

Course Title: Creative Writing Workshop I  
Course Code: ENGL 331 / COMM 331  
Credit Hours: 3  
  
Location: Classroom 1, Main building  
Instructor: George Crane or Barry Tagrin  
Email: geo.crane@gmail or hisa@paros-island.com  
Office Hour: by appointment  
Office location: by appointment

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## Syllabus

### Course Description:

Creative Writing Workshop is an intensive interactive course designed to encourage writers to discover and experiment with their own voices. This course will assist the student's exploration into the realm of his/her own creative resources, away from the dependence on learned voices or weighty impressions of "great writers," through performing spontaneous writing exercises in class, experimenting with persona, voice, and character.

### Course Structure:

Each week students will submit new writing for open, non-judgmental critique and will discuss in a small workshop setting the ideas and feelings they possess about writing and how it relates to their lives. Questions on "craft" will be examined from different points of view, and no hierarchy of style or manner will be imposed.

### Course Requirements:

- Complete weekly out-of-class writing assignments
- Actively participate in class readings and discussions
- Self-Reflection Folder, containing a notebook of writing sketches and an organized set of items (poems, cutouts, drawings, journal entries, etc.) that express self-discovery and/or the writing experience
- Final course manuscript of prose/poetry
- One Public Reading at the end of term

## Course Objectives

- To encourage the *practice* of writing as a means to achieve a natural and unique voice.
- To improve the skill of critiquing one's own work and the work of others, as well as of accepting well-intentioned criticism.
- To explore the view that writing is a process of self-discovery.
- To experiment with persona, voice and character through writing exercises designed for this purpose and by studying the works of various writers.
- Practicing and experiencing reading in public.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Have more confidence in their writing than at the beginning of the course;
- Be able to write from their own voice and from their own experience;
- Have learned the importance of writing practice and many techniques and habits necessary to keep practicing their writing;
- Have measurably improved their skills in editing/honing writing;
- Be able to articulate their relationship to the art of creative writing, and how it helps a person become more knowledgeable about themselves; and
- Be able to read their work in public with some degree of confidence.

**Grading** Evaluation is based upon students'

- Class participation and discussion on reference texts: 10%
- Weekly writing assignments: 40%
- Daily journal (Self-reflection folder): 10%
- Final course manuscript: 40%

## Grading Scale, Attendance and Make-up, Academic Integrity and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policies:

See HISA's policy sheet attached.

### Reference Texts and Readings

- *In the Palm of Your Hand: A Poet's Portable Workshop, 2nd Ed.*, by Steve Kowitz
- *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk and E.B. White's
- *Art of Memoir* by Mary Karr
- *The Situation and the Story: The Art of Personal Narrative* by Vivian Gornick
- *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* series
- *Poems, poets, poetry* by Helen Vendler

### Bibliography of Reference Materials

- Cameron, Julia, *The Artist's Way*, New York: Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam, 1992.
- Campbell, Ann Gibaldi. *Virginia Woolf's Coming to Writing*, Diss. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1999.
- Crane, George, *Bones of the Master: A Journey to Secret Mongolia*.
- Gilbert, Jack, *The Great Fires: The Poems, 1982-1992*.
- Goldberg, Natalie, *Writing Down the Bones*, Boston: Shambhala Publications, 1986.
- Gregg, Linda, *All Of It Singing: New and Selected Poems*.
- Komunyahaa, Yusef, *Dien Cai Dau*, Wesleyan University Press, 1988.
- Lamott, Anne, *Bird by Bird*, New York: Doubleday, 1994.
- Levine, Philip and Coulette, Henri (eds.), *Character and Crisis; a Contemporary Reader*, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1966.
- Luhan, Mabel Dodge and Stein, Gertrude, *A History of Having a Great Many Times Not Continued to Be Friends: The Correspondence Between Mabel Dodge and Gertrude Stein, 1911-1996*, Patricia R. Everett (ed.), Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1996.
- Milosz, Czeslaw, *A Book of Luminous Things*, New York: Harcourt Brace, 1996.
- Nelson, Cary (ed.), *The Oxford Anthology of Modern American Poetry*, Oxford University Press, 2000
- Plath, Silvia, *The Bell Jar*, New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1971.
- Walker, Margaret, *This is My Century : New and Collected Poems*, Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1989.