

Welcome to English 127!

Instructor: Deborah Averill

Days and Time: MW 12:15 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

Location: INST 1013

Course # 0235

Office Hours: W 2:15- 3:15 and by appointment

Office Location: TBD

Email: Averilddb@lamission.edu

English 127: CREATIVE WRITING

Hello! Welcome to English 127: Creative Writing.

Throughout the course of this semester we will be reading a variety of literary works with focus on three different creative forms: poetry, fiction, and drama. Students will develop a working knowledge of creative terms that will aid in both the production, and discussion, of current and future creative work—a must before entering any creative writing community. We will analyze critically acclaimed works from a wide array of authors (including some of the newer voices on the scene,) as students commence the production of their

own writing. Students will write in all three genres, resulting in an end-of-the-semester portfolio of their very best work.

Also: On the day of our scheduled final exam, you and your classmates will have the opportunity to present staged readings of your poetry, stories, and/or plays as a celebration of your efforts. If this sounds intimidating, it isn't. Students are usually amazed at what they are able to produce by the end of the course! For the majority of my previous students (honestly, almost all of them!) the opportunity to perform is the highlight of the semester.

I look forward to working with you!

Required Texts and Materials:

- ✓ *Three Genres: The Writing of Literary Prose, Poems, and Plays, 9th Edition* by Stephen Minot
- ✓ One small (pocket sized) notebook to use as a “language journal”
- ✓ One spiral-bound notebook (**to be used in this class only!**)
- ✓ An email that you check daily, and regular access to a computer
- ✓ A subscription to the class webpage to access readings
- ✓ A thumb drive (suggested, to back-up your work)

Course Description: English 127 (UC:CSU) 3 UNITS

Prerequisite: English 101 | Lecture 3 hours.

This course will provide the student with the opportunity to explore--as a creative writer--the genres of fiction, drama, and poetry through a variety of forms. The course will require reading, in-class writing exercises, in-class discussion, peer reviews, and--of course--a great deal of out-of-class imaginative writing. Students will regularly complete assignments, and at the end of the semester each student will submit a substantial portfolio of his or her best work. This course is designed to introduce the student to professional writing.

Primary Course Objectives:

To enhance the student's ability to create imaginative writing in multiple genres, to help the student understand basic concepts of creative writing, and to improve the student's ability to discuss and critique the creative writing of others, as well as his or her own.

Grading:

Student Writing. Students will hand-in various assignments, participate in writing exercises, and maintain a

language journal and a free-write journal. Note: Remember that writing is a process that necessitates constant invention, and even more revision. In fact, most good writers spend far more time on revising their work than on writing the original draft.

The Final Portfolio. This is in lieu of a final exam, so please put in those same kind of efforts when compiling it. The portfolio will contain revisions of all of your work, as well as the drafts that I have commented on. The portfolio must include a table of contents and a one to two page introduction.

Reading. You are required to read all of the assigned literature.

Participation. Since this is a creative workshop that will emphasize in-class writing, discussion, staged readings, and work in small groups, your participation will be a key component to the success of the course, as well as to your success *in* the course.

More on Grading:

Your final grade will be based on *all* aspects of the course. Thus, if you're a great writer but not a good student, you will not receive the highest grade. Factors that will influence my assessment include the general quality of the written work (judged by such factors as originality, self-consistency, skill, and range); the degree of dedication and effort, as indicated by revisions, depth of work; and the careful presentation of

your work. Another highly important contributor to the final grade will be class participation. In a workshop class, participation is of the utmost significance. You do not have to talk all the time, but there is a real difference between being a quiet participant who occasionally offers a highly considered remark, hands back other students' work with helpful written comments, and attends class regularly, and being a real non-participant. Engaged class participation will, most likely, show that you're involved with the whole process that this course emphasizes. And such participation may help you to improve your grade. What is extremely important here is effort, attention to detail, creativity, writing that is concise, powerful, honest, and most importantly, void of clichés. You have all seen art-by-numbers, but that is not the sort of thing that I want you to produce; imaginative writing requires a *creative* process. Thus, although we will discuss form and structure, I do not expect you to follow a particular "recipe" for your writing. There is no "recipe," at least not for imaginative writing that delves more deeply into the world, the soul, than the sort of formulaic writing often found in many commercial films, TV shows, and bestsellers. If at any time during the semester you become anxious about your standing in this class, which will utilize the "+ and -" grading system, please see me to discuss it.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

- ✓ Revised poems: 200 pts.
- ✓ Revised fiction: 200 pts.
- ✓ Revised drama: 200 pts.
- ✓ Participation: 100 pts.
- ✓ Additional assignments: 50 pts.
- ✓ Portfolio: 250 pts.

1,000 POINTS POSSIBLE

Library:

You may want to use the library for your work. Here is where you can find more info:

<http://www.lamission.edu/library/>

Late Work:

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Work turned in more than 15 minutes after class begins is considered late, and will be marked accordingly. One effective way to avoid late work is to estimate the amount of time you expect an assignment to

take, and then double it. Things happen. Because our assignments will be emailed prior to turning in your hard-copy, being absent is no excuse for late work. I will only accept two email-only assignments due to absence all semester. You will still need to turn in your hard-copy at the beginning of the next class session. If you fail to do this, your work will then be counted as late. All late work will be graded at my convenience; it goes to the end of the grading pile. Feedback on late work is not guaranteed.

