UNIVERSITY OF LAVERNE ONLINE
WRITING 201: INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING, 4.0
COURSE SYLLABUS AND ASSIGNMENTS OUTLINE

Instructor: Dr. Kirsten E. Ogden, MFA
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*Please allow 12-24 hours for me to return your email
Office Phone: 626-585-3193
Virtual Chat Office Hours: Tuesday 10-11a and by appointment.

Note: Important Online Course Policies are noted in the Online Course Pack emailed directly to each student for the current registration semester. This Syllabus contains basic information about the course, including instructor welcome letter, course policies and so forth. Both documents together comprise the semester contract with the student.

Catalogue Description: Introduction to creative writing and analytical reading of diverse poetry and prose with application of creative writing theories. Public presentation of compositions involved.

GE: ACAE Creative/Artistic Expr, GEFAb Fine Arts Experiential, UVLL Lifelong Learning

Course Goal and Description: Writing 201, Introduction to Creative Writing, exposes students to a breadth of creative writing texts and techniques. In this course, students will read and analyze works in fiction, literary non-fiction, poetry, and dramatic writing. Students will study the elements and techniques that help to create successful compositions, and then apply these techniques to their own compositions. Online class sessions will involve peer-review workshop, online presentations, exercises, online discussions of readings, and “lectures.” This course is also compressed from the 16-week to the 10-week format.

Texts and Materials:
Writing Down the Bones by Natalie Goldberg
The Poetry Home Repair Manual by Ted Kooser
The Kenyon Review Readings for Writers Edited by David Lynn
*Required technology capabilities is detailed in the technology course pack to accompany this document each semester.

Course Requirements and Grade:

- 10% Weekly Writing Tasks: These are stories, poems, essays etc. that the student attempts in rough-draft form, to be later revised for the final portfolio.
- 25% Final Writing Portfolio: (Revision of Weekly Writing Tasks): Choose from at least 2 categories: a. 3 poems; b. 3-8 pages micro/short fiction; c. 3-8 pages micro/short non-fiction; d. 2-5 page drama; e. 5-page single story; f. 5-page single non-fiction essay.
• **10%: Writer’s Manifesto:** At the end of the semester, you will have strong opinions about writing, writers, and the purposes of these endeavors. You’ll share those ideas in this assignment.

• **30%: CMS Grade:** Discussion Board, Blog, Weekly Journals, wiki etc. (Course Management System Participation)

• **5% Freewritings composed with 750words.com**

• **10% Peer Review Workshops:** We will have 3 designated Peer Review workshops. You’ll share your work with peers and will be guided through varied ways of revising your own work.

• **5% Chapbook:** At the end of the semester you’ll create a unique publication of your work to showcase your progress over the course of the semester. you’ll make 5 copies of this “book” and exchange 4 with other classmates.

**Course Policies:**

- **Course Management System:** Your regular weekly attendance in our course management system is required.
- **Plagiarism** will result in a failing grade of this course.
- **Conduct:** The open exchange of ideas is a vital component to everyone’s success in this course. You should approach the course with an open mind and should demonstrate respect for your teacher and for your fellow students. Positive communication requires that we clearly state our positions and that we disagree with tact.
- **Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability on file with ULV, please provide me with your documentation via email and we will discuss accommodations in your first 2 weeks.

- **General Weekly Activities:**
  - Read assigned materials; these will be located in 1 or more of our 3 course texts.
  - View the weekly video (or read the transcript) for an overview of the week
  - Read the Weekly Writing Assignment (usually the composition of a poem, a short story, etc. practicing one of our concepts for the week.
  - 1 time per week, email me your Weekly Writing Assignment pasted into the body of the email AND attached as an .rtf .doc .docx or .pdf
  - View any powerpoint, video, or text materials that explain the weekly writing assignment and give you extra insight
  - 750words.com Freewrites 3 times a week, on your own. You’ll turn in your “report” to me at the end of each week. This is a “do it and get points” activity.
  - Reflection Journals: 1 time per week, as close to the end of the week as possible, you’ll post a personal journal to me answering questions about that week’s assignments.
  - Discussion Board: 1-2 times per week you’ll be asked to formally post in response to course materials on our Discussion Board, or to participate in an activity located on the Discussion Board (or wiki, or blog).
**READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS SCHEDULE** (subject to change at instructor’s discretion)

*Your emailed creative writing assignments should arrive in my email box as a .doc or .docx or .rtf or .pdf attachment (and pasted into the body of the email) by Saturday 11:59pm PST of each week. Occasionally I’ll ask you to also post your assignment onto the Discussion Board for use in our next week’s assignments.*

The readings below contain both concepts for us to learn, and also serve as models for the ways in which we can write and develop our own creative works. We may not always talk about every single reading in detail, but I assume you’ve read the assigned material, because knowledge of the material is a foundation to understanding the principles of discussion each week, and of practicing our skills each week. Discussion assignments will be posted onto the Course Management System.

