

Dr. Nimi Finnigan

Office: Zoom Office Hours Preferred (See Blackboard) or Use Google Voice Number to get in touch with me.

Mon/Wed (9:00-9:30 am & 12:15-1:00 pm & 2:15-3:00 pm)

Tues/Thus (2:15-3:00 pm)

Friday: (9:00-11:30 am)

Office Phone: (806)-716-2733

Google Voice Cellphone: (806) – 341 – 9122

Text me via the Remind App.

Email: nfinnigan@southplainscollege.edu

Course Website: Blackboard

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ENGLISH 2307

Section

200

*

Creative Writing

*Dear Students, Please Note: The course schedule/calendar is subject to change. The instructor will notify the class of any changes within a sufficient time frame. **It is the student's responsibility to take note of the changes in the courses in terms of both policy and calendar deadlines.***

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides practical experience in the techniques of imaginative writing and may include fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, screenwriting, or other genres.

Prerequisites:

- ENGL 1301

COURSE CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED

- Communications skills—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- Critical thinking skills—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Teamwork—to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Personal Responsibility—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Be able to read literary texts carefully and analyze them with precision
2. Demonstrate familiarity with the literary vocabulary of poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and/or drama, such as abstract/concrete language, alliteration, assonance, couplet, diction, figurative language (including simile and metaphor), personification, image, line, rhyme, stanza, antagonist, protagonist, setting, character, plot, climax, conflict, tone, irony, symbolism, dialogue, epiphany, flashback, foreshadowing, point of view (first, second, third person), etc.
3. Have composed and revised several original literary texts that demonstrate expertise in ideas, organization, genre-specific elements, style, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and grammar/ spelling/punctuation conventions.
4. Be able to critique their own work and the work of other workshop members in an articulate, specific, and professional manner

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5. Have created a final writing portfolio showcasing a significant body of publication-class works across various writing forms.
6. Students will discover classic and contemporary writers as well as their many technical and innovative contributions to the craft of writing.
7. Students will gain a beginning knowledge of publication trends and guidelines (including how and where to submit their writing).

COURSE EVALUATION

Students will complete the following assignments:

Write poetry

Write creative nonfiction prose

Write one flash-fiction piece

Participate in the Workshop Process with verbal and written commentary for their peers

Put together an end of the semester Portfolio to showcase their work

Memorize one poem

Write response papers to the assigned readings.

COURSE MATERIALS

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS & SUPPLIES

- Whelan, Bridget. *Back to Creative Writing School*. New edition: 30 exercises to get you to write. Bridget Whelan, 2013.
- A comprehensive dictionary or collegiate dictionary (such as *The American Heritage Dictionary* or *Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary*).
- A notebook to write in
- Access to a computer with internet access and a printer

DETAILED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance & Participation

- In this particular course, attendance is non-negotiable. It is a must.
- Students need to be present in class and need to share their critical opinions of peer's work as well as the assigned readings
- In-class writing exercises will take place during each class period.
- 15% of grade

Workshop

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- Workshop Submission
 - Students will submit writing in response to prompts handed out by the instructor. Students will be divided into two groups (A & B) whose work will be alternatively reviewed in class. All students are required to comment on their peers' work on paper, however only the indicated group (A or B) will have their work discussed in class during workshop. If time permits, both group A and B will be workshopped during the same class session.
 - Students will write poems, creative nonfiction essays, and flash-fiction.
- Workshop Commentary
 - Verbal and written commentary is mandatory for all students and their peers.
- Requirements for Workshop submissions:
 - Workshop assignments must be typed and students are responsible for bringing the proper amount of copies of their work for everyone in the class including the instructor.
 - Prose piece must be double spaced in a 12-point font with one-inch margins on all sides.
 - (Please make sure that your name, the course number, the name of the instructor and the date are present in the upper left-hand corner. Title page not necessary)
- Workshop Etiquette:
 - The members of any writers' group should try to understand each other's aesthetic goals; they should also appreciate and praise what each member does well. Any student who disrespects another student will be asked to leave the class (and will be marked as absent). Having said that, your responsibility as a member of this class is to improve your abilities and to grow as a writer. Therefore, any student who repeatedly refuses advice and staunchly defends his/her work rather than listening and learning from other readers will lose participation points (a great number of participation points given the fact that the whole point of this class is workshop and writing intensive!)
- 50% of course grade.

READING RESPONSES

- Students will complete several responses papers to the assigned readings.
- Students will complete quizzes and/or activities related to the readings and craft terminology.
- 10% of course grade.

RECITATION

- Students will memorize one poem and recite it for the class whenever they feel they are ready as long as it happens before the last class meeting.
- 5% of course grade.

