"The universe is made of stories, not of atoms.” — Muriel Rukeyser

Welcome to An Introduction to Creative Writing!

Grading
You have three options:
1) No Grade Requested (this is the default option).
2) Credit/No Credit: Your attendance will determine your grade.
3) Letter Grade: Your attendance, participation, and submitted work will account for 100% of your grade. Over the course of the quarter you should plan to turn in one significant piece for workshop.

Course Work
Reading: Over the span of 6 weeks, students will read a wide variety of poems, essays and stories and participate in lively discussions on the assigned text. Students should expect to read approximately one-two stories/essays or up to five poems a week.

Writing
Students will have the opportunity to turn in one significant piece of writing in their preferred genre. New work will be generated by in-class exercises and assigned prompts. Most writing will be done outside of the classroom, with class time used for discussion and workshop. Though, there will be some in-class writing exercises. Students should come prepared each week with pen and paper and the required texts. By the end of the course, students should have completed a portfolio of one short story, one personal essay, and two poems.

Workshop
A writing workshop is meant to support one another’s efforts with positive and critical feedback. Students will gain knowledge about their own work by listening to feedback and through their own careful consideration of the work of others. On scheduled workshop weeks, students will post their new work to Canvas where the rest of the class can access and print them for workshop. Each student will receive written comments back from their peers and instructor.

Text

Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft (Fourth Edition)
Janet Burroway
Preliminary Syllabus

Week 1

Introductions to each other!
Introduction to Craft Elements
Experimenting with Language: Writing Exercises

Week 2

Writing Poetry
Chapter 9 pg. 309-325

Week 3

Writing Fiction: The Short Story
Chapter 8 pg. 273-282

Week 4

Creative Nonfiction: The Personal Essay
“When the Other Dancer is the Self” by Alice Walker (Pg. 50), “Goodbye to All That” by Joan Didion (Handout), “Red Sky in the Morning” by Patricia Hampl (pg. 173)

Week 5

CLASS WORKSHOP

Week 6

CLASS WORKSHOP