

INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING

EWRTD030.01Y (#00492) Summer 2015

Tue/ Thur: 12:30-2:55 in L-42

Wed: Hybrid day: write & respond from home

E-mail: weisnerken@fhda.edu + gyre@cruzio.com

Office hrs: before and after class, as arranged

Catalyst Site: <https://catalyst.deanza.edu/index.php>

Ken's faculty page: <http://www.deanza.fhda.edu/faculty/weisner>

Creative Writing Website: <http://www.deanza.edu/english-writing/creative/index.html>

Ken Weisner

Phone: 864-5797

Office: Forum 2C

Green Sheet

Course Goals:

- write something every day; keep a notebook just for your creative writing
- read and appreciate a variety of fiction and poetry
- expand awareness and confront your assumptions about creative writing
- participate in a community of working creative writers, both in class and online
- give and receive supportive, thoughtful feedback
- get better at talking about the elements of poetry and fiction
- revise new poems and stories

Course Requirements:

- attend class; be devoted to our community both in class and online
- be in class on time and prepared with notebook, poems, course readers
- hand in 3 pages of new work each Tuesday in class
- hybrid/ online: work 2.5 hours from home and post every Wednesday to Catalyst including — two new writings exercises and —substantive, supportive responses to at least four classmates
- give written feedback to colleagues in your poetry and fiction critique groups
- create a final portfolio of 15 or more pages of revised work
- participate in our class reading (August 6th)
- read model poems and short stories as assigned
- attend student/instructor final conference as arranged

Extra Credit Options (50 pts. possible) (negotiate pts./projects with instructor)

- attend every class (including online) (in its entirety) (30 pts) (all but one class, 15 pts)
- attend a literary reading or event in the community and report on it (10-20 pts)
- memorize and perform some of your own poetry or someone else's poetry (10-20 pts)
- multimedia work: integrate your own work w/ film, theater, music or dance (10-20 pts)
- write and perform a group poem, a fiction dialogue, or a play (10-20 pts)
- take a leadership role in Catalyst (10-20 pts)

Required Texts

- Course readers (collated handouts) for poetry writing and fiction writing, summer 2015
- A notebook you love and write in daily *that is only for this course*

Notebooks: Notebooks can contain anything—first drafts of assigned exercises, notes from text and class; story and poem drafts, including in-class writings; ideas, lines, dreams, fragments, freewrites, beginnings—anything you find that you think you might use as a creative writer—from quotations to newspaper clippings to works you find inspirational, etc. This notebook is your creative repository as an artist and cutting edge explorer in creative writing. *Write in it every day. Carry it around. Sleep next to it. Try not to lose it (!)*

Typical Tuesday/ Thursday class agenda (this will vary):

12:30-1:15 Inspirations and in-class writing

1:15-1:45, Small group sharing

1:45-2:35, Further lecturing, prompts, in-class writing & sharing

2:35-2:55, Prompts for upcoming hybrid and class sessions or weekend homework, extra credit reports

Grading*:

Attendance and participation (class, small groups, conferences, and online)	300 points
Weekly typed homework (60 x 5)	300 points
Poetry notebook (drafts, notes, daily writing exercises)	200 points
Final Portfolio (revised) & course reading	200 points
	1,000 points

Students with grade option:

A= 920-1000	A- =900-919	B+ =880-899
B= 820-879	B- =800-819	C+ =780-799
C= 700-779	D =600-699	F =0-599

Some Cautionary Notes:

*Attendance is vital to this course. Contact—e-mail or telephone—instructor when you need to miss all—or part—of a class. Don't miss more than three classes or you could be dropped. Also, please be prompt; tardiness and early departures will strip away points from your participation grade.

*Reminder: don't plagiarize (steal the words and ideas of others); plagiarism gives you an "F" on the assignment in question and perilously jeopardizes your ability to pass the class. This can also end up on your permanent De Anza record.

Overview of weekly content

June 30-July 2 Course and student introductions. Metaphor as a language of liberation; poetry, like storytelling, as oral and ancient; poetry as a subversive function of language; literature and *what words mean*; the pleasures of *words themselves*; The nominal subject vs. the true subject of a poem. Literal and figurative imagery, *concrete language*. Poetry, animals, and the body.

July 7-July 9 Poetry as a narrative with a leap; poetry of witness: poetry as a political act; writing about work; poetry and gender; poetry and the ode, the homage, the riddle, the dream, synesthetic mystery.

July 14-July 16 Poems in sections, poem in strict forms and various free verse forms; ekphrastic poetry; slam and performance poems; group poems; love poems.

July 21-July 23 Flash fiction. Significant detail. Voice. Point of view. Writings by Elizabeth Tallent, Jane Martin, Jane Anne Phillips, Studs Terkel, Jamaica Kincaid, Tobias Wolff, Toni Cade Bambara.

July 28- July 30 The short story, continued: conflict, shape & structure, dialogue, development, flashback, tone. Ernest Hemingway, Raymond Carver, Tim O'Brien, James Baldwin, Liyun Li, Sherman Alexi, Edwidge Danticat. "Leaving out" vs. "putting in." Online and in-class fiction workshops.

August 4-6 Final conferences, class reading & potluck, portfolios due, send out poems or story. Online and in-class fiction workshops, continued.

Background Sheet/EWRT 30, Creative Writing—Summer, 2015

Name:

Address/Phone/E-mail (neatly please):

How many units are you taking? Which courses? Any major in mind, career goal, and/or plans to transfer? Are you working in addition to going to school? What kind of work? How many hours?

What brings you here, to EWRT 30? What history do you have as a creative writer? Do you have favorite writers/poets? Any concerns related to taking EWRT 30?

What are some things you'd like to write about this quarter—and ways you'd like to try writing? This should include a list of topics or themes—as well as things you know a lot about; perhaps also a list of styles, genres, or approaches to writing you'd like to try; and a list of things you think you might be good at as a writer; as well as a list of areas you want to work at in order to improve. Finally, please set a personal goal for this class.