

CREATIVE WRITING, ENG 119-01

TuTh 9:30; Room: LA-562

Spring 2010

<http://www.timtrask.com/creative/>

Timothy E. Trask, PhD

508.588.9100, x1980

email: ttrask@massasoit.edu

Office hrs: 1:00 M; 8:30 M-F

Office: FA 343

Required Texts: (available in the college bookstore)

Negri, ed., *Great American Short Stories*. New York: Dover, 2002.

Bradstreet, et al., *101 Great American Poems*. New York: Dover, 1998.

Sophocles, *Antigone*. New York: Dover, 1993.

Recommended Texts (in addition to an English handbook):

Natalie Goldberg, *Writing Down the Bones*

Ray Bradbury, *Zen in the Art of Writing*

Course Description: "A course designed for those students who have mastered grammatical skills and who have a desire to express themselves creatively in fiction (short story or novel), drama (plays or screenplays), and/or poetry. The course is conducted as a workshop, with readings of the students' works followed by creative criticism. The objective of the course is to write for publication, so the course includes a realistic appraisal of the possibilities in the publishing market place."

Prerequisites: English Composition I & II.

Goals:

1. To develop daily writing habits.
2. To learn to give and receive creative criticism.
3. To gain an acquaintance with the imaginative writing field.

Objectives:

1. To complete at least two (2) short stories or two (2) chapters of a novel.
2. To complete at least three (3) lyric poems, one of them a sonnet.
3. To complete at least one (1) dramatic scene.
4. To begin a portfolio of writing.
5. To complete a self-assessment (in lieu of Final Examination).

Grading: Grades will be on a contract system, as follows:

A/A- At least 10,000 words of excellent writing and perfect attendance.

B+/B/B- At least 8,000 words of very good writing and nearly perfect attendance.

C+/C/C- At least 6,000 words of good writing and no more than four absences.

Minimum requirements for passing grade: 6,000 words.

Grades will be adjusted by up to a whole grade for class participation or lack thereof.

NOTE: Special "length" considerations will be made for poetry.

Teaching Method & Attendance: Since it is conducted as a workshop, participation in this class is *essential*. It is important that each student be present to listen to stories and poems and to critique them honestly, fairly, and with a desire to help other students improve their writing. Creative writing takes the very personal into a public arena. The class functions as our "publication" place. Also, while there are no planned examinations in this course, there will be in-class writing assignments, particularly if there are a number of students having trouble keeping up a steady writing pace. Attendance and participation count toward your grade. Any student missing more than four classes will be in danger of being dropped from the class.

Submissions: You may submit work at any time, but try to keep pace with the progress reports. Please double space all work except lyric poems, use one side of the paper only, and leave margins of 1" on all four sides. No cover sheets; no binders. Put your name and the date in the upper left corner of the first page and fasten the pages with a single staple in the upper left corner.

Academic Resource Center: Tutoring and assistance in writing is available in the ARC. I may suggest that you seek assistance in some particular area of writing. You pay for this assistance with your tuition and fees, so make use of it.

Library resources. The library at Massasoit is staffed by competent professionals. They can provide access to Internet, assistance in doing research, and help in finding materials.

Portfolio. You will be expected to type your work before handing it in for credit. Please do not give me the only copy. Make copies. Put them in a binder and begin a portfolio of your writing. During the final exam period, you will be instructed to bring this portfolio with you. I will check it against my own records and hand it back to you at that time.

Web resources: My alternate web page for this class is **faculty.massasoit.mass.edu/ttrask/creative**. During this semester, I will be adding materials to that site and will welcome suggestions for making the site richer and more useful.

Computer usage: I strongly recommend that every student make frequent use of the computer facilities of the college during the semester. I encourage email and the submission of papers as attachments to email provided that they are prepared using Microsoft Word or Corel WordPerfect. Whenever possible, we will be looking at each other's work using the computer and a projection monitor. If you want corrections, please submit your work on paper.

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in the classroom are encouraged to contact a disability counselor as soon as possible. Students with learning disabilities should contact Andrea Henry, at extension 1805. Students with physical disabilities should contact Mary Berg, at extension 1425. Students at the Canton Campus should contact Stan Oliver at extension 2468.

CREATIVE WRITING SYLLABUS

Tentative Calendar:

January		Fiction (bring book of stories to class each day during this section)
	26	Introduction; Creator & Editor; The Short Story; Poetry; Drama
	28	The function of fiction; “Rich Man, Poor Man”
February		
	2	Getting started writing fiction
	4	Ideas workshop
	9	Characters
	11	Dialogue in fiction (workshop)
	16	The importance of conflict; (Deadline for first 2000 words)
	18	Videotape (writers); conflict workshop
	23	Plot and structure
	25	Plot workshop
March		
	2	Setting and Atmosphere
	4	The importance of point of view
		Poetry (bring book of poems to class each day during this section)
	9	The function of poetry (Deadline for first 4000 words)
	11	The sonnet and a few other poetic forms
	16	Spring Break
	18	Spring Break
	23	Reading poetry
	25	Reading poetry
	30	Reading fiction/poetry
April		
	1	Reading fiction/poetry (Deadline for first 6000 words)
		Drama (read <i>Antigone</i> in preparation for this section)
	6	Drama; dialogue
	8	<i>Antigone</i>
	13	Reading scenes
	15	Workshop/reading; (Deadline for first 8000 words)
	20	Scheduling for Fall 2007 (no classes)
	22	Reading fiction/poetry/drama
	27	Reading fiction/poetry/drama
	29	Catching up
May		
	4	Why we write
	6	Where to submit
	11	Reading fiction/poetry/drama (Deadline for 10000 words)

Particular reading will be assigned in class.

Assignments are subject to change.

Final exams May 14 - 19

CREATIVITY QUIZ

stop	petty	sneak	_____
elephant	lapse	vivid	_____
lick	sprinkle	mines	_____
shopping	washer	picture	_____
stalk	trainer	king	_____
sea	home	stomach	_____
walker	main	sweeper	_____
mouse	sharp	blue	_____
envy	golf	beans	_____
board	magic	death	_____
athletes	web	rabbit	_____
pot	butterflies	pump	_____
bald	screech	emblem	_____
note	dive	chair	_____
cherry	time	smell	_____
Southern	console	station	_____
chocolate	fortune	tin	_____
bass	complex	sleep	_____
wicked	bustle	slicker	_____
skunk	kings	boiled	_____
habit	pouch	Road	_____
soap	shoe	tissue	_____
blood	music	cheese	_____
room	Saturday	salts	_____
widow	bite	monkey	_____
chamber	staff	box	_____
inch	deal	peg	_____

Questionnaire

NAME:

CITY/TOWN:

ZIP:

Student ID Number:

Telephone Number: () -

Email address: _____ @ _____ . _____

Please list other current classes:

Program of study (i.e., Liberal Arts, Business, Diesel, etc.): _____

This will be my (circle one) **FIRST** **SECOND** **THIRD** _____ semester at Massasoit.

I went to high school at _____

I am a transfer student from _____

Do you have any problems with reading that would keep you from completing the assignments for this class (if "yes," please explain):

Do you have any problems with writing that would keep you from completing the assignments for this class (if "yes," please explain):

Are you a veteran? Dates of service:

Is English your native language? Yes No

If "no," what is your native language? _____

Comments: