDENT MUST CONSIDER CAREFULLY BEFORE WITHDRAWING OR ACCUMULATING EXCESSIVE ABSENCES THAT RESULT IN YOUR PROFESSOR DROPPING YOU FROM THE COURSE.

THESE INCLUDE:

- (1) Students who repeat a course for a third, or more times, may face a significant tuition/fee increase at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities.
- (2) The Texas Legislature passed a law limiting new students (those starting college in Fall 2007) to no more than six total course withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree. There may be future penalties imposed.
- (3) No student may withdraw from a course following the set "last date to withdraw", which for Spring, 2015, is Tuesday, March 24, at 4:30 pm. After that date and time, a student can only be given a grade earned, or an "I" for incomplete. Incompletes must be made up by the end of the following long

semester, after which they will automatically change to a grade of "F." Your instructor will not withdraw you for non-attendance and will withdraw a student if and only if provided a written request from that student.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Review the support services by viewing the website
<http://northwest.hccs.edu/northwest/campus-services>

EARLY ALERT: HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor may “alert” you through counselors of concerns that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance.

ALL STUDENTS ARE ADVISED: Contact your professor/counselor about opportunities for private tutoring and other assistance prior to considering withdrawal, or if you are not receiving passing grades. There are many opportunities available to assure your success!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: Receiving either a “W”, or “I” in a course may affect the status of your student Visa. Once a W is given for the course (after you have formally submitted a withdrawal form), it will not be changed to an F because of the visa consideration. An “I” does convert to an “F”, but only after six months have passed from the end of the term it was received. Please contact the International Student Office at 713-718-8520, if you have any questions about your visa status and other transfer issues.

Additional Resources

Limited face-to-face tutoring is available from the course instructor during office hours, or by appointment. In addition, all students are encouraged to use HCC’s online tutoring system for help with any English class. Questions submitted to the ASK queue will be answered within 24 hours – and usually much before that. Tutors are on duty 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Online tutors will not do homework for you, but they will guide you in the right direction. To maximize the effectiveness of the system, be specific when you ask questions, and let the tutor know what class you are taking.

Registering for online tutoring is easy. Go to www.hccs.askonline.net. Select a user name and password that you will remember. Use any e-mail address, and add your student ID number (W number). It will probably take five minutes to set up your Askonline account. After that, you can submit questions in seconds. Tutor responses are not e-mailed to you. To see the answers, log back into the system and click the bright yellow NEW button.

Online tutoring is also available for accounting, history, government, chemistry, physics, biology, math, philosophy, and papers in all disciplines.

Academic Honesty

The HCC Student Handbook lists cheating, plagiarism, and collusion as scholastic dishonesty. It defines plagiarism as "the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work offered for credit." It defines collusion as "the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work for credit." Work submitted for this course that is determined to be the result of either cheating, plagiarism, or collusion will earn a "0" for that assignment, and may cause the student to receive either an "F" on the assignment or, if severe, an "F" in the course. Students receiving an "F" for a course are ineligible to Officially Withdraw. Probation or dismissal from HCC and ALL its several colleges may also result. See your Student Handbook.