



Basic Creative Writing

Spring 2017

Taught by Sarah Terez Rosenblum (strosenblum@gmail.com)

Course Description:

This course will introduce you to creative writing, from generating ideas to revising drafts. Find your voice and develop your craft through in-class and at-home writing exercises, and through discussions of your own and your fellow students' written work. You will also study canonical and contemporary models drawn from fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction, and will be encouraged to try your hand at each of these genres.

Class sessions will consist of discussion of readings, in-class writing exercises, and workshop discussion of writing done outside of class.

Textbooks: Stephen King's On Writing

Publisher: Scribner

ISBN-10: 1439156816

Other readings will be available online, sent by email, or distributed in class.

Guidelines for Weekly Writing Assignments:

Your weekly writing assignments must be turned in every class session, except for the week when your piece is discussed in workshop (see below). Your pieces must be typed (12 point font), double-spaced if prose, with at least one-inch margins on all sides. Length is open. Quality matters more than quantity.

Workshop:

On the first night of class, you will sign up for a workshop slot, meaning the class session in which your weekly writing assignment will be discussed in class. When approached with rigor and care, workshop discussion benefits those discussing the work as much as the person whose work is being discussed, as everyone gains insights to apply to their own work and increases their understanding of the writing enterprise.

When you are scheduled to submit work for discussion, you must:

- *submit your piece to the group via email the week prior to the week your piece is being discussed.*
- keep track of when your turn will come up – I will not be keeping track of that for you (See Workshop Guidelines for more info)

Schedule:

Week One: Character

“On Writing, Ch 1” (If possible have this read for the first week.)

Hills Like White Elephants (Have read for this week)

Lecture

In Class Writing

In Class Reading (accessed in class not online): A Girl Named Zippy Excerpt.

Homework:

Read:

“White Oleander” Excerpt

“Confessions of a Memoirist”

Week Two: Character cont., Creative Nonfiction, Setting Intro, Writing Practice

Lecture

Discussion:

“On Writing”

“Confessions of a Memoirist”

“White Oleander” Excerpt

Writing Practice

In Class Activity

In Class Reading (Accessed in class not online): “American Salvage”

Homework:

Read:

“The Road Excerpt”

Cont. On Writing

Week Three: Setting cont., Point of View

“On Writing”

“The Road Excerpt”

Lecture

Discussion

Workshop How To’s

In Class Reading (Accessed in class not online): “Mothers without Children”

Week Four: POV cont., Plot

“On Writing”

“Hero Myth”

“How to be a Writer”

Your Classmates’ work

Lecture

Discussion

Workshops

Week Five: Plot, cont, Voice, Tone

“On Writing”

“Wants”

Discussion

Lecture

Workshop

Week Six: Imagery, symbolism, metaphor, theme, Emphasis on Poetry

“On Writing”

“Girl”

“Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening”

Discussion

Workshop

Week Seven: Imagery cont., Dialogue, Writing Practice Check-in

“On Writing”

“In the White Night”

“Hills Like White Elephants”

Lecture

Discussion

Workshop

Week Eight: Breaking the Rules, Lit Magazines, What’s Next?

“On Writing”

“The Yellow”

Discussion

Lecture

Workshop

(Please note that I might change the course readings for pedagogical reasons. I will always give you advance notice.)