ENGL 210– Introduction to Creative Writing: Poetry  SEC EE1

I. Basic Course Information

A. Fall 2006
B. Instructor: Carr Kizzier
C. Office: E331
D. Phone: 410-780-6638    Email: ckizzier@gmail.com
E. Office Hours: MWF 12:15-1:15; T 4-6; or by appointment
F. Pre-requisite: ENGL 101 or consent of instructor

II. Course Goals

A. ENGL 210 – Introduction to Creative Writing: Poetry provides the opportunity to learn and practice the craft of poetry. Students will actively engage in the process of writing poetry both in and out of class. And they will examine the work of modern and contemporary poets through reading and discussion.

B. Overall Course Objectives -- Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
   1. identify the sources of their own imagination
   2. apply a composing process that begins with a notion (memory, image, phrase, etc) and ends with a poem
   3. develop a variety of lines, stanzas and forms
   4. write extended images
   5. write lines in a variety of meters
   6. critique the work of other students constructively
   7. identify what is useful in the critiques of your own work by other students
   8. analyze the poems of modern and contemporary short story writers
   9. develop a coherent portfolio of poems

III. Evaluation

A. Requirements

1. Poems: At the end of the semester each student will submit a portfolio of at least eight completed poems.

2. Academic Paper: In addition to the creative writing, each student will also submit one brief academic paper (2-3 pages). This paper will be an analysis of works of literature. The paper must discuss a piece of classical literature and relate it to a work of modern or contemporary poetry. Regardless of the topic or length, each paper must conform to the following standards: All papers must be typed, completed on time, and presented in standard MLA format (double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point font), including proper MLA citation of outside sources.
3. **Reading Assignments**: In this class, the assigned readings will form the basis of our literary discussion, analysis, and writing. With this in mind, then, you will be assigned some reading material for every class: material from the texts; stories brought in from outside sources; and the work of you and your fellow students. **You are required to read thoroughly and be prepared to discuss each of these readings before you come to class.** Occasionally I will give you short quizzes to augment your test-taking skills.

4. **Workshops**: In order to facilitate our growth as writers, each week we will conduct a workshop in which we review and discuss our work. Therefore, during the course of the semester, **each student must present at least four original poems for workshop (in two sets of two).** These poems must be distributed to the class **ONE WEEK PRIOR to the scheduled workshop via the WebCT class discussion board** (see handout). In addition, to facilitate your understanding of criticism, during the course of the semester you will be writing reviews of the student stories that you read. The basic format is to provide a summary and response to the reading (see handout). The **minimum requirement is one review per poem each week**, plus one response-only short story review. You will **bring a hard copy of your reviews to class and post to the discussion board**, where you will read the reviews of your colleagues and provide feedback.

5. **Class preparation/participation**: English 210 is by nature a participatory course. Writing is not something that can be taught to students by an instructor giving a lecture. In order to develop your writing skills, you must write, read, and rewrite, and we will be doing all three in class. It is essential, then, that you come to class prepared, which involves the following:
   a. **Be punctual.** Entering late is distracting to the entire class.
   b. **Please bring your work** – texts, journals, reviews, dictionary, pens or pencils, diskettes, and blank paper – **to every class.** **Students who do not bring their texts will be asked to leave and will be marked absent (unexcused).**
   c. **Complete all assignments** – particularly your reviews – **on time**, before you come to class. If reading is assigned, be prepared to discuss it or take a quiz on it as soon as you enter class.
   d. **Participate fully in all class activities**: discussions, peer workshops, presentations, etc.
B. Grading Policy

1. Your poems and essays will carry the greatest weight in determining your final grade. In addition, all poems and essays must be completed in order to achieve a passing grade.

Assuming you have fulfilled the attendance requirements, then, your final grade will be determined according to the following formula:

- 50% -- Portfolio of 8 Poems
- 10% -- Academic Essay
- 30% -- Workshop Exercises and Reviews
- 10% -- Class preparation, participation and group work

2. Late Work: It is imperative that students a.) attend class and b.) complete all work on time. Thus the following policy regarding late work:

   Workshop Poems must be distributed ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE of your workshop via WebCT. Poems submitted late will result in a 5% reduction in overall workshop grade for each day late (thus a poem submitted two days late will reduce final workshop grade by 10%).

   Academic essays will be submitted at the beginning of the class they are due.

   Papers submitted late will be assessed a penalty of one grade for each class that has elapsed – NO EXCEPTIONS.

   Late reviews will not be accepted.

   *Please Note: Never, ever leave work in my mailbox. All assignments must be hand-delivered or e-mailed.

C. Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is crucial to success in this course. Many of the activities we engage in during class time – the discussions, peer workshops, writing exercises — can’t be “made up”, with the result that students who miss class submit weaker stories. In the end, poor attendance almost always results in a disappointing outcome for the student. That said, there are always circumstances in which you will find yourself unable to attend class. If you know ahead of time that you will miss a class, let me know in person, leave a message on my phone, or email me.

Keep in mind, however, that poor attendance can also directly affect your grade. Missing one class will most likely not affect your grade. Students missing 2 classes, however, can receive no better than a B for their final grade. Students missing 3 classes can receive no better than a C for their final grade. Finally, students who miss more than three classes will receive a failing grade.

Late Policy: Because we meet for three hours, if you are going to be late I encourage you to come to class. However, I will charge you a partial absence for each hour that you are late. Thus coming to class from 1-60 minutes late will equal 1/3 of a class absence; 61-120 minutes late will equal 2/3 of a class absence, etc.
IV. Course Procedures

A. Texts and Materials
   Required:
   • *The New American Poets* ed Michael Collier
   • *The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Short Stories* ed. Tobias Wolff
   • *The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien

   Recommended:
   *The American Heritage* or any good college dictionary (recommended)

B. Other Procedures
   1. Classroom Etiquette – It is expected that adult college students will exhibit courtesy, respect, and cooperation during class toward the instructor and toward fellow students. Please remember the sacrifices that others make to attend college, and that everyone is entitled to an orderly and scholarly environment. With this in mind, then, please turn off all cell phones and pagers before entering the classroom, and please refrain from bringing food with you to class.

   2. Academic Honesty Policy – Academic honesty is expected of all students. Work submitted by students as their own must be their own, and materials taken from any other source must be clearly identified as such. Intentional falsification of source materials, plagiarism, obtaining advance information about exams, and other violations of academic honesty are not acceptable. The usual penalty for academic dishonesty is failure on the paper or exam for the first offense. A second instance of academic dishonesty will result in failure of the course. Any subsequent violations of the academic honesty policy will result in the student’s dismissal from the program or from the college. A student may appeal any action taken under this policy.

   3. Extra Assistance –
      a. Instructor Office Hours: If you are having a problem with an assignment, need some extra help, or simply want to discuss class-related topics, please feel free to schedule an appointment with me for time outside of class. I am available to help. JUST ASK.

      b. The Writing Center: In the Writing Center, located at H&A 338, faculty tutors are available to help you with your writing projects/problems. Walk-in assistance is available, though making an appointment by calling 410-780-6799 is preferable. The Writing Center also serves as one of the open computer labs on campus.

C. Tentative Schedule of Assignments
   *Please See Attached*