

**South Plains College**  
**Course Syllabus: ENGL 2307**  
**Creative Writing**  
 Spring 2025  
 Face-to-Face Sections: 601~H601

**Instructor's Contact Information:****Instructor:** Nimi Finnigan**Office Location:** Lubbock Downtown Office# 2024**Office Hours:**

<b>Scheduled Office Hours:</b> *By appointment Monday-Friday				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
2:30-4:00 pm	1:00-2:00 pm	2:30-4:00 pm	1:00-2:00 pm	10:00-1:00 pm

**Office Phone:** (806)-716-2733**Email:** [nfinnigan@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:nfinnigan@southplainscollege.edu)

- I try to answer emails within 24-48 hours Monday-Thursday and Friday morning.
- Required for emails: Type your name, course, and subject in the subject box of your email to me (example: *Jane Doe – ENGL 1301-002 - Question about Week 2*).

*Dear Students, Please Note: The course schedule/calendar is subject to change. The instructor will notify the class of any changes within a sufficient time frame. **It is the student's responsibility to take note of the changes in the courses in terms of both policy and calendar deadlines.***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides practical experience in the techniques of imaginative writing and may include fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, screenwriting, or other genres.

**Prerequisites:**

- ENGL 1301

**COURSE CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED**

- Communications skills—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- Critical thinking skills—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Teamwork—to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Personal Responsibility—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:**

1. Be able to read literary texts carefully and analyze them with precision

2. Demonstrate familiarity with the literary vocabulary of poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and/or drama, such as abstract/concrete language, alliteration, assonance, couplet, diction, figurative language (including simile and metaphor), personification, image, line, rhyme, stanza, antagonist, protagonist, setting, character, plot, climax, conflict, tone, irony, symbolism, dialogue, epiphany, flashback, foreshadowing, point of view (first, second, third person), etc.
3. Have composed and revised several original literary texts that demonstrate expertise in ideas, organization, genre-specific elements, style, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and grammar/ spelling/punctuation conventions.
4. Be able to critique their own work and the work of other workshop members in an articulate, specific, and professional manner
5. Have created a final writing portfolio showcasing a significant body of publication-class works across various writing forms.
6. Students will discover classic and contemporary writers as well as their many technical and innovative contributions to the craft of writing.
7. Students will gain a beginning knowledge of publication trends and guidelines (including how and where to submit their writing).

## **COURSE EVALUATION**

Students will complete the following assignments:

Write poetry

Write creative nonfiction prose

Write one flash-fiction piece

Participate in the Workshop Process with verbal and written commentary for their peers

Put together an end of the semester Portfolio Project to showcase their work

Memorize one poem

Write response papers to the assigned readings/performances.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

*SUGGESTED TEXTBOOKS & SUPPLIES – THESE ARE NOT REQUIREMENTS. PDFs of reading will be provided in class.*

- Whelan, Bridget. *Back to Creative Writing School*. New edition: 30 exercises to get you to write. Bridget Whelan, 2013.
- A comprehensive dictionary or collegiate dictionary (such as *The American Heritage Dictionary* or *Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary*).
- A notebook to write in
- Access to a computer with internet access and a printer

\*\*\*\*\*

## **DETAILED COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### Attendance & Participation

- In this particular course, attendance is non-negotiable. It is a must.
- Students need to be present in class and need to share their critical opinions of peer's work as well as the assigned readings
- In-class writing exercises will take place during each class period.
- 15% of grade

### Workshop

- Workshop Submission
  - Students will submit writing in response to prompts handed out by the instructor. Students will be divided into two groups (A & B) whose work will be alternatively reviewed in class. All students are required to comment on their peers' work on paper, however only the indicated group (A or B) will have their work discussed in class during workshop. If time permits, both group A and B will be workshopped during the same class session.
  - Students will write poems, creative nonfiction essays, and flash-fiction.
- Workshop Commentary
  - Verbal and written commentary is mandatory for all students and their peers.
- Requirements for Workshop submissions:
  - Workshop assignments must be typed and students are responsible for bringing the proper amount of copies of their work for everyone in the class including the instructor.
  - Prose piece must be double spaced in a 12-point font with one-inch margins on all sides.
  - (Please make sure that your name, the course number, the name of the instructor and the date are present in the upper left-hand corner. Title page not necessary)
- Workshop Etiquette:
  - The members of any writers' group should try to understand each other's aesthetic goals; they should also appreciate and praise what each member does well. Any student who disrespects another student will be asked to leave the class (and will be marked as absent). Having said that, your responsibility as a member of this class is to improve your abilities and to grow as a writer. Therefore, any student who repeatedly refuses advice and staunchly defends his/her work rather than listening and learning from other readers will lose participation points (a great number of participation points given the fact that the whole point of this class is workshop and writing intensive!)
- 50% of course grade.

### READING RESPONSES

- Students will complete several responses papers to the assigned readings.
- Students will complete quizzes and/or activities related to the readings and craft terminology.
- 10% of course grade.

### RECITATION

- Students will memorize one poem and recite it for the class whenever they feel they are ready as long as it happens before the last class meeting.
- 5% of course grade.

### FINAL PROJECT PORTFOLIO

- Students will turn in a creative writing portfolio which includes:
  - A Reflection Statement: Statement of Aesthetics
  - All of your official work for the semester.
  - A fully revised creative nonfiction essay
  - Two fully revised poems.
  - One new essay or three new poems inspired by the writing prompts
  - Extra-Credit: Opportunities for extra-credit will be discussed in class.
- 20% of course grade

### PARTICIPATION GRADE (extra-credit)

- Students who actively participate in class and during workshops may receive an additional 2-3 points. It is up to the discretion of the instructor.
- Additional participation grade assignments may be suggested throughout the semester.

