Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
English 4330.001, Creative Writing Workshop

TR 11:00 am-12:15 pm, OCNR-250
3 hrs. credit
Office Hours: MW 3:30-5:30 pm, TR 10-11 am
& by appointment

Dr. Robb Jackson
257 Faculty Center
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Spring Semester 2013

Course Description
You will gain practical experience in the craft of writing poetry and short fiction in an informal workshop setting. You will learn how to accept and use (or reject) the criticism of your peers, and finally you will increase your skills as a useful critic of the work of others. The course is open to all majors.
Prerequisites: English 2232-2235 (one sophomore lit), English 3362, Techniques of Creative Writing, or my permission.

Course Materials
• Resources to make photocopies for everyone in the class of what you submit to the workshop.
• Resources to buy a copy of the class magazine at the end of the semester.

Student Learning Objectives
Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to
• critique the work of their peers, using specific, helpful, and appropriate critical language;
• revise their own work, using written and oral critical comments from their peers;
• produce a portfolio of original work that demonstrates a clear writing process for each included piece, from early draft to the draft submitted to the workshop to the final revised version.

Course Requirements
While this isn't a class that calls for tests, papers, or other, more usual academic evaluation methods, it does ask of you a high degree of professionalism. You will be expected to be in class on time at the start of each class period, to do every assigned reading and to be fully prepared to discuss every piece of your peers' submitted work throughout the semester, whatever else is going on in your life! A workshop only works if all its participants are willing to give, and to be engaged with the group at all times.

• You will submit pieces to the workshop three times during the semester, one time in each of three separate “rounds.” Each time you come up, you will submit a maximum of fifteen pages of prose (double-spaced) or one long poem or one to three shorter poems. Don’t submit too much, don’t submit work that you have not written, and don’t submit a piece of work that you don’t genuinely want feedback on.
• You must provide copies for each class member **no later than** one class period before your work is to be considered. (All drafts must be computer-generated.) If you are scheduled for a Thursday, and you are intending to present a long prose piece, it would be a courtesy to bring your copies to class the Thursday before, rather than waiting till the Tuesday. You will also get better feedback if you do this.

• You will also be a primary respondent **three** times during the semester; i.e., you will be responsible for starting the discussion of a submitted piece of work by giving us your carefully considered evaluation of the piece.

• You must respond in writing to **all** works submitted to the workshop, **even if you miss class**. **If you miss class, you are responsible for securing the work for the next workshop, not me!**
  • All responses must be done **before** class, though you may add to them in class if you have further thoughts.

• You should respond on the work itself, both by jotting notes where appropriate on the text itself, and by writing an endnote suggesting strengths and weaknesses, possible avenues of revision, etc. Please assume that what you are reading is a work-in-progress, and that the author wants helpful feedback.

• Whether you “like” or identify with the subject matter of your peers’ works is not really important. It’s your comments on the more practical and/or technical aspects of the submitted piece(s) that will most help the author revise. The weight of our discussions will be on construction and effect, not on the (un)suitability, political slant, personal value, therapeutic nature, implied insult, etc., of the content.

• **All responses must** be signed.
  • These responses should be handed to the author after we have considered his/her piece. The author must give these responses back to me in the next class period, so I can record them. I will then return them to the author.
  • Points will be assigned as follows: 2=good, 1=ok, 0=not done or late.

• You are expected to attend every class, and to be there on time, unless you have a remarkably good excuse. If you do miss a class, *you* are responsible for finding out what you missed, *and* for getting hold of the pieces for the next class. If, without notifying me in advance, you do not turn up to class on the day your work is to be discussed, or on the day you are to be a primary respondent, you will lose 5 points off your final grade.

• Any form of plagiarism will result in an automatic 'F' and expulsion from the class.

• We will assemble a class magazine at the end of the semester, to which you will be expected to contribute both a piece (or pieces) of writing and time & effort. You will also be expected to buy a copy of the magazine.

• At the end of the semester, you will submit a portfolio of original work to
me, which must have been written, or at the very least extensively revised, during this semester, and which must contain
* both fiction and poetry,
* drafts and revisions,
* all your workshop pieces, in original and revised forms.

Portfolio guidelines will be distributed well before the end of the semester.

Attendance
I expect you to attend all class/workshop sessions. You can miss two without excuse (so long as you are not a primary respondent or author), but I will deduct 2 points from your final course grade for each additional absence thereafter. You are responsible for securing copies of authors’ drafts, etc. on your own, and for keeping up with the responses you missed during your absences.

Grading Policy
Although I expect everyone to participate in class and in the class magazine and authors’ tea, you will be graded primarily on your portfolio and on your responses, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writer's portfolio</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written responses</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final grades will be assigned with absolutely no exceptions whatsoever as follows:

- 100-90 = A
- 89-80 = B
- 79-70 = C
- 69-60 = D
- Below 60 = F

Reminder to English Majors
As part of the English undergraduate capstone course (ENGL 4351), all English majors are required to submit a portfolio of writings in different discourse genres that they have completed for their college classes. To help you prepare for this assignment, you should keep a copy of all essays, research papers, literary analyses, creative and report writing, etc., so that you will have an ample selection from which to choose when the portfolio comes due.

Academic Advising
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

Students with Disabilities and Veterans
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities.
If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom, or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance.

**Grade Appeal Process**

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Syllabus Spring 2013**

**Week 1**
- **January 24/R**
  - Course introductions.
  - Suggested creative writing techniques and materials—1.
  - Sign up for Round 1 of the Workshop.

**Week 2**
- **January 29/T**
  - Suggested creative writing techniques and materials—2.
  - Bring copies of work for Round 1, Workshop 1, for next class

- **January 31/M**
  - Begin Round 1, Workshop 1.

**Weeks 3-15**
- Workshop Sessions
  - Begin Round 2 Workshops when Round 1 has been completed (meaning each author has submitted to the workshop once and each workshop member has been a primary respondent twice).
  - Begin Round 3 Workshops when Round 2 has been completed (meaning each author has submitted to the workshop twice and each workshop member has been a primary respondent twice).

**Week 16**
- **May 7/T**
  - Last Class—Authors’ Tea (Magazine Distributed)
  - Portfolio Due Friday, 10 May, 3:00 pm @ FC257 (Robb’s office)