

English 2307- Creative Writing  
Syllabus

**Instructor:** Steve Sanders

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**Remind.com:** text @\_\_\_\_\_ to 81010 to receive news about the course (*Required*)

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**Office Hours:** 8:10-9:30 AM MTW;  
2:15-3:00 PM (by appointment only);  
5:00-6:00 PM TH; 8:-11: Fri

**Course Description:**

The purpose of English 2307 is to allow students to build their creative writing skills through the composition, critique, and revision of various forms of creative writing. Students will understand and apply the standards of those genres in their own compositions.

**Required Texts**

1. Any other text not mentioned here will be given to the students in class.

**Prerequisite:** International students who do not have a TOEFL score of 550 must enroll in ENGL 0301 or 0302 or ESOL 0301 or 0302.

**Credit:** 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 0

**Required Supplies:**

Access to computer with printer and Internet access, Google Docs usage required (official S.P.C. email, username, and password - OR - Gmail account required)

**This course satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement:** Yes—Communication Foundational Component Area

**Core 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.

**Course Purpose:**

The purpose of English 1302 is to help students compose works acceptable for publication.

**Student Learning Outcomes (A):**

1. Identify and analyze the major elements of various genres.
2. Compose publication-class works.
3. Critique other writers' works.
4. Skillfully use critique of own work for its improvement.

### **Course Requirements (B):**

1. Be on time and regularly attend class (See "Attendance Policy")
2. Be responsible for the learning process, including preparation for class, such as reading and homework; participation in class discussions, including asking relevant questions; getting assignments and/or notes if absent; and accepting responsibility for not understanding an assignment or failing an assignment
3. Be responsible for having an appropriate attitude and using appropriate language in academic environments; not use condescending, inflammatory or profane rhetoric, whether verbally or in written form, in academic environments
4. Have respectful behavior toward instructor and classmates in order to contribute to the atmosphere necessary for learning
5. Be responsible for courteous actions to others, *especially by putting away cell phones* and other distractions while in class
6. Be responsible for writing down all grades and applying them to the grading scale used for the class, which is shown in the course's policy statement/syllabus
7. Submit all assignments in accordance with due dates, formats, and requirements
8. Avoid all forms of cheating and plagiarism on all assignments, including improper collaboration
9. Ask questions when something is unclear.

### **Methods of Evaluation**

1. Students will complete one 1,500-10,000 word short story.
2. Students will complete five poems (for a total of 70 lines).

### **Workshops**

1. Each student must have a copy of the assigned composition for each of the workshop groups ready on the day of the workshop.
2. Each student must be kind, considerate, and honest in their critique. (It is possible to be all three at the same time.)
3. Each student must receive criticism with professionalism and class.
4. Each student must read and give comments on all poems in their workshop group.

### **Rough Drafts**

1. There must be substantial, substantive revision between the rough draft(s) and the final draft.
2. Writers are not required to use critiques from workshop groups when revising.
3. Writers are highly encouraged to pay attention to critiques and use what they feel is useful.
4. Rough drafts must be typed. (Final drafts, of course, must be typed).

### **Composition Foci:**

1. Central Idea
2. Organization
3. Sentence Structure
4. Diction
5. Mechanics
6. Creativity/Originality

### **Grades**

Daily Grades (30%): rough drafts

Major Grades (70%): finished compositions, Final Reading

### Due Dates

All assignments are due on the days listed on the syllabus calendar. **Late assignments (no matter the reason) will not be accepted.** If, for some odd reason, the calendar must be changed, then it will be noted in class.

### *Compositions*

All compositions are due on the dates on the course calendar. No final draft of an essay will be accepted without its planning work and rough draft.

### *Final Reading*

Attendance of and participation in the final reading is required. The only exception is an illness accompanied with a physician's note, in which case an additional essay exam will stand in for the reading's grade.

