



Sections: ENGL 245 – 001 | ENGL 245 – 002
Location: Online Delivery via Canvas
Instructor: Daniel Ruefman, Ph.D.
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WORDS OF WISDOM

“When asked *how do you write*, I invariably answer *one word at a time*.”

– Stephen King

“If I waited until I felt like writing, I’d never write at all.”

– Anne Tyler

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to English 245: Creative Writing! Throughout this term, students will be introduced to the conventions that govern four major genres—poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, and drama. Students will utilize foundational readings to interpret and analyze the works of authors who are writing within each of the genres covered by this class, and experiment with those conventions as they draft their own works within each of the genres.

COURSE OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of literary genres and writing styles;
2. Explore the publication process by preparing work for targeted publications;
3. Develop and apply effective reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills;
4. Think creatively and analyze critically the works of established authors;
5. Hone and apply an individualized writing process to a variety of rhetorical contexts;
6. Understand and value the relationships between creativity, imaginations, and problem solving and the linguistic, artistic, and literary traditions that shape human cultures.

REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS

To succeed in this course, all students will require access to the following materials:

- *Imaginative Writing: Elements of Craft*, 3rd Edition – Janet Burroway (IRS Rental)
- USB flash drive / means of backing up all files for the term
- Regular and reliable internet access capable of streaming video lectures
- Writers notebook (physical notebook or digital notebook is fine)

COURSE POLICIES

COVID-19 Policies: Due to the ongoing pandemic, it is the responsibility of all UW-Stout community members to ensure the safety and security of everyone across campus. For these reasons, all campus visitors, students, faculty, and staff will be required to wear masks while on campus in both indoor and outdoor spaces. Although this course is online, students may need still visit campus throughout the term or require an in-person meeting with their instructors. For these reasons, everyone should remain up-to date with all campus policies regarding [COVID news and mitigation efforts](#) at UW-Stout.

Academic Misconduct: Students engaging in academic dishonesty, in any form, will be subject to disciplinary action, as outlined in [the UW-Stout's academic dishonesty policies](#). All members of this class should familiarize themselves with these policies to avoid the following penalties:

- First instance of intentional plagiarism or other forms of cheating will result in automatic failure of the assignment in question.
- A second instance of plagiarism or cheating during the term will result in the automatic failure of the student for the semester and a referral to the Dean of Students for possible disciplinary action.

Disability Accommodations: An inclusive classroom, whether online or in-person, is vital to the learning process of the entire community. For that reason, UW-Stout strives to ensure that students have full access to their course materials. However, there are times when students may require additional accommodation to empower them to realize their full potential. In those cases, students should contact disability services to ensure that instructors have the appropriate documentation, that guarantee students receive all the accommodations to which they are entitled. [Disability Services](#) is located in the Robert S. Swanson Library & Learning Center (Room 120), and may be contacted by email at disabilityservices@uwstout.edu, or by phone at 715-232-2995.

Counseling Center: In these very uncertain times, many students experience a range of issues which may make inhibit learning in some way. These issues might include any number of things, including strained relationships, anxiety, stress, substance abuse, depression, loss of motivation, grief, etc. The Counseling Center on campus is available to all students who may be experiencing personal challenges. It is free and confidential. [The Counseling Center](#) is located in Bowman Hall, Room 410. For questions or to schedule an appointment, please call 715-232-2468.

Writing Center: Students of all skill levels are encouraged to visit the Writing Center to discuss writing projects at any stage of development (including writing-intensive projects for classes other than those designated as “English”). Its primary location is in Harvey Hall, Room 174, though the center does offer tutoring services in the library and dormitories periodically throughout the term. **To schedule an appointment, or to learn more about the services offered, please call (715) 232-5284 or visit their [website](#) on the Stout Cloud Gateway.**

Email Policy: Though I would prefer to have general questions presented in the “General Inquiry” forum on Canvas, specific questions related to your personal work may be emailed to me at ruefmand@uwstout.edu. Given the nature of this course, I expect all emails to be written in a professional manner. Your email should:

- Address me by name (“Professor Ruefman” or “Dr. Ruefman”);
- Include an appropriate subject line;
- Provide a concise, formal message, free of grammatical or spelling errors;
- Close with your name, course, and section number [Jamie Smith (ENGL 245-001)].

Late Assignment Policy: Deadlines are a part of the professional world and this is a reality that every student must come to terms with. For that reason, **late assignments will not be accepted**. Often you may have an opportunity to work ahead, and students are encouraged to do so if they anticipate personal conflicts with any of the due dates.

General Inquiry Discussion Forum: To more efficiently to student questions this term, a “General Inquiry” forum can be found in the Discussion Section of Canvas. If students have a general question about a project or content covered in the class, please present that question through this forum. I will respond to these inquiries during regular office hours.

ASSIGNMENTS

Poetry Selections: Poetry is the foundation upon which all quality writing is built. Derived from the oral tradition, it is the most enduring medium of storytelling—though it continues to evolve. This term, students will write several poems, but will be expected to hand in three poems (two free-verse narrative / one form of choice) **(20 points)**.

Fiction Draft: Whether writing literary or genre fiction, students will have relatively free reign to create whatever stories they wish this term (**no Erotica or Fanfiction**). Students will write a minimum of 1,200 words of fiction this term. It may take the form of a single short story, two or more works of flash fiction, or a series of micro fiction **(20 points)**.

Nonfiction Draft: Whether writing memoirs, biographies, or essays, students will have the freedom to explore any type of nonfiction that they choose. Students will compose a minimum of 1,200 words of nonfiction this term, which, once again, may take the form of a single piece or multiple flash pieces **(20 points)**.

Drama Draft: Drama (specifically scripts and screenplays) are the type of contemporary writing that people consume the most, but perhaps the genre that most audiences think about the least. Videogames, television shows, movies, and even comic book storyboards begin most often with this form. To gain an understanding of the genre, students will compose an original 10-minute play or screenplay for the term. This piece should be dialogue driven and include some basic stage direction for context **(20 points)**.

Online Activities: Students will be expected to complete a variety of synchronous and asynchronous activities online this term. It is important to know that good writing does not happen in a vacuum. By incorporating online peer workshops, discussions, and individual conferences with the instructor, students will learn to support one another through the creative process and become better writers together **(40 points)**.

Public Readings: Readings are important in the creative process. They enable writers to test new work and gain valuable feedback. Moreover, they enable writers to promote themselves and their work, a vital skill whether they are indie authors or published by traditional presses. Students will perform a piece of original work, producing a 10-minute reading (via YouTube, Vimeo, etc.) and share that with the rest of this class. Sharing your favorite work for the term will serve as your final exam **(20 points)**.

Extra Credit: Students can receive 2 points of extra credit for each journal that they choose to submit to during this term. Remember writers fail to publish 100% of the work that they do not submit—so it is always worth a try **(up to 10 points possible)**.

GRADING

Final grades this term will be awarded according to the following scale:

A = 93-100%	B+ = 87 – 89%	C+ = 77 – 79%	D = 60-69%
A- = 90 – 92%	B = 83-86%	C = 73 – 76%	F = <59%
	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70 – 72%	