American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School: Arts and Humanities
Course Number: ENGL420
Course Name: Advanced Creative Writing
Credit Hours: 3 Credit Hours
Length of Course: Eight-Week Format
Prerequisites: ENGL101, ENGL120

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Course Description (Catalog)

This course extends the writing approaches and practices encountered in ENGL120. Students will continue to explore ways to generate ideas for stories, but a more central focus will be on deepening existing writings and finding new challenges in familiar material. Students will also explore additional types of storytelling, such as creative nonfiction, prose poetry, flash fiction, and screenwriting. Students will explore their own "voice" and develop a writing process unique to themselves (Prerequisite: ENGL120).

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Course Scope

Students develop their creative writing skills through practice and revision using various writing techniques. This course uses both formal and informal approaches allowing students to experiment with technique in several genres, including fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, playwriting, and screenwriting. This course will also look at nontraditional areas, such as flash and micro fiction. Students will increase their understanding of structure as well as study elements of voice, character, and setting. A workshop setting allows students to read one another's work, practice planning and revision, and challenge themselves to cultivate the fine art of reading and writing.

Course Objectives

Upon completion, students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

Co 1 Analyze the work of peers for originality, structure and content.

Co 2 Exhibit revision strategies using feedback from your instructor and classmates.

Co 3 Develop your narrative writing voice to produce writing that is more confident.

Co 4 Demonstrate writing in various genres.

Course Delivery Method

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday evening of the week as noted and include Forum questions (accomplished in groups through a threaded forum), examination, and individual assignments submitted for review by the Faculty Member). Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Resources

All readings are linked in lessons.

Software Requirements

Microsoft Word (if you don't have MS Word, please save all files a Text file (.txt) or a Rich Text Format (.rtf). **NOTE - The classroom only supports .doc, .txt., and .rtf files.**

Adobe Reader -- Go to http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html to download the latest version.

Evaluation Procedures

Please see the student handbook to reference the University's grading scale.

Grade Instruments	Points	Weighted

		Percentage
Forums	**800**	**40**
Manuscript A, B, C, D	**100 x 4**	**60**
Total		
	1200	**100**

Forums and Participation:
Please introduce yourself to everyone in the first forum and make contact with me whenever you have a question or need to discuss anything pertinent to this course. Part of your participation includes the submission of a brief biography to the forum area in the first week of the course. This is a chance for all of us to get to know each other as we would in a traditional classroom. This will also help me know more about your academic goals and ambitions, and I may be able to make suggestions for using this course more productively toward that end.

Throughout the course, your drafts will be workshopped in the forums, or we may discuss our reading for style and voice, character development and story progression, and so forth.

Writing Workshops:
Your drafts should be posted in the forum area for feedback from your peers and professor. Think of the forum area as your writing workshop. This is where you post your work, gather ideas, help each other refine your process.

Reading Topics to Discuss:
Being a good reader is as important as being a good writer. One must first learn to distinguish and appreciate the nuances of those writers who are considered classic authors. If we wanted to learn to play the piano or write music, we would desire to study Chopin or Brahms.

Initial responses to the writing prompts are due by Wednesday each week. Responses to classmates are due by Sunday. Respond to at least two (2) classmates each week giving constructive feedback. Posts to classmates should be a minimum of 100 words. Remember that posting just the minimum is what it takes to pass the assignment. The passing grade is a C. So, it isn't fair to consider the minimum to someone who's done the maximum. The above are not meant to be limits.

Responses to the writing prompts will be evaluated on quality of the following:
1. Originality and development of ideas;

2. The coherence of your work;
3. The readability of your work;
4. The mechanical and grammatical correctness of your work;
5. The quality of feedback to classmates (both positive and constructive criticism).

Four (4) Manuscripts (short):

There will be four (4) short manuscripts due during the course. These manuscripts must be written during this class session. You will receive detailed feedback from your professor. Manuscripts will be evaluated on quality of the following:

1. Originality and development of ideas;
2. The coherence of your work;
3. The readability of your work;
4. The mechanical and grammatical correctness of your work;
5. The quality of feedback to classmates (both positive and constructive criticism).

8 – Week Course Outline

Please see the Student Handbook to reference the University's grading scale.