### Extra Credit (optional)

- Walk an animal for an hour at the Levelland Animal Shelter (109 Commerce Street at the Levelland Industrial Rail Park) to have an one (1) absence excused. Take a picture with a volunteer or employee at the shelter as proof of your hour and submit via email to sanders.spc@gmail.com.

### Grading Policy

A = 90 - 100

B = 80 - 89

C = 70 - 79 (Class credit is only given for a grade of "C" or above.)

D = 60 - 69

F = 59 or below

### Class Attendance Policy

Students in English 2307 are expected to be on time. *If you are late to class, then you are considered absent* but will be allowed to stay in class and submit assignments due that day for full credit. If you are late to class and choose to stay, please enter quietly and take your seat.

If you pack up and leave before class is dismissed for the day, then you will be counted absent.

**After four (4) absences, you will be dropped from the class with a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor.**

Note: Official South Plains College-related absences will not count towards being dropped from the class, though one must submit to me official, signed documentation from S.P.C. for the absence on the day of your return.

*Any other absence* will count towards being dropped from the class.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

**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 Special Services Office early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. The instructor should also be notified. Students requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of the disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in the Student Services Building, 894-9611 ext. 2529, 2530, in Levelland, or the Special Services Office in rooms 113C and 112, Reese Center building 1, 885, 3048 ext. 4654 for students at Reese or the Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center (ATC).

**Statement of Nondiscrimination**

It is the policy of this instructor not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation. This instructor will comply with federal, state, and professional equal opportunity regulations.

**Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations 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](mailto:cstraface@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

**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.

**Diversity Policy**

In this class, the instructor will endeavor to 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 participants to learn about others, about the larger world, and about themselves.

**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.

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

- 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;
- Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
- Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
- Missing in-text citations.

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

- Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
- Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
- Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
- Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
- Taking an examination for another;
- Altering grade records;
- Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
- Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
- Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

#### **Syllabus Calendar**

All the due dates for work are on the course calendar. And, while the due dates probably will not be moved, the teacher reserves the right to make changes to the calendar because of unforeseen events and the havoc they might wreak upon the schedule. In most cases, though, refer to the calendar for the dates assignments are due. If you don't know the day any given assignment is due, then ask the teacher.

#### **Course Calendar**

**Bold** and *italicized* assignments in parentheses are due *on the day* for which they are listed. Unscheduled quizzes are a possibility for each reading assignment.

#### **Email Policy:**

Due to privacy concerns, the teacher will not discuss grades through email. If you would like to talk about your grades or assignments, please make an appointment (using email, if necessary) for this purpose. (See the teacher schedule at the beginning of the syllabus.)

#### **Cell Phone Policy**

- Please turn your phone to silent/no-vibration while in class.
- Please do not answer your phone during lecture or discussion time.
- Please do not text during lecture or discussion time.
- All mobile devices are to be put away during quizzes and tests.
- If non-adherence to this policy becomes consistent and/or constant, you will be asked to leave the class and be assigned an absence for each infraction.

*\*\*I realize emergency situations occur. Please let me know before class if you are expecting an important message or call, and exit the room in order to answer your device.*

**Campus Concealed Carry syllabus statement:**

Campus Concealed Carry - 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](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.

English 2307 Rigor Agreement

English 2307 is a college-level course. It, by definition, will move faster, be more rigorous in testing and grading, and will require considerably more study time outside the classroom than high school courses. The following list of study techniques is highly recommended for understanding the content of the course with the goal of demonstrating the content through discussion, assignments, and testing:

1. Study groups;
2. Extensive note taking;
3. Daily at-home composition;
4. Reading ahead;
5. Taking notes at home over the reading assignment;
6. Participating in class discussion;
7. Asking questions if you do not understand; and
8. Attending tutorials if you do not understand.

If you are not willing to undertake *all* of these suggestions, then expect to do worse (considerably worse) than your high school courses.

I have read the above statement, and I understand the above statement applies to me and my enrollment in English 2307.

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Name (printed)

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Signature

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Date