FINAL PORTFOLIO

- Students will turn in a writing portfolio which includes:
 - A Reflection Statement

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- All of your official work for the semester.
- A fully revised creative nonfiction essay
- Two fully revised poems.
- One new essay or three new poems inspired by the writing prompts
- Extra-Credit: Opportunities for extra-credit will be discussed in class.
- 20% of course grade

PARTICIPATION GRADE (extra-credit)

- Students who actively participate in class and during workshops may receive an additional 2-3 points. It is up to the discretion of the instructor.
- Additional participation grade assignments may be suggested throughout the semester.

GRADE/POINT BREAKDOWN

- Attendance/participation (15%)
- Workshop (50%)
- Reading Responses (10%)
- Recitation (5%)
- Final Portfolio (20%)

TOTAL PERCENTAGE – 100

A RANGE 90 – 100: Document exemplary. It exceeds assignment objectives. No revisions necessary.

B RANGE 80 – 89: Document is good. It meets assignment objectives. Minor revisions are necessary.

C RANGE 70 – 79: Document is satisfactory but marginal. It does not meet all assignment objectives. Revisions are necessary.

D RANGE 60 – 69: Document is unsatisfactory. It meets few of the assignment objectives. Major revisions are necessary.

BELOW 60 -> F: Document is unacceptable. It does not meet assignment objectives. Major revisions are necessary.

All of these margins are strict margins. This means that 89.8% does not get you an A. You need 90% to be in the A range. **No exceptions.**

COURSE POLICIES

SIGNING UP FOR REMIND

All students need to sign up for Remind (through Remind.com) which will send class updates/notifications directly to your phone. Instructions will be given in class on how to register for the notifications. This will keep you updated on any changes to the class schedule and/or location, reading list, and any class cancellations.

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GRADING TIME FRAMES

When your assignments are evaluated, you will have them back and a grade will appear on Blackboard. **Please do not inquire as to whether or not your assignments are graded.**

LATE WORK

Because we have workshop sessions, **late work is not accepted**. If for any reason, you will miss your workshop session, contact me immediately. Be aware that accommodations might not be possible. This will result in a loss of points.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Role is taken every day.
- Students are allowed to miss **one week** of class without penalties. This means 3 class periods for Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes and 2 class periods for Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday classes. Except workshop sessions. Students need to be present for their workshop slot.
- Additional Absence: may result in an F grade if instructor is not informed of the student's situation. Reasons for absence need to be discussed with instructor, and ultimately, student's grade is at the discretion of the instructor.
- Absences due to religious observance will not affect course grade.
- All excused absences require documentation and are still subject to instructor's approval.
- Excessive absences or tardiness will result in the student being dropped from the class.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

- No food is allowed whilst the class is in session. Beverages are permitted.
- The use of any electronic device is prohibited in class unless the student requires electronic media in order to perform academically. If student uses either cell phone, laptop, or other electronic media (i.e. ipod, media player, pagers) instructor reserves the right to require that the student leave the classroom. In that event, the student is automatically considered absent, thus his/her assignment is considered not turned in for that class period.

VISITING DURING OFFICE HOURS: PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTACT.

Students are encouraged to come see me in my office during the hours listed above. Those hours are reserved for answering your questions & concerns, so please do feel invited to stop in and voice any questions or concerns.

I also **prefer** meeting and visiting with students in person. If you can't make my office hours, let's try and arrange for an appointment at another time that works for both of us.

Important Note about Office Hours and/or Appointments with Instructor:

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These meetings are important for both you and I, but most importantly for you. There are times when I may be running late. Please be patient. If we made an appointment, I will always honor that appointment.

If I can't make it, there will be an announcement on the course website and/or an email sent to you, or there will be an announcement posted on my door. I will also send out a notification through Remind.

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Keep in mind that email is **not** my preferred method of contact. I prefer face-to-face interactions, zoom visits and/or phone calls.

Keep in mind that this is **not** my preferred method of contact.

If you need to contact me via email, you may do so at my primary email address at South Plains Email.

- Netiquette: I expect students to use professional language and tone in all communications with me, including in emails. To this end, emails should clearly **identify who the sender is, what course they are taking, present proper grammar, include salutations**, and should be void of vernacular turn of phrases or “texting” expressions.
- Emails that do not follow proper netiquette will most likely not be answered.
- Given that I prefer face-to-face interactions, students are encouraged to come and speak to me after class.
- Students are responsible for checking their South Plains email regularly.
- **Please make sure that your email includes your full name and section number and/or class meeting times.** I teach several sections and that information will allow me identify your account more quickly.
- Please wait between 24-48 hours before expecting a response to your submitted email.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

“It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension” (SPC General Catalog, pp. 21-22). "Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of whatever length as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers" (SPC General Catalog, p. 22). Students should consult the General Catalog on p. 23 for the college's detailed policies on plagiarism and cheating. Failure to comply with these policies will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant it.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;

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3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Giving an in-text citation only at the end of a paragraph.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records; or
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of this instructor not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnicity/ethnic background, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY

In this class, the instructor will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world, and about ourselves.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

CAMPUS CONCEALED CARRY

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Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the SPC policy at: (http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.php). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

TITLE IX PREGNANCY ACCOMODATIONS STATEMENT

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact Chris Straface, Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email cstraface@southplainscollege.edu for assistance.