Where to Print:

Printing facilities are available in INST 2009, and you may buy a print card if you wish to use the printers in the LRC. Always allow yourself extra time for printing emergencies. You can pretty much count on having at least one printing problem a semester, so plan accordingly.

Record Keeping and Grades:

It is your responsibility to keep track of which assignments you have turned in, and which you have not. I keep very accurate records, and I expect you to do the same. You should always be able to estimate your current standing in the class. Also, be sure to keep all returned work until 4 weeks after the semester ends. In case of a grading discrepancy, this is your proof. Any returned work that you can't produce during this time period will automatically receive no credit.

Attendance:

Attendance is taken at every class meeting. After 3 absences your semester grade will be lowered. If you are tardy 3 times, it will count as one absence. This is in keeping with policy. Please be in your seat and ready to work on time. Do not disrupt the class with repeated lateness; plan accordingly. If you miss roll, please see me after class so that you are not marked absent. Corrections to attendance due to tardiness will not be made beyond the class session in question.

Electronics:

You can bring laptops and other devices to class, but they may not be used without permission. Permission will be granted on a case-by-case basis, depending on a particular need, and/or the specifics of the current assignment. All cellphones must be turned off, and put away. Cellphone use without permission will result in lost participation points, and you may be asked to leave the class. If this happens, you will be marked as absent.

Recording Devices in the Classroom: Section 78907 of the California Education Code prohibits the use of any electronic listening or recording device without prior consent of the instructor. Any student violating this section is subject to disciplinary action. Any non-student who willfully violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

You will need to have regular daily access to a computer off campus.

If You Need Help:

If you are struggling with an assignment, please let me know. I am here to help. However, you must give me enough time to provide you with assistance. Do not e-mail me the night before an assignment is due with the expectation that I can give you real help. I'm good, but I'm not that good.

The OWL: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

The Purdue Online Writing Lab is a wonderful resource for students. Please check here for help with:

- Research
- Grammar and Mechanics
- Style Guides (we will be using MLA)
- ESL (English as a Second Language)
- Formatting

and many other topics.

Plagiarism:

Don't. You're smarter than this. You don't need to do it, so don't do it. And you may not realize this, but plagiarism is REALLY OBVIOUS when an instructor compares in-class writing to your essay assignments. Plagiarism is "intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, or work of another as one's own in any academic exercise." I do realize that sometimes, plagiarism is the result of students not understanding how to properly cite sources, or from struggling with a limited vocabulary. We will spend time in class reviewing how to properly cite sources, and our classroom experiences will broaden your language and usage. If you are still unsure, ask. To further dissuade you from this practice, I will randomly be using turnitin.com, which is a very accurate online plagiarism detector. **NOTE: All cases of plagiarism will be turned over to the English Department and the Dean. INTENTIONAL ACADEMIC PLAGIARISM (determined at my discretion) WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE FAILURE OF THE COURSE.** Furthermore, you may be subject to suspension or expulsion from the college.

USEFUL COLLEGE RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS:

Students with Disabilities: If you need special accommodations, you must be registered with the "Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S)." For appointments, eligibility and information call 818- 364-7732

or contact them here:

<http://www.lamission.edu/dsps/default.aspx>

Admissions and Records: Students can register for classes, request transcripts, file petitions for graduation, and drop classes at this office. For more information call 818-833-3322 or visit: <http://www.lamission.edu/admissions/>

Assessment Center: Offers student assessments in English, English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) and Mathematics. Please contact the Assessment Center at (818) 364-7613 for more information or visit: <http://www.lamission.edu/assessment/>

Bookstore: For hours of operation, book availability, buybacks, and other information call 818-364-7767 or 7768 or visit: <http://eagleslanding.lamission.edu/default.asp>

Counseling Department Office: For appointments and information call 818-364-7655 or visit: <http://www.lamission.edu/counseling/>

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS): For appointments, eligibility and information call 818-364-7645 or visit: <http://www.lamission.edu/eops/>

Financial Aid: For information and applications call 818-364-7648 or visit: <http://www.lamission.edu/financialaid/>

Library: For information on hours, resources, workshops, and other services contact 818-364-7106 or visit:

<http://www.lamission.edu/library/>

Tutoring Services in Learning Center: Laboratories for Learning, Writing, Math & Science. Walk-in and appointment services offered. Call 818-364-7754 or visit:

www.lamission.edu/learningcenter/

Withdrawal from Classes:

For the Fall '14 Semester: No notation ("W" or other) will appear on the student's record if the class is dropped online on or before November 23, 2014.

Through the 11th Week: A notation of "W" (withdrawal) is recorded on the student's record for classes dropped during the 4th through the 11th week of the semester.

After the 11th Week: Students who remain in class beyond the 11th week (or 75% of the class for short term classes) are given a grade by the instructor. That grade cannot be a "W." (withdrawal).

**PLEASE CHECK THE LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE
CATALOGUE FOR ADDITIOAL INFORMATION AND
OFFICIAL POLICIES.**

HAVE A WONDERFUL SEMESTER!