

ENG 6353 Topics in Poetry: Creative Writing/Poetry

INSTRUCTOR: Marlon L. Fick

OFFICE: MB 3142

OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday, 9:30 to 12:00

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Course Description

Emphasis on development of the student's own writing through formal experimentation, workshopping, and projects, with significant attention paid to literary conventions of modern and contemporary writing in Poetry.

Prerequisites: Enrollment in the English MA.

Core Objectives: Our goals for the semester include —

- Master a range of literary genres
- Be familiar with the nuanced differences of literary genres by using them
- Expanding writing fluency through experimentation
- Expanding writing fluency through the acquisition of new techniques
- Be familiar with the models or templates handed down from masterful writers
- Learn the art of change through personal appropriation of models
- Gain a sensitivity to the interaction between grammar and metaphor
- Gain confidence in one's writing through a diversity of writing exercises

- **Teamwork:** to include the ability to consider different points of view through workshop and to work effectively with others
- **Critical thinking:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

Course Competencies:

- Students demonstrate their knowledge of the reading processes.
- Students demonstrate an understanding of the unique challenges that the literary genres present
- Students demonstrate a competency for being able to echo the forms and genres in their own right
- Students will be able to identify and avoid clichés as well as worn out formulas and formula writing
- Students will develop editing skills through weekly practice in workshops

Grades

Because judging creativity is at least in part subjective, grades in this course are based on meeting the minimum requirements of a given genre and on evidence of revision. Individual assignments will not receive a “grade” per se, rather the drafts are recorded and acknowledged. Then, revision of these assignments are also acknowledged as revised. For an “A,” grade, 15 of 20 writing assignments have been submitted, critiqued, and revised (by members of the class and by the professor); for a “B,” 12-14; for a “C,” 9-11; for a “D,” 5-8. However, assignments starred as required must be among the total portfolio. Of the 20 assignments, at least 10 are required. The extent of revision required will be indicated by the professor. Students have one week to revise a work after the original draft has been returned.

Workshop Guidelines

Each class period, several students will be chosen to present drafts or revisions of either exercises or whole pieces. What the group looks for may differ depending on the objectives of the genre, so the professor will start by listing the objectives of the given assignment. The student must provide copies for each piece being workshopped. Students can then provide feedback verbally and in writing. Feedback should be constructive. Compliments are fine, but

constructive critiques are far more beneficial to emerging writers. More information on workshop procedures will be given out in class.

Computer Skills and Software Requirements

To effectively complete the requirements of the course, you must have the following:

- The ability to work in Microsoft Word
- Access to UTPB email

Students, Faculty and Staff at UTPB can obtain software licensing and media for selected Microsoft titles at very low cost through a software agreement:

<http://www.utpb.edu/services/ird/information-for-students/software-distribution/microsoft-select>. All work for this class must be done in a Microsoft Word document.

Important Dates [UTPB Academic Calendar](#)

Communication Plan

Communication for this course will be best accomplished by UTPB email or office visits.

Attendance Requirement

All students are required to attend every class. Missing more than three classes (in this TR schedule) may seriously affect the overall grade and performance in the class. In some emergency situations, students should always notify the instructor so that he may take special circumstances into consideration.

Required Textbooks

TBA

Course Activities

Readings: The students will read assigned pages in the assigned books for each author. These readings are designed to serve as models for inspiration in the service of class writings.

Writings: Assignments and Tasks

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Computer Skills, Technical & Software Requirements

Describe any special prerequisite skills (word processing, spreadsheet, presentation software, YouTube account, etc) Student will need to create word processing documents, save files, submit files.

Students can use cloud version of Word, PowerPoint and other Microsoft products through use of their UTPB Outlook 365 and UTPB email address. For more information refer to Student Services below or visit: <http://www.utpb.edu/services/ird/information-on-computer-accounts-e-mail/office-365>

To obtain software licensing and media for selected Microsoft titles at very low cost through a software agreement visit: <http://www.utpb.edu/services/ird/information-for-students/software-distribution/microsoft-select>.

Computer Technical Requirements: Information at <http://www.utpb.edu/online/reach/technical-requirements>

Preparation for Computer Emergencies:

Computer Crash

Not having a working computer or a crashed computer during the semester will NOT be considered as an acceptable reason for not completing course activities at a scheduled time.

NOTE: Identify a second computer before the semester begins, that you can use when/if your personal computer crashes.

Complete Loss of Contact

If you lose contact with me completely (i.e. you cannot contact me via Canvas or email), you need to call me at my office, 432-552-2298, and explain the reason you cannot contact me and leave me a way to contact you.

Lost/Corrupt/Disappeared files

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of failure (e.g Virus infection, students own computer crashes, loss of files in cyberspace, etc) or any contradictions/problems, I may/will request you to resubmit the files. In other words, if you submit a document to me, and I either do not receive it (lost in cyberspace) or it is corrupted when I open it, it is incumbent upon you to resend it to me, corrected, with little or no "downtime" in regard to the timeline for submission.

Student Support Services

SERVICE	CONTACT
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ADA Accommodation/Support	Programs Assisting Student Study (PASS) 432-552-2630 http://www.utpb.edu/academics/undergraduate-success/pass-office
Admissions & Registration & Transcripts	(432) 552-2605 http://www.utpb.edu/admissions
Canvas Technical Support	1-866-437-0867 (toll-free) https://guides.instructure.com
Bookstore	(432) 552-0220 http://www.bkstr.com/texas-permianbasinstore/home
Advising	UTPB E-Advisor at http://cas.utpb.edu/academic-advising-center/e-advisor/
Financial Aid and Scholarship	(432) 552-2620 http://www.utpb.edu/campus-life/financial-aid
UTPB Library	(432) 552-2370 The J. Conrad Dunagan Library Online at http://library.utpb.edu/
Student Services	http://www.utpb.edu/campus-life/studentactivities/student-senate/committees/student-affairs
Tutoring & Learning Resources	If you are taking courses through UTPB the following links provide services: Smarthinking Online Tutoring (provides tutoring services), SmarterMeasure (measures learner readiness for online course). Student Success Center: http://www.utpb.edu/academics/undergraduate-success/success-center

End-of-Course Evaluation & Instructor Evaluation

Every student is encouraged to complete an end-of-course evaluation/survey provided by UTPB. During the last few weeks of class, you will receive an announcement through email notifying you that the Course/Instructor Survey is available. You may follow the link in the email to complete the survey using the same credentials to access your courses here. When entering the emailed Survey link you will see a list of surveys for you to complete.

The survey is anonymous and your responses are confidential. Your feedback is critical to us and to your instructor as we strive to improve our offerings, and our support of you, the students.

Disclaimer & Rights

Information contained in this syllabus was to the best knowledge of the instructor considered correct and complete when distributed for use in the beginning of the semester. However, the instructor reserves the right, acting within the policies and procedures of UTPB to make changes in the course content or instructional techniques without notice or obligation. The students will be informed about the changes, if any.