Note: **The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies**, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

COVID-19 POLICIES

Covid-19: It is the policy of South Plains College for the Fall 2020 semester that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the SPC community. These requirements are necessary because not everyone who is contagious exhibits symptoms of infection. Students who feel ill should follow University and health care provider guidelines for evaluating their health status, both to ensure the best health outcome for the student and also to limit transmission of COVID-19. However, even students who do not exhibit symptoms must abide by these face covering and social distancing rules at all times while on campus. The full "Return to Campus Plan, Fall 2020" may be found at

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/emergency/SPCReturnToCampusPlans.pdf>

Face masks: all students will properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings while in SPC buildings including in classrooms, labs, hallways, and restrooms. Face masks need to be worn so as to cover both the student's nose and mouth. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Dean of Students on the Levelland campus or the Dean/Director of external centers for Student Code of Conduct Violation.

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Accommodations: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations do not require or allow the college to alter operating policy as an accommodation. Anyone with concerns regarding health and the face covering policy may contact DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN at 806-716-2376 to request a reasonable accommodation. Reasonable accommodations may include allowing a person to wear a scarf, a loose face covering, or face shield instead of a face mask, offering appointments by telephone or video calls, or offering enrollment in online courses.

Personal Hygiene: All students are encouraged to implement good hygiene measures such as washing hands regularly, using hand sanitizer, and covering coughs/sneezes. Hand sanitizing stations will be installed across all SPC locations.

Social Distancing: Face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing. Students shall observe CDC approved distancing guidelines in all instructional spaces, both indoors and outdoors. Students should avoid congregating around instructional space entrances before and after class sessions. Students should exit the instructional space immediately after the end of class to help ensure social distancing and to allow for those attending the next scheduled class session to enter.

Exposure: If you believe that you have been exposed to COVID-19, you should remain off campus. Contact your instructor or Health Services, DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN. If you are tested positive, please contact Health Services, DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN at 806-716-2376 or dedens@southplainscollege.edu for quarantine guidance.

Attendance: If you test positive for Covid-19, you will not be penalized for absences as long as you've submitted appropriate documentation. However, you will still need to turn in all assignments in a responsible manner and keep up with the rest of the class.

TO BE ONLINE OR NOT TO BE ONLINE?

There is a possibility that our course may transition to being fully online at some point during the semester if we receive an official mandate to do so.

In such an event, we will go to synchronous online classes. This basically means that your schedule will not change. We will still be meeting during our regular class times, but everyone will be on their respective online devices.

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SYLLABUS AS CONTRACT:

Blackboard. Please note that Blackboard is used for this course.

Email. You **must use your South Plains Email** account for the course. This is not accessed through Blackboard. There will be a demonstration on how to access your South Plains email on the first day of class. All electronic communication will be through your South Plains email.

Sign up for Remind @Remind.com. This is an integral tool for the course. I will send out announcements such as class cancellations, due dates, change of schedule via Remind. If you do not sign up for it, you understand that you are still responsible for the material/announcement included in the message.

Netiquette. Please send emails that are written appropriately, correctly punctuated and free of grammar errors. Respect proper conventions when sending out emails. This shows respect.

Responsibility. This is a college course. You are responsible for your actions, for the level of effort you put into the course, and for your performance.

Assignments. Paragraphs/Essays/Exams are typically graded within 17-21 days from date of submission, but this is not a guarantee. There is no need to inquire about your assignment until 17-21 days have passed from the date of on-time submission.

Grade. Make sure that you understand how you will be graded in this course and how the grading system works.

Textbook. It is your responsibility to have the proper edition of the textbook. If you choose to use another textbook, it is your responsibility to figure out how you are going to complete your assignments. **(If you are signed up for Inclusive Access, this clause about textbooks does not apply to you)**

Participation Grade. Doing additional work/more exercises than the ones assigned is encouraged and will definitely help your progress in the course; however, this does not entitle you to more participation points. The rules for participation points stand as defined in the syllabus.

Covid-19 Policies. Make sure that you understand and are willing to follow the course and SPC's rules/requirements regarding any issues related to covid-19.

Your signature at the bottom of this contract (or an email to me via course messages on Blackboard with the sentence at the bottom included) signifies that you have read and agree with all of the points/elements in the syllabus as well as outlined in the Highlight Points. Turning in this signed form counts as a participation grade.

I have read and agree to abide by all of the policies outlined/discussed in the syllabus for this course.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Complete Section number or the Day & Time of class: _____