Week	Topic	Course Objectives	Readings	Assignment
1	Intro Creative non-fiction	CO-1 CO-2 **CO-3** **CO-4**	All readings are located in lessons, in the left hand menu of the course.	Forum 1 For detailed assignment descriptions, see the weekly Lessons section of the course.
2	Creative non-fiction	CO-1 CO-2 CO-3 CO-4	All readings are located in lessons, in the left hand menu of the course.	Forum 2 Manuscript A: Creative Non-fiction essay

3	Poetry	CO-1 CO-2 CO-3 CO-4	All readings are located in lessons, in the left hand menu of the course. Week 3 Quiz – What is a poem	Forum 3
4	Poetry	CO-1 CO-2 CO-3 CO-4	All readings are located in lessons, in the left hand menu of the course.	Forum 4 Manuscript B: Original Poem
5	Fiction	CO-1 CO-2 CO-3 CO-4	All readings are located in lessons, in the left hand menu of the course. Quiz 2 Flash Fiction the Last Line	Forum 5
6	Fiction	CO-1 CO-2 CO-3 CO-4	All readings are located in lessons, in the left hand menu of the course.	Forum 6 Manuscript C: Short Story
7	Screenwriting	CO-1 CO-2 CO-3 CO-4	All readings are located in lessons, in the left hand menu of the course.	Forum 7
8	Screenwriting	CO-1 CO-2 CO-3 CO-4		Forum 8 Manuscript D: Original Script

Policies

Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

Drop/Withdrawal Policy

Plagiarism Policy
Extension Process and Policy
Disability Accommodations

Writing Expectations

In this course, you are learning to write at a college level, and thus it is understood that you will write in complete, grammatical sentences and orderly paragraphs, without using slang, jargon, or texting conventions that abbreviate or misspell (u for you, i instead of I, thru instead of through, and the like.) Please note also that college level writing involves learning to do college level research. Open web sources like Wikipedia, ask.com, and answers.com are not appropriate for college level research. You must use the university online library for all research, and you are expected to learn to navigate the library and become familiar with the databases that it contains. You can also find helpful tutorials, style references, and links to tutoring within the library website, so please make that one of your first destinations.

Citation and Reference Style

Students will follow MLA as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework for this class.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. If you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Extensions

Bulk submissions are not accepted during the course or during an extension.

- Cognitive learning is accomplished by receiving consistent and incremental feedback that creates a positive change in performance (Untanir, 2012). Feedback is structured so students increase their cognitive learning and skill sets.

- Thus, submitting bulk-loaded late work (more than one assignment at a time) is highly discouraged and may even result in assignment(s) being returned for revision if the instructor feels his or her feedback from any submission would have improved the student's assessment of any assignment. Building feedback is essential to your success.

Works Cited: Ultanir, E. (2012). An epistemological glance at the constructivist approach: Constructivist learning in dewey, piaget, and montessori. Online Submission.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advance of knowledge through positive and constructive debate--both inside and outside the classroom. Discussions on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting--basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the fun and excitement of learning that does not include descent to personal attacks, or student attempts to stifle the discussion of others. Please also remember that your role in the class as a student precludes criticizing or correcting the work of others; you are encouraged to offer positive feedback and helpful suggestions, but it is not appropriate that you tell others that their work is incorrect or that their work does not meet the assignment requirements. Humor Note: Despite the best of intentions, jokes and--especially--satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emoticons" to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ▯

Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary slightly from the outline to meet the needs of a particular class section.

Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to **librarian@apus.edu**.

- *Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:* The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- *Electronic Books:* You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- *Electronic Journals:* The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- *Tutor.com*: AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you

need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Request a Library Guide for your course https://www.apus.edu/apus-library/online-research/research/research-guides/guides-by-program.html

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

Turnitin.com

Turnitin is an automatic part of this course. When an assignment is submitted, it will generate a turnitin report. All assignments must be submitted as attachments.

Course forums will be run through Turnitin.com every week. Your instructor has the right to regrade assignments during the course if suspicion of plagiarism or any other misleading events present themselves.

Selected Bibliography

Additional supplemental readings and relevant websites are found in the weekly Course Lessons.