#### *GRADE/POINT BREAKDOWN*

- Attendance/participation (15%)
- Workshop (50%)
- Reading Responses (10%)
- Recitation (5%)
- Final Portfolio (20%)

TOTAL PERCENTAGE – 100

**A RANGE 90 – 100:** Document exemplary. It exceeds assignment objectives. No revisions necessary.

**B RANGE 80 – 89:** Document is good. It meets assignment objectives. Minor revisions are necessary.

**C RANGE 70 – 79:** Document is satisfactory but marginal. It does not meet all assignment objectives. Revisions are necessary.

**D RANGE 60 – 69:** Document is unsatisfactory. It meets few of the assignment objectives. Major revisions are necessary.

**BELOW 60 -> F:** Document is unacceptable. It does not meet assignment objectives. Major revisions are necessary.

All of these margins are strict margins. This means that 89.8% does not get you an A. You need 90% to be in the A range. **No exceptions.**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **COURSE POLICIES**

##### SIGNING UP FOR REMIND

All students need to sign up for Remind (through Remind.com) which will send class updates/notifications directly to your phone. Instructions will be given in class on how to register for the notifications. This will keep you updated on any changes to the class schedule and/or location, reading list, and any class cancellations.

##### GRADING TIME FRAMES

When your assignments are evaluated, you will have them back and a grade will appear on Blackboard. **Please do not inquire as to whether or not your assignments are graded.**

##### LATE WORK

Because we have workshop sessions, **late work is not accepted.** If for any reason, you will miss your workshop session, contact me immediately. Be aware that accommodations might not be possible. This will result in a loss of points.

##### ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Role is taken every day.
- Students are allowed to miss **one week** of class without penalties. This means 3 class periods for Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes and 2 class periods for Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday classes. Except workshop sessions. Students need to be present for their workshop slot.

- Additional Absence: may result in an F grade if instructor is not informed of the student's situation. Reasons for absence need to be discussed with instructor, and ultimately, student's grade is at the discretion of the instructor.
- Absences due to religious observance will not affect course grade.
- All excused absences require documentation and are still subject to instructor's approval.
- Excessive absences or tardiness will result in the student being dropped from the class.

### CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

- No food is allowed whilst the class is in session. Beverages are permitted.
- The use of any electronic device is prohibited in class unless the student requires electronic media in order to perform academically. If student uses either cell phone, laptop, or other electronic media (i.e. ipod, media player, pagers) instructor reserves the right to require that the student leave the classroom. In that event, the student is automatically considered absent, thus his/her assignment is considered not turned in for that class period.

### VISITING DURING OFFICE HOURS: PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTACT.

Students are encouraged to come see me in my office during the hours listed above. Those hours are reserved for answering your questions & concerns, so please do feel invited to stop in and voice any questions or concerns.

I also **prefer** meeting and visiting with students in person. If you can't make my office hours, let's try and arrange for an appointment at another time that works for both of us.

### Important Note about Office Hours and/or Appointments with Instructor:

These meetings are important for both you and I, but most importantly for you. There are times when I may be running late. Please be patient. If we made an appointment, I will always honor that appointment.

If I can't make it, there will be an announcement on the course website and/or an email sent to you, or there will be an announcement posted on my door. I will also send out a notification through Remind.

### EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Keep in mind that email is **not** my preferred method of contact. I prefer face-to-face interactions, zoom visits and/or phone calls.

Keep in mind that this is **not** my preferred method of contact.

If you need to contact me via email, you may do so at my primary email address at South Plains Email.

- Netiquette: I expect students to use professional language and tone in all communications with me, including in emails. To this end, emails should clearly **identify who the sender is, what course they are taking, present proper grammar, include salutations**, and should be void of vernacular turn of phrases or "texting" expressions.
- Emails that do not follow proper netiquette will most likely not be answered.
- Given that I prefer face-to-face interactions, students are encouraged to come and speak to me after class.
- Students are responsible for checking their South Plains email regularly.
- **Please make sure that your email includes your full name and section number and/or class meeting times.** I teach several sections and that information will allow me identify your account more quickly.
- Please wait between 24-48 hours before expecting a response to your submitted email.

### Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

**Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy may result in an F for the assignment and an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Using Artificial Intelligence websites or apps to generate and/or revise all or part of a paper or other assignment;
2. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another writer or from an online site;
3. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
4. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them;
5. Submitting an assignment for this course that you also submitted to another course without my express approval;
6. Missing in-text citations and/or missing works cited entries.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, texting, internet, Quizlet, etc.) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

**Protocol Regarding Zero's on Assignment**

If you receive a zero on an assignment, please complete the following steps:

1. Read the commentary associated with the assignment. Commentary will be either in Blackboard or on Turnitin
2. Upon reading the explanation for your zero, you are welcome to get in touch with the instructor via email or make an appointment to see the instructor in person. This meeting with the instructor will determine if your zero will be removed or maintained.
3. In regards to plagiarism or AI issues, understand that **a second** occurrence of these issues will result in an automatic F for the assignment, and a potential F for the course.

**For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE TEAM, and Campus Concealed Carry, Artificial Intelligence Statement, please visit: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>**

Note: **The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies**, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

\*\*\*\*\*