

## INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING

Fall 2015  
MW: 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM  
Academic Resource Center, LL03

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Office Hours: By appointment

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to Creative Writing is a four-credit course designed to introduce you to a range of poetry and fiction.. We will study many diverse genres and forms that, either through emulation or subversion, will serve as catalysts for our own writing.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Reading:** Required texts:

- Bluets, Maggie Nelson
- We the Animals, Justin Torres
- What the Living Do, Marie Howe

The course reading for poetry will come in the form of weekly handouts and PDF's uploaded on Sakai.

**Reading Responses:** Critically analyze and respond to the assigned readings in a one-page, typed and double-spaced response. These responses should foster meaningful and sophisticated discussions during workshop.

**Original Work:** In this course, you will be creating original work (poems and prose pieces) that will be distributed and read by your peers.

**Poetry/Fiction Readings:** I'm asking that you attend two poetry/fiction readings and write a brief description of your experience in 1-2 page responses (to be included in final portfolio).

**Final Portfolio:** Your final portfolio will include:

- a 3-5 page reflection paper (guidelines to be discussed mid-semester)
- responses to two poetry/fiction readings
- all original and revised work

**Workshop Participation:** Most importantly this is a workshop. My expectations are that you will be engaged and thoughtful participants of a workshop community. The success of every workshop relies almost exclusively on the commitment and rigor of its members.

## GRADES

Attendance/Participation	25%
Reading Responses	25%
Poems/Revisions	25%
Final Portfolio	25%

**A note on late work:** Late work will not be accepted unless you make prior arrangements with me and have an adequate need for additional time.

## COURSE ATTENDANCE AND POLICIES

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

**Absences:** You may miss a total of three classes without penalty. After three missed classes, each following absence will reduce your grade by 1/3 of a letter grade (i.e., A will become B+). You may not earn an A in the class if you miss more than three classes (excused or not).

**Lateness:** Being tardy to class twice will be counted as one absence.

If you are concerned about your attendance, please come see me.

## WORKSHOP ETIQUETTE

- Bring enough copies of your work for everyone.
- The writer will remain silent while we workshop his or her work. However frustrating, it can be useful to hear people struggling with a misunderstanding.
- The writer will be invited to speak at the end of the discussion—to raise questions that were overlooked, to respond to suggestions, or ask for clarification.
- More importantly, all participants should remain engaged and lively. Silent workshops are dreadful.
- Offer constructive criticism; harshness is useless. Being harsh to a writer only cripples him or her. On the other hand, disingenuous praise is just as dangerous. Speak your mind, but do it in a way that will help the writer.