

TERM: FALL 2026

COURSE NUMBER & CATEGORY: ENGL 2105: Creative Writing for Non-Majors

COURSE TITLE: Creative Writing for Non-Majors

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: Section 3--MWF 8:00 AM – 9:10AM and Section 4--MWF 9:25AM – 10:35AM

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Michelle Bitting

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

Times of great change and upheaval inspire equal desires in us to wrangle and cultivate personal expression. In this course, students have an opportunity to read, learn, and write in a variety of forms, including Flash Prose, Prose Poems, Micro Memoir, Hybrid Forms, Flash Fiction, and Microplays as we discuss traditional and innovative approaches to short creative forms. We will read and contemplate modern and contemporary writers with an eye and ear to how they mine memory, personal experience, and current events to create work that blends and shapes new paths of literary perception, adding, in the spirit of Leo Tolstoy “our light to the sum of light.” Authors considered include Baudelaire, Ross Gay, Natalie Diaz, Gertrude Stein, Ilya Kaminsky, Ada Limon, Russel Edson, Susan Lori-Parks, Eve L. Ewing, Jean Toomer, Ocean Vuong, and more. In turn, students will demonstrate techniques observed through the writing they generate and their attention to workshopping collaboratively with fellow students. Strong focus will be on developing a foundational understanding of craft, a critical vocabulary for in-class discussion of short-form creative writing, and a sense of connection to vital personal, cultural, and political forces of the past and present. Students will respond to in-class exercises and prompts designed to develop flow, innovation, and depth. Craft talks, journaling, in-class writing exercises, workshops, anthology examples, theoretical writings, and single author spotlights stimulate critical discussion and inspire new student work.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, students will be able to identify and apply the key principles of writing in various forms of creative writing such as Flash Prose, Miniatures, Micro Memoir & plays, Hybrid Forms, and Prose Poems. They will also be able to identify and describe various styles, structures, and modes of Creative Writing and apply this knowledge in both classroom critique and revision. They will be able to identify, describe, and apply important elements like voice, image, detail, figurative language, “plot” and compression in the writing of authors studied, as well as in their classmates’ and their own individual work.

CLASS LEVEL RESTRICTION:

N/A

RECOMMENDED/PREREQUISITES:

N/A

CORE ATTRIBUTES:

Creative Experience (ECRE)