

Introduction to Creative Writing - Adam Sandel - Online - Fall 2024

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Required textbook: *The Creative Writing Coursebook* (Julia Bell & Paul Magrs)

Optional textbook: *5-Minute Daily Writing Prompts* (Tarn Wilson)

Supplies: An 8.5 x11" spiral notebook (two subject size) for your journal

Office Hours: Tuesday 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm via Zoom

To make an appointment, email: adamsandel@yahoo.com

Email Hours: Monday through Friday, between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm, the instructor will respond to student emails and questions within 24 hours.

In this course we'll develop creative writing skills and write imaginative works of fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry and drama.

The goal of the course is to help you develop skills for generating creative work, and express yourself with imaginative writing that's clear, detailed and meaningful. We'll focus on creative writing as a process that includes prewriting, drafting and editing.

The writing that you'll produce in this class will include: 1) written responses to reading assignments; 2) journal exercises; 3) short fiction; 4) poems; and 5) a one-act play.

Written responses: These 1-2-page responses will be due whenever we have a reading assignment. They will be graded on a scale of 1-5 points depending on the amount of thought, depth and detail that has gone into each response. They must be completed by each due date. Late and make-up responses will receive a maximum of 3 points each.

If you fail to submit three or more assignments in a row, you may be automatically dropped from the class. According to college policy, students who have not turned in any assignments within the first two weeks of class may be dropped.

Journal exercises are confidential, but can provide a great source of writing topics. They will not be read or evaluated by the instructor.

Course requirements / graded work:

Fiction: Two short stories (one of which may be creative non-fiction).

Poetry: A portfolio of four poems of various styles.

One-act play: A ten-page play in one act.

Play and poetry reading: Students will attend at least one live play **and** one live poetry reading of their choice and write a 1-2 page written response to each of the live performances.

Canvas scans all responses and essays for ChatGPT and online plagiarism. Make sure that all of your writing is written completely by you to avoid an automatic "F" in the course.

Written assignments may only be turned in once for a grade.

There are no extra credit options for this class.

All assignments must be submitted via Canvas - as Word docs or pdf files. If you compose your works in another program, be sure to convert them to either Word docs or pdf files before submitting them.

Guidelines for graded creative work: short stories, poetry portfolio and one-act play:

- **All work submitted for a letter grade must be typed** (use Times New Roman 12 pt. font) and double-spaced with 1" margins at the top, sides and bottom of the page.
- **Late work will not be accepted.** You may always submit work ahead of the due date and time. Any graded work not completed will receive a grade of zero (or "F").
- **Plan ahead.** It's a little-known fact that deadlines *cause* computers and wifi to malfunction right before the assignment is due.
- **All work must be original.** If your name is on it, you wrote it. Any instance of plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" in the course and disciplinary action will be taken by the college.
- **"The Big If"** – If you become aware that an illness or ongoing conflict *will prevent you from submitting two or more consecutive assignments*, let the instructor know **as soon as possible**. We can often work around conflicts with advance notice, but not if you simply "disappear."

Creative work grading: College level writing is characterized by excellence, not mere competence. It's assumed that all students have mastered basic English grammar. If you need additional help with basic grammar, sign up for writing lab assistance. The following breakdown should help you clarify your goals for written work:

A: Outstanding. The work engages the reader in a thoughtful, perceptive and vigorous response to the assignment. There is a clear, meaningful central idea which is supported by specific, imaginative details. No significant errors in spelling, grammar or punctuation.

B: Good. The work precisely and fully addresses the assignment in a thoughtful, well-rounded way. The central idea is supported with clear and relevant details. Consistent use of standard grammar, punctuation and spelling.

C: Acceptable. The work addresses the assignment in a thoughtful but perhaps underdeveloped way. The central idea is apparent but may not be supported by sufficient details. Errors in grammar, spelling or punctuation may distract the reader from following the writer's ideas.

D: Less than acceptable. The main idea may be unclear; support and details may be underdeveloped; and/or the work may not respond to the topic as assigned. Excessive errors in basic grammar, spelling or punctuation make it difficult for the reader to follow the writer's ideas.

Support services: Additional help is available at the following links:

Canvas Support: <https://www.deanza.edu/online-ed/help.html> (Links to an external site.)
[Links to an external site.](#)

Student Success / Tutoring / Workshops: <https://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess/> (Links to an external site.)
[Links to an external site.](#)

Online Tutoring: <http://deanza.edu/studentsuccess/onlinetutoring/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Disability Support Services: <https://www.deanza.edu/dsps/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Final Course Grading: Is based on your percentage of the total points possible.

94%-100% - A
90%-93% - A-
87%-89% - B+
83%-86% - B
80%-82% - B-
77%-79% - C+
73%-76% - C
70%-72% - C-
67%-69% - D+
63%-66% - D
60%-62% - D-
Below 60% - Fail

Student Responsibilities:

1. Purchase or order all required texts and supplies no later than the first week of class.
2. Turn in all assignments by their due dates and times.
3. Inform the instructor of any incident, situation or special circumstance that might affect your performance in class as soon as possible.
4. Set aside sufficient time in your weekly schedule to complete your reading and writing assignments. **College students are expected to spend six hours per week to do the reading and writing assignments for each class.**
5. **If you have a question, re-read the assignment or the syllabus. Chances are your answer will be there. If not, you may email the instructor at: adamsandel@yahoo.com.**
6. Take advantage of all legitimate help including tutors, libraries, handbooks, and especially, the instructor.
7. Make your performance in this class a priority. Decide that you are going to learn, know that you can succeed, and remember that with writing, it takes time and repeated effort to produce anything of value.

How to get an A: Everyone who has ever gotten an A has done everything on this list.