

**ENG 1003 COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**Creative Writing**  
**2017 Spring Semester, Section 01**  
**T/R 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM in A-321**

**Instructor:** Tracy Lee

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**Faculty Website:** [www.ivcc.edu/lee](http://www.ivcc.edu/lee)

**Social Media:** Facebook [@tlee329a](#) & Twitter [@tlee329a](#)

**Office:** A-329

**Office Hours:** see *website*

**REQUIRED TEXT and MATERIALS:**

- *Making Shapely Fiction* by Stern
- *Poet's Companion* by Addonizio
- a novel to be decided upon by the class
- a good dictionary and thesaurus (online is fine)
- a willingness to improve what you think needs no improving and to ask "what will make my writing more successful"
- a nice folder suitable for your Final Portfolio and a notebook for journal and impromptu assignments.

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:** An introduction to the techniques and strategies of creative writing, including primarily fiction and poetry, and not excluding creative non-fiction, drama, film scripts, graphic novels, and hypertexts. The course will make use of models from established contemporary writers and allow students to practice the techniques of these writers.

**FINANCIAL AID STATEMENT:** Withdrawal from a course can affect financial aid. Students who receive financial aid should see an advisor in the Financial Aid Office before withdrawing from a course.

**STUDENT WITHDRAWAL POLICY STATEMENT:** Effective Summer 2011, students will have the ability to initiate a withdrawal from classes. By completing the form in the Records Office or at [www.ivcc.edu/withdraw](http://www.ivcc.edu/withdraw), the student is authorizing IVCC to remove him/her from the course. Entering the student ID number serves as the student's electronic signature. IVCC has the right to rescind a withdrawal in cases of academic dishonesty or at the instructor's discretion.

Students should be aware of the impact of a withdrawal on full-time status for insurance purposes and for financial aid. It is highly recommended that students meet with their instructor or with a counselor before withdrawing from a course.

**EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES and RELATED COMPETENCIES****Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:**

- Outcome 1: Apply some strategies of storytelling in the writing of at least one short story (or works of creative non-fiction, drama, film scripts, graphic novels, and hypertexts) and the analysis of published fiction.
  - Demonstrate, through the writing of an original work, an understanding of some of the following elements of storytelling: plot, characterization, setting, point of view, symbolism, and style.
  - Identify the narration techniques and elements of storytelling used in published works of fiction and stories written by other classmates.
- Outcome 2: Apply some strategies of contemporary poetry in the writing of several poems and the analysis of published poetry.
  - Demonstrate, through the writing of several poems, an understanding of some of the aesthetic aspects of contemporary poetry, such as manipulation of stanzas and line lengths, alliteration, symbolism, setting, tone, and imagery.
  - Identify the aesthetic aspects of poetry in published poems and poems written by other classmates.
- Outcome 3: Understand the dynamics of peer editing and group workshops.
  - Participate in both the "giving" and receiving" aspects of group workshops in class, commenting on the works of other classmates and listening to the comments of others about one's own work.
  - Participate in peer editing by writing comments about the works of other classmates.
- Outcome 4: Learn how to prepare and submit a piece of work for publication.
  - Display an ability to format a work of fiction (or creative non-fiction) for submission to an agent, editor, or publisher.
  - Demonstrate an understanding of where and how to find opportunities for publication.

**PLAGIARISM and CHEATING:** Don't do it, and if you do, I will fail you for the assignment and can choose to fail you from the class.

1. **Cheating:** defined as using or attempting to use, giving or attempting to give, and obtaining or attempting to obtain materials or information, including computer material, material pertaining to a quiz, examination or other work that a student is expected to do alone.
2. **Plagiarism:** defined as the use of another's words or ideas without acknowledgment.

**Incident of either, or behavior of a nature deemed inappropriate to the academic setting will be considered just cause for a withdrawal or failing grade.**

**STUDENT EMAIL EXPECTATION:** All instructor-student email correspondence will be conducted through IVCC email accounts. It is the student's responsibility to check IVCC email for class announcements and/or updates to assignments or the course calendar. I check my email often and will respond to you as soon as possible; you are expected to contact me as soon as any issue arises so any delay on my part due to normal life circumstances (instructor and/or family obligations, etc.) will not jeopardize you.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** You must (and please do so) attend every class. After three (3) absences, I will reduce your grade; after six (6) absences I will withdrawal or fail you from the class; every three (3) tardies will add up to an absence and be included in your number of absences. **Please do not be tardy (late = tardy) to class** as with the nature of creative writing, it's rude to me and your classmates as well as disruptive to writing exercises and workshopping. Here is my attendance policy:

1-3 absences	freebees
4 absences	1 letter grade reduction (for example, A or B)
5 absences	2 letter grade reductions (for example, A or C)
6 absences	3 letter grade reductions (for example, A or D)
7 absences	withdrawn from class by instructor

**METHODS OF ASSESSMENT:** Your final grade will be based on your formal written work, one oral presentation/showcase, in-class assignments, class and workshop participation, and attendance. The break-down:

Formal Writing Assignments	70%
Final Portfolio & Presentation	15%
Impromptu Writing/Workshop Participation	15%

**Assessment includes:**

1. the depth and quality of the responses you provide your peers during workshop
2. completion of in-class exercises and impromptu writing
3. completion and punctuality of written assignments
4. clear attempt to thoroughly revise your work for portfolio
5. an oral reading of your original work(s) during the final exam period of the course; should be introduced with background as to the piece's inspiration and journey
6. **a twenty-five page Final Portfolio of your creative writing, and a one-page essay which discusses writing in general or your portfolio selections specifically. Twenty pages must be pieces we've begun and worked on during the semester.**
7. proof of submission to a contest or magazine, including IVCC's *River Currents*

**GRADING SCALE:** Students need to receive a final grade of C or better in order to receive transfer credit.

A = 90+
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = 59-0

**WORKSHOPPING:** The intention of workshopping is to give you a peek at how readers are viewing and interpreting your work. This processes is not successful if you are able to explain yourself during the workshop, thus you will be asked to remain quiet while your peers discuss and analyze your work. This allows for better editing and revision of the piece because you see how readers react; this is not a mode of either negative criticism or unhelpful praise.

**When we workshop a piece as a class, I will not disclose the student's name unless the student requests otherwise. Workshopping is a mandatory part of this class and a student will not be able to earn a C or better without both small group and classroom workshop participation. PLEASE REQUEST OTHERWISE: the writer needs to put him/herself out there.**

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- **Absence from class:** Students are responsible for any assignment deadline in the event of an absence or tardy; it is the student's responsibility to find out what he/she missed in the event of an absence or tardy; **impromptu assignments or workshop credit cannot be made up.** If you must miss a class, please provide me with any work due that day by sending it with a classmate, sliding it under my office door, emailing it to me, or submitting on Blackboard (if applicable) before the end of the class period.
- **Late Assignments:** Assignments handed in late will be lowered two-thirds of a grade for every day late (A to B+). Assignments more than a week late will not receive a grade. An assignment is considered "late" when it is turned in after the class period of its deadline.
- **Student Writing:** Formal prose should be double-spaced in Times New Roman, 12 point font and formal poetry should be single spaced, left-aligned in Times New Roman, 12 point font. Students will share and workshop writing on a regular basis in class. For full workshop credit, **you must attend workshop days, be able to demonstrate thorough and thoughtful comments written on the work of your peers, and complete the online reflection.** Students should save all returned work until the end of the semester in the event of miscommunication or grade dispute.
- **Computer Mishaps:** Personal computer mishaps are not considered an excuse for late course work. If you know you have an unreliable computer and/or internet connection, manage your time so you can always use a college computer if something goes wrong.
- **Cell phone and Personal Tech:** Students are expected to **silence personal technology** during the class period. No cell phone or iPod use is permitted during class, and laptop and tablet use is only permitted with special permission from the instructor. The use of such devices during class without permission will be considered disruptive behavior. I reserve the right to reduce the participation points that factor into your final grade due to excessive use of such devices.
- **Unacceptable Behavior: Students are expected to conduct themselves in an adult manner, and those who choose to be disruptive will be withdrawn from the course. This includes language in email correspondence between peers and written workshop comments.** Language is inappropriate if it results in individuals feeling outcast from the learning environment due to gender/gender identity, race, sexual orientation, age, religion, nationality, lifestyle, and/or creed. Derogatory, intolerant, and/or discriminatory ideas and opinions should not be expressed as fact in your writing. In academics we are open-minded (or at the very least neutral) to all beliefs and lifestyles, meaning all people are welcome to their individual opinions but that intolerant beliefs will not be considered fact or "the way of life" while participating in learning activities. Regardless of belief or lifestyle, all students should feel welcome in the classroom environment this semester. Email me if you have concerns or questions about this policy.
- **Participation:** You are expected to participate in class discussions and to work effectively in small group workshops. Your grade depends on consistent participation in class discussions and workshopping.

**DISABILITY STATEMENT:** You *may* be eligible for academic accommodations if you have a documented physical, psychiatric (anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, AD/HD, post-traumatic stress, or others) or cognitive disability such as a learning disability. If you have a disability and need more information regarding possible accommodations, please contact Tina Hardy at ([tina\\_hardy@ivcc.edu](mailto:tina_hardy@ivcc.edu), 815-224-0284) or stop by office C-211.

Additionally, this course is designed to support diversity of learners. I encourage you to make me aware of any barriers that may inhibit your learning. Feel free to speak to me at any time about concerns or questions you may have about assignments, activities, or assessments.

**MATURE COURSE CONTENT:** Readings may contain mature themes, subject matter, and/or language. It is not my intention to offend or disturb you, but exploring any aspect of the creative arts also means exploring the many real-life subjects authors choose to expose or express in their work. If you have any reservations about course content for personal reasons, please talk to me privately.