

CRWT 2301: Introduction to Creative Writing

Section	CRWT 2301	Location	CB 1.210
Instructor	Dawn Yang	Time	MW 2:30 – 3:45 PM
Email	dawn.yang@utdallas.edu	Office Hour	Tu 1:30 – 3:00 PM via Teams, or by appointment

Course Description

An introduction to writing fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction in a workshop setting.

This course introduces students to the prose genres of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction, exploring craft techniques of writing through critical analysis of published works. In addition to these works, students will be expected to compose their own original pieces of prose and poetry and critique their classmates' writing. Students will be encouraged to experiment to develop their own style and voice.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Understand and evaluate effective use of writing craft techniques and strategies,
- Think critically about and analyze written works,
- Compose and build a portfolio of their own original works, and
- Develop effective revision strategies.

Required Texts

The below texts will be required for this course:

- Adelaide, Debra, and Sarah Attfield, eds. *Creative Writing Practice: Reflections on Form and Process*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2021.
- Bishop, Wendy, and David Starkey. *Keywords in Creative Writing*. Utah State University Press, 2006.
- Morley, David. *The Cambridge Introduction to Creative Writing*. Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Saknussem, Kris. *A Guide to Creative Writing and the Imagination*. Routledge, 2022.
- Strunk Jr., William and E.B. White. *The Elements of Style*. 4th ed., Pearson, 2000.

These texts are available online at no cost to students via the UTD Library.

There may be additional required readings as the semester progresses. Students will be notified and informed about how to access these readings at that time.

COURSE POLICIES**Attendance**

Regular and punctual attendance is expected. Attendance will be taken every day and will be calculated as part of a student's participation grade. That said, students are allotted three "free" unexcused absences; these absences have no impact on their attendance or grades. Every unexcused absence afterward, however, will result in a **10-point deduction** from their participation grade.

Excused absences will similarly not impact a student's attendance or grade. An absence may

be excused for any of the following reasons:

- Medical appointments, issues, or emergencies;
- Mandatory attendance at university-sponsored events; or
- Religious holy days, etc.

The instructor reserves the right to excuse absences for reasons other than the ones listed above.

Regardless of reason, absences will be excused **ONLY IF** documentation is emailed to the instructor within one (1) week of the absence. It is the student's responsibility to submit documentation for their absences; the instructor is not obligated to prompt or remind students. Documentation submitted past the week deadline will not be accepted, and the absence will be counted as unexcused without exception.

Students will have a 5-minute leeway after class starts before they will be counted tardy. If they do not arrive within 15 minutes of the class start time, they will be counted absent even if they arrive later. Additionally, each set of three tardies will be counted as one (1) absence. Tardies may be excused for the same reasons as absences, in which case documentation will need to be provided, or at the instructor's discretion. As with absences, documentation must be provided within one (1) week of the tardy.

Class Participation

Regular *active* participation is mandatory. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Asking and answering questions during lectures,
- Contributing to class discussions, or
- Offering critique and feedback during workshops.

Students who are distracted during class (e.g., playing on their phones or laptops, working on other class's assignments) will have their participation grade deducted at the instructor's discretion and judgment. Students who sleep during class will be marked absent for that day.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to abide by the university's policies, including that concerning academic dishonesty. For the purposes of this course, **any use of artificial intelligence (AI)**, regardless of intent, purpose, or degree, will constitute academic dishonesty. If a submitted assignment was generated by AI, either in part or in entirety, the student will be reported to the UTD Office of Community Standards and Conduct (OCSC) for plagiarism.

Communication

Students are encouraged to proactively reach out to the instructor with any questions or concerns about their assignments, grades, etc. This means reaching out *before* a given deadline.

Note, however, that per university policy, the instructor will **NOT** respond to emails sent from non-UTD email addresses. Correspondence will only be sent to students' UTD email from the instructor's UTD email or via eLearning.

Sharing Confidential Information

Students considering sharing personal information in email or in person should be aware that all University staff, faculty, teaching assistants/associates, and graduate/research assistants are

required by UT Dallas policy to report information about sexual misconduct to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Per university policy, Sexual Misconduct Policy – [UTDBP3102](#), faculty have been informed that they must identify the student to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Students who wish to have confidential discussions of incidents related to sexual harassment or sexual misconduct should contact a confidential resource, which includes, but is not limited to:

- The Student Counseling Center (972-883-2575 or the 24/7 Crisis Hotline at 972-UTD-TALK or 972-883-8255),
- A health care provider in the Student Health Center (972-883-2747),
- A clergyperson (or other legally recognized religious advisor) of their choice, or
- An off-campus resource (e.g., a rape crisis center, doctor, psychologist).

Students who are sexually assaulted, harassed, or are victims of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, or stalking, are encouraged to directly report these incidents to the Title IX Coordinator by making a [report](#) online or by calling the Title IX Coordinator at 972-883-2306. Students may also contact the [UTD Police Department \(UTDPD\)](#) for emergency assistance; criminal reporting and investigation; information or assistance regarding protective orders or forensic sexual assault exams; or to request a police escort. In case of emergency, call 911. For non-emergency situations, students can reach the UT Dallas Police Department by calling 972-883-2222. For more information about available support and resources, students can visit the [Office of Institutional Compliance \(Support Services & Resources\)](#) webpage.

