Syllabus: WRT 287-1

Course Information

Course Title: Beginning Creative Writing Workshop in Fiction
Course Prefix/Number: WRT 287
Semester: Fall 2025
Class Days/Times: TTh 1 – 2:15 p.m.
        Options
        1. Online w/Zoom
        2. JM 02

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Darren Dillman
Contact : It is best to contact me via e-mail to arrange a time to speak via Zoom or in-person during office hours.
E-mail: ddillman@tocc.edu
Office location: WIOA Building, SCAC campus
Office hours: MW 1 – 2:30 p.m.
              TTh 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Course Description

This class will teach the craft of fiction writing in terms of mechanics, style, voice, formalism, narrative structures and other related elements, while providing a survey of past and contemporary fiction writers for understanding of literary movements both past and present. In the process, the student will be introduced to the language and ideas necessary to participate.

Student Learning Outcomes

After completion of the course students will be able to:

This course gives students an opportunity to examine a range and depth of artistic voice and imagination present in fiction. Students read from various texts to grasp a sense of the essential elements of story: character, setting, plot, point-of-view, symbolism, theme, etc. Students also apply what they learn through the generation of their own creative works of fiction.
During the course, students will:
● Explore their creative knowledge and imaginative processes, as well as those of selected writers.
● Apply personal experience, as well as their understanding of the readings and discussions to their writing development.
● Discuss and show their own creative process in the class.
● Demonstrate consistent use of the writing process and improve writing and peer-editing skills.
● Write exceptionally in the genre of short fiction.
After completion of the course students will be able to:
● Engage the writing process to produce artistic writing.
● Write imaginatively, revising scenes, paragraphs, dialogue, lines, words, etc. to best accommodate a story's content.
● Review well-known authors' literary works, gaining appreciation of the fiction genre.
● Investigate self, personal aesthetics, language, story elements, and fiction forms.
● Read, discuss, and think about fiction as a natural creative process.
● Demonstrate communication about imagination and sense of craft via self-publication or public reading.

Course Structure

The content for this course will be largely taught in the style of a writing workshop, in which students will present work and the entire class will provide feedback of a constructive nature to the student writer. Lectures will also provide demonstrations of the nature of how fiction operates with respect to the elements of voice, style, mechanics, formalism, and narrative structure. This course in the creative writing of fiction will instill a more comprehensive process of looking at one's culture and the world one inhabits, thus deepening a student's identity with that culture and their response to/from it. At least one writing assignment will ask students to write about the non-sacred wisdom behind traditional stories and/or experiences, which naturally involve students having to engage Elders' knowledge/experience for information and insight.

Course Learning Materials and Textbook Information

Materials will be taken from open sources; no textbook is needed.

Policies and Expectations

Accountability:

Evaluations and Grading & Assignments:

90 and above is an A
80 - 89 is a B
70 - 79 is a C
60 - 69 is a D
Under 60 is Failing

Your grade will be determined by the following:

Narrative Essay   ……………. 20%
Descriptive Essay   ………….. .20%
Compare-Contrast Essay …. 20%
Grammar Exam …………….. 20%

Attendance/participation …. 20%

Attendance Policy

You are expected to arrive to class on time and be prepared to participate in each class period. Four unexcused absences may result in withdrawal and a "W" or "Y" will be recorded. You may request to be excused from class for religious observances and practices, for illness, for school or work-related travel or for personal or family emergency. If you will be absent, please notify the instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity:
Violations of scholastic ethics are considered serious offenses by San Carlos Apache College. Students may consult the SCAC Student Handbook sections on student code of conduct, on scholastic ethics and on the grade appeal procedure.

All work done for this class must be your own, or the original work of your group. While you may discuss assignments with other class members, the final written project must clearly be original. You may use work from books and other materials if it is properly cited.

Instructor Withdrawals
Students who have missed four consecutive classes (or the equivalent), or have not submitted any assignments nor taken any quizzes by the 45th day census report, due on [date of 45th day found in Academic Calendar on SCAC website], are assumed NOT to be participating in the class and may be withdrawn at the faculty member's discretion.

Student Withdrawals
Students may withdraw from class at any time during the first 2/3 of the semester without instructor permission and without incurring any grade penalty. Please be sure to withdraw yourself by [withdrawal deadline date found in Academic
Calendar on SCAC website] if you do not expect to complete the class; otherwise, you may receive an "F" grade.