**Week 1: Topic: Writing like you talk—getting to your natural voice**

Read:
- Handouts: “Freewriting” by Peter Elbow; “Critical Thinking” by bell hooks; “First Thoughts” by Natalie Goldberg “My Name” by Sandra Cisneros;
- Goldberg: “Introduction” “Beginner’s Mind” and “First Thoughts” by Natalie Goldberg.
- KR Reader: “Susan Hahn”
- Kooser: None

Email:
- 1 Name “Poem” or “Prose” and 1 Freewrite Attempt

**Week 2: Topic: Autobiographical Writings and Understanding the Variations in your own Voice:**

Read:
- Handout—“The Three Types of Voices” “Art and Responsibility” “How Origami Was Invented”
- Goldberg—“Writing as Practice” “Composting” “Artistic Stability” “A List of Topics for Writing Practice” “Going Home”
- KR Reader—“Horseshoe Contest” “My Wife Asks Me Why I Keep Photographs in a Drawer” “Message in a Bottle” “Cloud Moving Hands”
- Kooser—Ch. 1 “A Poet’s Job Description”

Email:
- An Autobiographical Writing (You can choose one of the models from this week)

**Week 3: Topic: What Are Stories?**

Read:
- Handout: “A Story About the Body” by Robert Hass;
Week 4: Topic: Revision+ Working with Detail & Assign Groups for Group Project
Read:
- Handout: Peer Review Workshop
- Goldberg: “Trouble with the Editor” “Living Twice” “Writers Have Good Figures” “What are your Deep Dreams” “Be Specific”
- KR Reader: “No” by Brian Doyle “Under the Day”
- Kooser: Ch. 9 “Working with Detail”

Email:
- The original version and a Revised version of your workshop piece from this week;

Week 5: Topic: Writing from Memory, Writing from Life
Handout:
- Kooser: Ch. 8 “Writing from Memory”

Email:
- 1 persona poem or monologue prose and 1 dialogue using “ripped from the headlines” as inspiration

Week 6: Topic: Language
Read:
- Handout: How to Read a Poem;
- Goldberg: “Be an Animal” “Doubt is Torture” “A Meal You Love” “Use Loneliness”
- Kooser: Ch. 11 “Fine Tuning Metaphors and Similes”

Email:
- A writing of 3-4 pages or 2 writings of 1-2 pages each that exploit simile, metaphor, personification, etc.

Week 7: Topic: REVISION (Obsessions in Techniques) + Found Materials and Research and Post Your Group Presentation
Read:
WRT 201 COURSE SYLLABUS FROM DR. KIRSTEN OGDEN, SPRING 2012  PG. 5

- Handout: Sentence Variety; Carl Phillips Poem Packet;
- Goldberg: “Syntax” “The Action of a Sentence” “Writing is not a McDonald’s Hamburger”
- KR Reader: “One Bright Case of Idiopathic Cranofacial Erythma” “Bergson’s Arrow” “Ted Kooser poems—Sixty First Birthday; Walking on Tip-Toe; Praying Hands;”
- Kooser: Ch. 10 “Controlling Effects through Careful Choices”

Email:
- Revision packet and original + revised piece with Reflection Letter.

Week 8: (Overview of the Chapbook and Manifesto) + Playing with Structures and Review Group Presentations for Feedback
Read:
- Handout: Manifestos Samples
- Goldberg: “Writing in Restaurants” “Why Do I Write” “A New Moment” “The Samurai” “Rereading and Rewriting”
- Kooser: 6 “Writing About Feelings”

Email:
- 1 writing that explores an alternate structure, and 1 previous writing that has been revised into an alternate structure with Reflection

Week 9: Chapbooks + Magical Notions
Read:
- Handout: Magical Realism and Playing with Realities;
- Goldberg: “A Tourist in your own Town” “Go Further” “Trust Yourself”
- Kooser: Ch. 12 “Relax and Wait”

Email + Snail Mail:
- Email: 1 piece that explores magical elements in the composition
- Snailmail: Your 4 chapbook copies (with manifesto inside) to assigned partners and 1 copy of chapbook + “Letter to Self” to Professor Ogden.

Week 10: FINAL EXAM WEEK & CLOSING THOUGHTS
Read:
- Handout: “The Present” by Annie Dillard
- Goldberg: “Claim Your Writing”
- Kooser: None.

Email:
- Final Portfolio and Manifesto with Final Reflection Letter
A Final Note from Prof. Ogden:
I am dedicated to you having a productive learning experience in this course. If, at any
time, you need assistance, please contact me immediately by one of the methods I’ve
offered to you, and I’ll return your message within 12-24 hours. I am here to help you!