<p style="text-align:center">CREATIVE WRITING, Fall 2024</p>

Dr. Phillip Lobo
Email: plobo@bsu.edu
Office: EL-B008D
Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00-200pm; Tuesday 11:15am-1:00pm & 2:00-4:15pm;
digitally for three hours on Thursday, by appointment.

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: 40%
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: 10%
    Poetry Unit: 10%
    Play Unit: 10%
    Interactive Unit: 10%
    TOTAL: 40%

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.

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. Four or more unexcused absences in any particular class a student takes will lead to academic and residential consequences to be determined by the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Residential Life that may include detention, residential groundings, parent/principal conference, among others.

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. I will not credit missing assignments. 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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

You are responsible for the integrity of your work and you are required to produce work that is academically honest. This means that all of your work for this course must be your own and must be created specifically for this course. Failing to maintain the integrity of your work will have serious consequences. Submitting someone else's paper, including papers you obtain online, as your own writing is fraud. Attempting to take credit for someone else's words or ideas without properly citing them is plagiarism. Direct and indirect plagiarism, both of which we will discuss in class, are unacceptable and have serious academic consequences. If you are even remotely uncertain about whether or not any part of your work is academically honest, contact me and we can sort it out. Please refer to the student handbook for additional information, including information that is new this year.

APPROPRIATE USE OF LLM/'AI' TECHNOLOGY

Official Humanities Division Statement:

The Humanities Division recognizes that artificial intelligence (AI) provides some exciting new tools for academic work. However, AI also poses significant dangers for academic integrity. Passing off as your own any research, words, or ideas which you did not create is plagiarism. That is always the case whether the source is print, internet content, or generated by AI. It is vital to read the policies your individual humanities instructors have regarding AI, and ask them any questions you may have about the use of AI in their course.

Instructor Statement:

Large language models (colloquially known as AI chatbots) are powerful tools which are rapidly altering the landscape of humanities scholarship. As with many such devices, there are benefits and drawbacks. Take for example motorized transport: automobiles made remarkable things possible for transit and logistics. It has also fostered a sedentary lifestyle, with all the concomitant health problems (i.e. driving instead of walking causes your legs to wither, your heart to weaken, your lifespan to contract).

Similarly, while large language models can accelerate a number of tasks, **it risks replacing invaluable skills and leading to the atrophy of the very capacities this class is meant to exercise and refine**. Letting an LLM write for you will not only produce mediocre, intellectually vacuous work, it will also cause your own abilities to shrivel precisely when they should be developing. It is also a priori plagiaristic: **all the words a LLM uses are drawn from uncredited, uncompensated sources**. It is not a voice from nowhere; it is stolen language. I want you to use your own words and ideas, and credit the words and ideas of others when you use them.

For the purposes of this class, **LLM/AI chatbots can be legitimately used for research purposes**: you can ask them questions (though always double check, since they frequently 'hallucinate') to increase your awareness of a topic, with the understanding that proper sourcing and citation must follow. **They may**

not be used to produce prose that represents itself as your own. If you have doubts about the appropriate use of this technology, simply get in touch with me and we can clarify.

IA WIRELESS DEVICE POLICY

Pursuant to Indiana Code 20-26-5-40.7, The Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities prohibits student use of wireless communication devices for non-instructional purposes in the classroom. As such, any and all portable wireless devices that have the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties, must only be used for academic purposes directly tied to the classroom activity or related educational task. Exceptions to this wireless device policy are eligible through academic accommodations, individualized education programs, or with instructor approval permitting the use of a wireless device for justification related to health, safety, and/or well-being. The improper use of a wireless device in an active classroom setting is subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to; a verbal warning, temporary seizure of said device by a school official, an unexcused absence for the class in question, written communication to parent/guardian, among other elevated consequences for repeated improper use.

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE STATEMENT

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. As a reflection of Ball State's commitment to respect, civil discourse, and the Beneficence Pledge, Inclusive Excellence at the Indiana Academy emerges as one of the priorities of our living and learning community. We strive to exist together respectfully and compassionately, creating an environment where every member can thrive. Unfortunately, there might be occasions when something occurs that disrupts our progress toward meeting these objectives. In this case, we encourage any member of the Academy community to file a Campus Climate Report (CCR) https://bsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6mbRbL5acAntUTI. All reports will be taken seriously, and appropriate responses will be carried out by Academy administration.

DISABILITY SERVICES

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact me as soon as possible. The Office of Disability Services coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at **765-285-5293** or **dsd@bsu.edu.**