

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
English 71, Introduction to Creative Writing (GE C2), Section 03,
Spring 2014

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Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1:30 - 2:45
Class Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00 - 4:45
Classroom:	BBC 125
GE Category:	Humanities, Arts, and Letters C2

Course Description

Welcome to English 71, Introduction to Creative Writing. This course meets the requirements for general education in area C2: Humanities and Arts, Letters. We will be embarking on a journey of discovery: discovery of voice, discovery of lyric, and discovery of narrative. We will look at both traditional and modern examples of creative prose and poetry both, and use those models to form our own works of expression. Creative output and class participation shall be the main components of this course. May we find the stories within each of us and let them sing.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

English Department Student Learning Objectives: DSLOs

- SLO: 1 Students will demonstrate the ability to read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric;
- SLO 2: Students will demonstrate the ability to show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature;
- SLO 3: Students will demonstrate the ability to write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject;

- SLO 4: Students will demonstrate the ability to develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively;
- SLO 5: Students will demonstrate the ability to articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.

GE Area C2 Letters Student Learning Objectives: GSLOs

- SLO 1: Letters courses will enable students to recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns.
- SLO 2: Letters courses will enable students to respond to significant works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses.
- SLO 3: Letters courses will enable students to write clearly and effectively. Writing shall be assessed for correctness, clarity, and conciseness.

Course Objectives:

- Decipher and understand the form and content of assigned literary works;
- Comprehend the historical and cultural contexts of assigned literary works;
- Recognize the accomplishments of and issues related to writing by men and women representing diverse cultural traditions;
- Acquire through both individual and collaborative/workshop efforts of a written and oral nature the skills necessary for reading, discussing, analyzing, interpreting, and—most importantly—emulating and writing works of poetry, creative non-fiction, and short fiction;
- Communicate such skills with clarity and precision;
- Develop an appreciation of literary works as expressions of human intellect and imagination, and as representations of diverse human cultures;
- Develop the ability to write literary works that express intellect and imagination and that represent diversity in human cultures;
- Respond to literature through clear and effective communication in both written and oral work;
- Read and respond to texts with both analytical acumen and personal sensibility;
- Appreciate how literary works illuminate enduring human concerns while at the same time representing their particular cultures;
- Write works of poetry, creative non-fiction, and short fiction that are of interest and value to the writer, to other students in the course, and to a diverse reading audience.

You are responsible for reading the following information online at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/comp/policyforsyllabi.html>

- Academic policies (academic integrity, plagiarism, ADA and DRC policies)
- Adding and dropping classes

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

- King, Stephen. *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*; Scribner. ISBN-10: 1439156816
- Lawn, Beverly. *40 Short Stories*; Bedford/St.Martin. ISBN-10: 1457604752

Other Readings

Additional readings can be found on Canvas: <https://sjsu.instructure.com/>

Classroom Protocol

Students will come to class every day and prepared to discuss that day's readings. I reserve the right to eject any student who comes to class unprepared. Unpreparedness is defined as not having done the readings and not having the materials necessary for class. Each day will begin with a quiz or in class writing assignment based on the readings for that day. The rest of class will be a mélange of small and large group discussions, lectures, student presentations, debates, and activities necessary to facilitate the learning process. Electronic devices such as smartphones and laptops are allowed, as they can be useful in looking up information during class, but I again reserve the right to refuse their use should they become distractions (e.g. facebook during lectures). Also, all cell phones should be silenced (or put on vibrate) before class. I will dance if your cell phone goes off.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Grading: A-F.

All grades will be broken down on a percentage basis, using the following model.

A+ = 100-97%	A = 96-93%	A- = 92-90%
B+ = 89-87%	B = 86-83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-77%	C = 76-73%	C- = 72-70%
D+ = 69-67%	D = 66-63%	D- = 62-60%
F = 59-0% Unsatisfactory		

Grade Distribution:

Pre and Post-course Diagnostic:	5%
Blog Entries:	25%
Short Stories:	30%
Poems:	25%
Written Critiques:	10%
<u>Participation Activities:</u>	<u>5%</u>
Total:	100%

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, students are expected to spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>. Assignments and Grading Policy:

Reading

One of my most cherished beliefs is that you cannot be a good writer if you do not read. It's like being a musician who never listens to music or a director who never watches film. The notion is ludicrous. While there isn't an inordinate amount of reading, I am asking that you read everything that is assigned to you. We are going to read both for content as well as for form and technique. This is a different kind of reading than the kind to which you are most used.

Writing

English 71 is a course in creative writing, and as such, it is a writing intensive course. You will be asked to write on a daily basis, everything from small poems and creative exercises, to long, multi-page short stories. All writing will be turned into Canvas: <https://sjsu.instructure.com/>

Participation

Participation is a measurement of how much of the assigned reading you do and how much you participate in class. As such, I will assign writings, usually of no more than one page, on Canvas. These writings will be exercises in creativity meant to expand your toolset.

Diagnostic

There is a common pre and post diagnostic assignment for this class. This diagnostic must be done as a poem.

