THE WRITER'S CRAFT
HU2110.R01, Fall 2012
TR, 11:05-12:20pm, Walker 127

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Introduction to reading and writing in contemporary, experimental, and emerging creative writing, as writers, focusing on the genres of short literary prose (fiction and essay) and poetry. Course work stresses individual production through process- and craft-oriented writing exercises, small group workshops, individual conferences, and creative theory.

COURSE INFORMATION
- Professor: M. Bartley Seigel (Matt)
- Professor Email: mbseigel@mtu.edu or mbartleyseigel@gmail.com
- Office: 311 Walker Arts & Humanities Center
- Office Hours: TR 11-12:30 or by appointment.
- Required Texts (3): Burroway, Janet. Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft; Johnson, Christopher, Microstyle; Composition notebook.

COURSE POLICIES
- Students must fulfill their responsibilities: Completing all assignments on deadline, reading all assigned readings, taking notes, writing daily, revising, editing, studying, participating in course discussions, posing pertinent questions, engaging the materials, and being an engaging participant.
- Students who fail to attend or fully participate in the course can expect a course grade absolutely no higher than a C. Failure to make a deadline will result in an automatic F on that assignment. Late coursework will not be accepted and cannot be “made up.” Turning work in early is always acceptable, though students are encouraged to stick close to their deadlines. Student’s should plan ahead and accordingly.
- Integrity and ethics are central. Something less than an engaged commitment to integrity and ethics undermines the efforts of the
entire community. Breaking this social compact will result in an automatic F for the course.

- Michigan Tech encourages ALL qualified persons to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of special accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please contact Professor Seigel as soon as possible and/or visit the Office of Student Affairs (phone 487-2951).

- Because of the nature of creative writing and its emphasis on process and craft, students can expect the following point system on all graded course work: 3 (check+) = The student exceeded most to all course expectations; 2 (check) = The student met course expectations; 1 (check-) = Inferior, the student met few course expectations; 0 (0) = The student failed to make deadline and/or met few if any of the course expectations.

COURSEWORK

- Participation (25%): Completing all assignments on deadline, reading all assigned readings, taking notes, writing daily, revising, editing, studying, participating in workshops, participating in course discussions, posing pertinent questions, engaging the course materials, and being an engaging course participant.

- Writer’s Notebook (15%): In addition to notes from the class, students will be assigned writing prompts daily, both as in-class exercises and as homework, that they’re expected to complete long-hand in a composition notebook (their “writer’s notebook”). Writer’s Notebooks should focus on process and craft exercises drawn from the required texts as well as from class, and are intended to add breadth and depth to the writer’s daily writing (remember, writers write, and any advice to the contrary is a myth), and shouldn’t be used as merely personal diaries. Writer’s notebooks will be spot-checked sporadically throughout the semester.

- Poetry Portfolio (15%): First, students will write and workshop 6 poems in sequence (meaning the individual poems are part of some thematic or formal whole) in whatever form or
formlessness the writer chooses. Second, students will write a 500-word process introduction (see below) to be included with the final copy of their poems. Third, students will compile a minimum of two drafts (showing significant revision) as well as copies of the written feedback they received from their workshop partners. Completed Poetry Portfolios (final manuscript, process introduction, and drafts/feedback) will be due in class on deadline.

- Essay Portfolio (15%): First, students will write & workshop a piece of short creative or literary essay—personal essay, memoir, literary journalism, short lyric essay, etc.—1500-word minimum. Second, students will write a 500-word process introduction (see below) to be included with the final copy of their essay. Third, students will compile a minimum of two drafts (showing significant revision) as well as copies of the written feedback they received from their workshop partners. Completed Essay Portfolios (final manuscript, process introduction, and drafts/feedback) will be due in class on deadline.

- Fiction Portfolio (15%): First, students will write & workshop a piece of short literary fiction—short story, flash fiction, etc.—1500-word minimum. Second, students will write a 500-word process introduction (see below) to be included with the final copy of their essay. Third, students will compile a minimum of two drafts (showing significant revision) as well as copies of the written feedback they received from their workshop partners. Completed Fiction Portfolios (final manuscript, process introduction, and drafts/feedback) will be due in class on deadline.

- Process Introductions (15%): 500-word minimum process introductions are due for each of the formal writing portfolios. These mini reflective essays on creative process should focus on the who, what, where, when, why, and how of a student’s experience composing in each of the assigned genres. What is the writer’s developing sense of who they are as an artist? What are they writing? Where and when did the writer do her best work? Why did the writer choose to write on a particular subject, in a particular form? How did the writer craft their work?
COURSE CALENDAR
9.4 Class Intro
9.6 Craft and process discussion.
9.11 Craft and process discussion.
9.13 Craft and process discussion.
9.18 Craft and process discussion.
9.20 Craft and process discussion.
9.25 Introduce the creative essay.
9.27 Discuss the creative essay.
10.2 Discuss the creative essay.
10.4 No Class
10.9 No Class
10.11 No Class
10.16 Discuss the creative essay. Creative essay workshop drafts due.
10.18 Creative essay workshop.
10.23 Conferences.
10.30 Discuss short fiction.
11.1 Discuss short fiction.
11.6 Discuss short fiction. Short fiction workshop drafts due.
11.8 Short fiction workshop.
11.13 Conferences.
11.15 Introduce poetry. Short fiction portfolios due.
11.27 Discuss poetry.
11.29 Discuss poetry.
12.4 Discuss poetry. Poetry workshop drafts due.
12.6 Poetry workshop.
12.11 Conferences
12.13 Poetry portfolios due. Course Re-cap & Wrap