

ENGL 2650 - Introduction to Creative Writing

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 42773,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Russell Brickey

Email: rwbrickey@ysu.edu

Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Adjunct Instructor, English

Instructor Professional Qualifications: BA (English), University of Oregon; MFA (poetry) & PhD (English Literature) Purdue University

Instructor Office Location: DeBartolo Hall, Engl. Dept. Office #220

Instructor Office Phone: 330-941-3414

Course Description

2650. Introduction to Creative Writing. Intro to Creative Writing introduces the devices, conventions, and techniques of creative writing, particularly fiction writing and poetry writing, although creative nonfiction, scriptwriting, and other formats may be included at instructor's discretion. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Haiku	Russ	
Required	What Is Poetry?	Russ	
Required	Image Selection 1 & 2	Russ	
Required	Dramatic Monologue	Russ	
Required	What is Ekphrasis	Russ	
Required	Can-Can	Vivante	
Required	Hips	Cisneros	
Required	A Good Man is Hard to Find	O'Connor	
Required	Everyday Use	Walker	
Required	Deep Breathing Exercises	Card	
Required	The Thing in the Forest	Byatt	
Required	What We Talk About When We Talk About Love	Carver	
Required	Hills Like White Elephants	Hemingway	
Required	Desert Breakdown, 1968	Wolff	
Required	The Only Traffic Signal on the Reservation	Alexie	
Required	Tomorrow and Tomorrow and So Forth	Updike	
Required	The Boy Who Grew Up	Barzak	

Almost every class period we will look at examples of either poetry or fiction or, on occasion, an author interview or essay. These are meant to provide ideas, principles, and inspiration. They will be posted on Blackboard for each day (see schedule). Please read ahead. Hopefully, you will enjoy what I have posted, and we can talk about them in class.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.



Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Tue	8/25	In Class Reading	Haiku / Syllabus	Bring your big brain
Thu	8/27	Read Selection in "What is Poetry?" & "Haiku" (Posted in Blackboard)	What is poetry anyway? 1 point	More big brain, laptop, or paper to write on
Tue	9/1	Read "Image Selection 1" (Posted on Blackboard)	Poetry of Image 1 point	Bring laptop or paper
Thu	9/3	Read "Image Selection 2" (Posted on Blackboard)	Poetry of Image 1 point	Laptop or paper
Tue	9/8	Read "Poetry of Voice" (Posted on Blackboard)	Poetry of Voice	Laptop or paper
Thu	9/10	Read "Dramatic Monologue" (Posted on Blackboard)	Poetry of Voice 1 point	Laptop or paper
Tue	9/15	Read Your Peers' Poems in Class	Workshop 5 points	Bring at least 2 original haiku & 1 longer poem (3 copies of each)
Thu	9/17	Bring in revised poems from last workshop	Workshop 5 points	Bring in revisions of haiku & longer poem for a second workshop
Tue	9/22	"What is Ekphrasis" (Posted on Blackboard)	Ekphrastic poetry 1 point	Feel free to volunteer images, musical excerpts, or other media for inspiration
Thu	9/24	Meet in the Butler Museum	Meet in the Butler Museum / find inspiration 3 points	Bring Writing Materials / Phones
Tue	9/29	Workshop Ekphrastic Poems	Workshop 5 points	Bring at least 1 poem inspired by something you found in the Butler Museum
Thu	10/1	Poems Read Aloud to Your Classmates	"Open Mike" 20 Points	Bring approximately 5 to 10 minutes of poetry to read aloud
Tue	10/6	In-Class Readings	Intro to Fiction 1 point	Laptop or Writing Paper
Thu	10/8	Read "Hips" (Posted on Blackboard)	Intro to Fiction 5 points	Laptop or Writing Paper Bring Fiction Exercises 1 & 2
Tue	10/13	Read: "A Good Man is Hard to Find" & "Everyday Use"	Plot Structure / Character 1 point	Laptop or Writing Paper
Thu	10/15	Read "Deep Breathing Exercises" & "The Thing in the Forest" (Posted on Blackboard)	Plot Structure 3 points	Bring in "Plot Breakdown" exercise
Tue	10/20	Bring in an original scene for workshop	Scene Workshop 5 points	Bring in your own scene for workshop / 2 - 4 pages (3 copies)
Thu	10/22	Read "What We Talk About When We Talk About Love" & "Hills Like White Elephants" (posted on Blackboard)	Dialogue 1 point	Laptop or Writing Paper
Tue	10/27	In Class Exercises & Examples	Dialogue 1 point	Laptop or Writing Paper
Thu	10/29	In-Class Reading	In-Class Read Aloud 5 points	Bring an original dialogue to read aloud with your classmates
Tue	11/3	Read "Desert Breakdown, 1968" & excerpts in class	Description & Character 1 point	Laptop or Writing Paper
Thu	11/5	In-class reading	Character Invention 3 points	Bring "Character Exercise"
Tue	11/10	Read "The Only Traffic Signal on the Reservation" (posted on Blackboard)	Voice (1st Person) 1 point	Laptop or Writing Paper
Thu	11/12	Read "Tomorrow and Tomorrow and So Forth"	Voice (3rd Person) 1 point	Laptop or Writing Paper
Tue	11/17	In-Class Review / Bring Draft of Story	Workshop 5 points	Review of Peers' Stories
Thu	11/19	In-Class Review / Bring Redraft of Story	Workshop 5 points	Bring Redraft of your Story
Tue	11/24	Read "The Boy Who Grew Up" (posted on Blackboard)	Barzak Story / Review / Draft Questions	Laptop or Writing Paper

Thu	11/26	THANKSGIVING	THANKSGIVING	Eat & Rest
Tue	12/1	In-Class Reading	Student Examples of Professional Writing 5 points	An Excerpt of a Published Story for Review During Class
Thu	12/3	Final Open Mike Fiction	Final Open Mike Fiction 20 points for student reader	Bring Original Story
Tue	12/8	Final Open Mike Fiction	Final Open Mike Fiction 20 points for each student reader	Bring Original Story
Thu	12/10	Final Open Mike Fiction	Final Open Mike Fiction 20 points for each student reader	Bring Original Story

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