RESPECT

Equal Access Statement/Disability Accommodations
San Carlos Apache College seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. The College will comply with all applicable regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to ensure an equal educational opportunity. This process includes self-identifying as a student with a disability, providing supporting documentation of their disability, and being approved for services through the Disability Resources Office (DRO). It is the student's responsibility to make known to their instructor(s) the student's specific needs within the context of each class in order to receive appropriate accommodations. We will work together in order to develop an accommodation plan specifically designed to meet the individual student's requirements.

For more information or to request academic accommodations, please contact: Anthony Osborn, TOCC Disabilities Resource Coordinator, aosborn@tocc.edu, or 520-383-0033 for additional information and assistance.

Title IX
San Carlos Apache College encourages each student to have the knowledge and skills to be an active bystander who intervenes when anyone is observed or being harassed or endangered by sexual violence. Sexual discrimination and sexual violence can undermine students' academic success and quality of life on campus and beyond. We encourage students who have experienced or witnessed any form of sexual misconduct to talk about their experience and seek the support they need.

Conduct: Bias, Bullying, Discrimination and Harassment
San Carlos Apache College faculty and staff are dedicated to creating a safe and supportive campus environment as a core value. Harassment based on age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status will not be tolerated.

RESILIENCE

Incomplete Policy
Incomplete (I) grades are not awarded automatically. The student must request an "I" from the instructor who can choose to award an Incomplete only if all three of the following conditions are met:

> 1. The student must be in in compliance with the attendance policy.
> 2. The student must have unavoidable circumstance that would prohibit the student from completing the course.
> 3. The student must have completed over 75% of the course requirements with at least a "C" grade.

Incompletes are not a substitute for incomplete work due to frequent absences or poor academic performance. Incomplete grades that are not made up by the end of the ninth week of the following semester will be automatically changed to an F if the agreed upon work, as stipulated on the written form signed by the instructor and the student when the I grade is awarded, is not completed.

Special Withdrawals (Y) Grade
The "Y" grade is an administrative withdrawal given at the instructor's option when no other grade is deemed appropriate. Your instructor must file a form stating the specific rationale, with documentation, for awarding this grade. "Y" grades are discouraged since they often affect students negatively. Your instructor will not award a "Y" grade without a strong reason.

OPENNESS

Courses Outline and Important Dates

[Weekly structure, reading assignments, class projects, due date, exams, etc.
details regarding assignments, exams, projects with due dates and any instructions for work.
Make sure that you have one or more learning activities in the calendar/schedule that address each outcome. An activity can address more than one outcome.)

Faculty/Student Communication
A faculty member will respond to a student's communication within 24 hours of receiving the communication excluding weekends and college closures. If a course is online a faculty will login their Canvas classroom a minimum of three times per week spread evenly throughout the week and respond to any discussion posts and check on student progress in the course.

Course Feedback:
All assignments will be graded and returned to the students promptly, typically within a week after the assignment is closed for handing in. Email and phone messages will be returned within 24 hours. A student or the instructor may request a student conference at any time during the semester. Quarterly grade reports will be provided to each student, either in person, by email or via the electronic system of Canvas.

WISDOM

SCAC General Education Learning Outcomes

Apache Wisdom
Learning from the teachings carried on from Apache elders and other community leaders, students will appreciate their unique history, language, and culture as a source of strength for their personal, family, academic, and career aspirations.

Critical Thinking
Approach critical issues, problems, or questions using creativity and deductive reasoning, evaluating evidence, acknowledging diverse perspectives and contexts, and synthesizing one's own viewpoint into ongoing conversations and debates.

Communication
Effectively express ideas orally and in writing. Good communication includes understanding one's audience, organizing one's thoughts, acknowledging and integrating outside sources, using the most recent technology, and following the accepted writing and citation conventions of the particular discipline.

Environmental Literacy

Students will understand their connection to social, cultural, physical, and global environments. Students will consider and evaluate strategies for cultural, community and global sustainability.

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is designed to evolve and change throughout the semester based on class progress and interests. You will be notified of any changes as they occur.

EXPECTED STUDENT BEHAVIOR

1. Students should show respect to the instructor when discussing assignments, grades, or misunderstandings.

2. Students who are suspected of being under the influence during a class meeting may be asked to leave the class and may be reported to SCAC administration.

3. Students should not ask the instructor to immediately grade an essay or make any similar demands. Essays are graded as soon as time allows, and feedback is usually provided within one week, although exceptions may exist.

4. AI Policy: Grammarly is provided by the college for download by students. Students may use it to identify writing errors. **However, students must not allow Grammarly, ChatGPT, or any AI application to correct or generate any writing.** Once writing errors are identified by the app, students must make the corrections, themselves. The same applies to other forms of AI, including ChatGPT, Quillbot, Google AI, etc.