Workshops

You will workshop at least one short story and two or three poems, depending on time. These are opportunities to share your work openly with a group of peers and receive verbal feedback. These workshops are required and are part of your critique grade. All workshops are structured group exercises in which you will give and receive valuable feedback on your writing. **Workshops cannot be made up.**

Canvas

While this is not a traditionally hybrid class, I see Canvas as a versatile tool for the teaching of creative writing. As such, there will be no hard copies of any assignments. All work will be either uploaded to or linked to Canvas. <https://sjsu.instructure.com/>

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit given in this course.

Late Policy

You may turn in assignments late, but grades are reduced on a sliding scale. After one week, your grade is reduced by 25%. After two weeks, your grade is reduced by 50%. After three weeks, your grade is reduced by 75%. Finally, after four weeks, you may turn in the assignment to meet word count requirement, but will receive a score of zero on the assignment.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Writing Center



The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter): <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

SJSU Peer Connections

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) and the Peer Mentor Program have merged to become Peer Connections. Peer Connections is the new campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring. Our staff is here to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. Students are encouraged to take advantage of our services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating

procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

English 71, Spring 2014, Course Schedule

OW = On Writing; 40S = 40 Stories

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Monday, January 27	Introductions: Syllabus; Who are you? Why creative writing? Assign Pre-course diagnostic {GSLO 3} {DSLO 2,3}
	Wednesday, January 29	Introduction to Creative Non-Fiction Blog writing 101 {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} Assign Blog Project {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} Finding your passion.
2	Monday, February 3	Who is your audience? {DSLO 3} Critiques OW: Beginning - CV 19 (not page 19, subchapter 19) {DSLO 1} {GSLO 1}
	Wednesday, February 5	Incorporating research into your blog {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} OW: CV 20 - 38 {DSLO 1} {GSLO 1}
3	Monday, February 10	Generating ideas {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} OW: What Writing Is and Toolbox
	Wednesday, February 12	Supplementing your words with other media {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} OW: On Writing - 14 {DSLO 1} {GSLO 1}
4	Monday, February 17	Workshop Blog Entries OW: 15 - All of On Living: a Postscript {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1}
	Wednesday, February 19	Workshop Blog Entries OW: And Further More - end {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1}
5	Monday, February 24	Workshop Blog Entries
	Wednesday, February 26	Final Blog Entries Due {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} An introduction to Short Fiction 40S: Young Goodman Brown {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} Assign Short Fiction {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} Narratives

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	Monday, March 3	40S: Bartleby, The Scrivener {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} Characters and Plot
	Wednesday, March 5	40S: Hills Like White Elephants {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} Dialogue
7	Monday, March 10	40S: Story of an Hour; The Yellow Wallpaper {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} Descriptions
	Wednesday, March 12	40S: Cask of Amontillado {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} Word Play
8	Monday, March 17	Workshop #1
	Wednesday, March 19	Workshop #2
9	Monday, March 24	No School
	Wednesday, March 26	Spring Break
10	Monday, March 31	No School Cesar Chavez Day
	Wednesday, April 2	Workshop #3
11	Monday, April 7	Workshop #4
	Wednesday, April 9	Workshop #5
12	Monday, April 14	Short Fiction Assignments Due {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} Assign Poems {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} Poetry: Form versus Free Verse --- Master then Break. Prufrock ; Station of the Metro ; What Lips ; We Real Cool ;
	Wednesday, April 16	Sonnet, Villanelle {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} Shakespearean and Italian Sonnets {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} Do Not Go Gentle ; Slice of Life {GSLO} {DSLO 1}

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	Monday, April 21	Blank Verse, Sestina, Terza Rima {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} The Second Coming ; Sestina: Altaforte ; Acquainted with the Night {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1}
	Wednesday, April 23	Other Forms {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1}
14	Monday, April 28	Workshop #1
	Wednesday, April 30	Workshop #2
15	Monday, May 5	Workshop #3
	Wednesday, May 7	Workshop #4
16	Monday, May 12	Workshop #5 Post Course Diagnostic Due
Final Exam	Tuesday, May 20, 12:15	Leftover Workshop Lunch? All Revisions Due

Important SJSU dates Spring 2014

Wednesday	January 22	Spring Semester Begins
Wednesday	January 22	Orientation, Advisement, Faculty Meetings
Thursday	January 23	First Day of Instruction – Classes Begin
Tuesday	February 4	Last Day to Drop Without Entry on Permanent Record
Tuesday	February 11	Last Day to Add Courses & Register Late
Wednesday	February 19	Enrollment Census Date
Monday-Friday	March 24-28	Spring Recess
Monday	March 31	Cesar Chavez Day Campus Closed
Tuesday	May 13	Last Day of Instruction – Last Day of Classes
Wednesday	May 14	Study/Conference Day (no classes or exams) (SC)
Thursday-Friday	May 15-16	Final Examinations
Monday-Wednesday	May 19-21	Final Examinations
Thursday	May 22	Final Examinations Make-Up Day
Friday	May 23	Grade Evaluation Day
Saturday	May 24	Commencement
Monday	May 26	Memorial Day - Campus Closed (M)
Tuesday	May 27	Grades Due From Faculty