GRADES

Grades in this course will be assigned on a 1,000-point scale as follows:

A+	970–1,000	A	930–969.99	A-	900–929.99
B+	870–899.99	B	830–869.99	B-	800–829.99
C+	770–799.99	C	730–769.99	C-	700–729.99
D+	670–699.99	D	630–679.99	D-	600–629.99
F	0–599.99				

Grades are earned by the student through their own efforts; they will **NOT** be rounded up for any reason.

For students who disagree with their grade, they may find procedures for student grievances in the university policy [UTDSP5005](#). In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding disputes over grades, application of degree plan, graduation/degree program requirements, and thesis/and dissertation committee, adviser actions and/or decisions, evaluations, and/or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originated.

Assignments

Assignment	(Total) Points	Percentage
Weekly journal (x10)	100	10%
Workshop (x3)	525	52.5%
Final Portfolio	175	17.5%
Participation	200	20%
	1000	100%

Late assignments will **NOT** be accepted. Exceptions may be made, but is not guaranteed, for unexpected emergencies or other such extenuating circumstances at the instructor's discretion **ONLY IF** students email the instructor within one (1) week of the missed deadline. Students may speak privately with the instructor about their late or missed assignments if they so choose, but an email must be sent as well. If no email is sent within one (1) week of the missed deadline, even if there was a verbal discussion or agreement, they forfeit the exception and will earn a 0 for the assignment.

That said, students are encouraged to request deadline extensions via email if need be. Barring emergencies, which will be determined at the instructor's discretion, emails requesting extensions must be sent at least **24 hours before** the assignment deadline to be considered. Students should explain their reason for needing the extension, keeping in mind that deadline extensions are not guaranteed.

Weekly Journal (10 points each, 100 points total)

Students will be required to submit one (1) completed original work in the same prose genre as the current unit **every Wednesday by 11:59 PM** unless otherwise stated. Creative nonfiction and fiction pieces should aim for roughly 500 words while poetry pieces should aim for 50. These pieces are to be submitted to the Weekly Journal on eLearning.

Students are allotted three (3) free "skips" for their weekly journal. This means that for any three weeks of their choice, consecutive or otherwise, students may choose to skip that week's journal without it affecting their grade.

Workshop (175 points each, 525 points totals)

Workshop grades consist of the following:

- A completed original piece (125 points), and
- Annotations and critique letters for **EVERY** workshopped piece (other than one's own; 50 points total).

Students will be required to submit a workshop piece for each unit (creative nonfiction, poetry, and fiction), of which two will be workshopped during class. Creative nonfiction and fiction pieces are expected to be approximately 6- to 10-pages long, while poetry pieces must include only one (1) poem that is at least one (1) page. Workshop pieces are to be submitted via their corresponding Turnitin link on eLearning **one (1) week BEFORE the student's chosen workshop date** or, for pieces that will not be workshopped, **one (1) week before the last workshop date**. Deadline extension requests and late submissions will **NOT** be accepted.

Annotations entail comments and notes taken by the student on the actual workshop piece itself as they read, whereas the critique letter should be a 1-page letter summarizing the student's

analysis of the piece. These annotations and critique letters are to be posted to the appropriate forum and thread in the Workshop link on eLearning by **the end of that workshop's class period**.

Final Portfolio (175 points)

Final portfolios will consist of the following parts:

- The original **AND** revised versions of one (1) workshop piece with the changes marked (125 points), and
- A statement detailing the revisions that were made and the reasons for/effects of those revisions (50 points).

Portfolios will be due **Friday, December 12 by 11:59 PM**. Because of the specific date of this deadline, the instructor is unable to provide a full week for documentation if this deadline is missed. Students will instead have until Wednesday, December 17 by 11:59 PM.

Extra Credit

Extra credit can be earned through the following ways:

- Additional journal entries after the initial 10 (10 points each, 30 points max), and
- Submitting at least one (1) work for publication (10 points each and max).

For the latter option, the work does not need to be accepted for publication in order to earn credit; the student must simply forward proof of submission to the instructor by **Friday, December 12, 11:59 PM**.

For these extra credit opportunities, there will no deadline extensions, and late submission will not be accepted for any reason.

The instructor reserves the right to offer additional extra credit opportunities throughout the semester.

COURSE CALENDAR

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course calendar at their discretion. Should a change be made, students will be notified via email and/or the announcement feature on eLearning, but an updated syllabus is not guaranteed.

For a more detailed breakdown of assignments and required readings due for a given week, students are encouraged to visit the Weekly Assignments on eLearning.

- ▶ **Week 1: Intro to Course**
- ▶ **Weeks 2: Foundation**
 - No class: Monday, September 1 (Labor Day)
- ▶ **Weeks 3–6: Creative Nonfiction**
 - No class: Wednesday, September 24
 - Workshops: September 15–October 1

- Last day to withdraw without getting a “W” on your transcript:
Wednesday, September 10 (Census Day, no approval required)

▶ **Weeks 7–10: Poetry**

- No class: Monday, October 6 and Monday, October 20
- Workshops: October 15–November 5

▶ **Weeks 11–14: Fiction**

- No class: November 24–28 (Fall Break + Thanksgiving)
- Workshops: November 17–December 3

- Last day to withdraw: Monday, November 10 (approval required)

▶ **Week 15: Revision**

- Last day: Monday, December 8
- Final portfolio due: Friday, December 12