

CREATIVE WRITING, Fall 2023

Dr. Phillip Lobo

Email: plobob@bsu.edu

Office: EL-B008D

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:15-2:00pm; Tuesday 9:45-11:30am; digitally for three hours on Thursday, by appointment.

Email: plobob@bsu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This is a course designed to help you hone your creative writing. It will provide you with opportunities to try your hand at a variety of creative forms, developing a familiarity with each while helping you to choose one you find best suits your strengths and preferences. Over the course of the class you will complete a variety of projects - short fiction, poetry, plays and interactive fiction - with the goal of producing, by the end of the semester, a finished work, revised and polished, using a form and topic that is of most interest to you. The process will involve workshopping with other students, recognizing your own unique capacities as well as those of your classmates, assisting each other in making your creative work the best version of what it aims to be.

Throughout this process I will be present to offer prompts and activities, structure class time, and provide written feedback; I am also available during office hours and encourage you to take advantage of conferencing with me about your work as it progresses. However, the most important thing is that you **write**, as the best teacher is experience. Use the chance this class affords you to practice, and treat the activities as guidelines and aids, not constraints. We are here to foster the writer that you are, to discover the perspective that is yours and yours alone.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

A: 100-94 A-: 93-90 B+: 89-87 B: 86-83 B-: 82-80 C+: 79-77 C: 76-73 C-: 72-70 D*: 69 and lower

In-Class Writing/Workshop Participation: 20%

Graded chiefly on completion; you will not be judged qualitatively, as long as you show sufficient effort. I will, each weekend, request your ongoing drafts to make certain you have completed the assignment and followed the instructions. This grade will also reflect your active participation in the class workshops, which will follow the in-class writing; the workshops are especially important, as your classmates will be relying upon your feedback to improve their own work.

Unit Projects:

Short Fiction Unit: 15%

Poetry Unit: 15%

Play Unit: 15%

Interactive Unit: 15%

TOTAL: 60%

The first half of the semester will be split into two-week units. The goal of each unit will be to produce a complete first draft in each of the forms we take on. For the short fiction unit, a short story should be the end product; for poetry, a small collection of poems; for plays, a short play of one to three scenes; for interactive fiction, a small interactive work. No specific length will be required, but adequate effort and development must be shown to receive full credit. Check in with me in the week before final submission to make sure you are on track.

Final Project: 20%

Over the last five weeks you will choose a final project in the form of your choice and work on bringing it to a level of polish beyond that of the unit projects. As such it will be held to a higher standard, showing development between drafts, demonstrating your ability to revise and refine. During this time you will meet with me to discuss your progress and demonstrate that you are working steadily to improve. The goal is to produce a work of which you can feel proud, and might wish to publish in print or online.

LATE/MAKE UP WORK

Generally speaking I will expect you to submit your work in a timely fashion, with each unit project being due before the start of the next unit's first class, and the final project being due at the end of the final week. If you find that you cannot complete the work in the allotted time, please contact me as quickly as possible so we can work out a plan for late submission. Otherwise I will deduct a letter grade for each class day that the project is late; try and avoid this at all costs! For missed writing exercises, I'll expect you to speak to me in office hours about the circumstances of the missing work, and so we can decide on a reasonable timeframe for you to make up those assignments.

ATTENDANCE

You are expected to be in class and on time daily. Failure to do so will hurt your overall grade (specifically participation) as well as interfere with your ability to fulfill the required assignments. Sleeping in class constitutes an unexcused absence. If you have an emergency and cannot make it to class, I ask that you contact me in person via email. If you arrive five minutes late to class, you will be considered tardy. If you are more than ten minutes late, it will be considered an unexcused absence, but you will still be expected to attend class, and to complete all the day's writing assignments.

INDIANA ACADEMY UNEXCUSED ABSENCE POLICY

It is the policy of the Indiana Academy that any absence from class is unexcused, except for illness, death in the family, college or school-related activities, and extenuating circumstances. When a student is absent from a class, the instructor reports the student absence to the Faculty Attendance Coordinator in the Office of Academic Affairs. Unless the absence is excused by a school official, it is considered unexcused. The decision as to whether an absence is excused is not determined by the instructor.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

You are required to produce work that is academically honest. Direct and indirect plagiarism, the definitions of which will be discussed in class, are unacceptable and have serious academic consequences. If you have any doubt as to whether or not your work is academically honest, contact me before you submit it so we can discuss the situation.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you require any special accommodations due to a disability, let me know as soon as possible and I will make whatever adjustments are necessary for your comfort in the class. Our goal is to help you succeed on your own terms, so never hesitate to assert a need if you have one.

TECHNOLOGY

Unless otherwise specified as part of the class assignment, laptops are to be closed and off your desks during class time. Phones should also be set to silent and placed in your bags where they will not risk becoming a distraction.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found at <http://cms.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter>. As such, it is important to ensure that your comments and behavior in class is respectful and inclusive. Discriminatory comments or behavior will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action, in accordance with Indiana Academy and Ball State University policy.