Instructor Information
Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Carpenter
Office Location: Walker 342
E-mail: stcarpe@mtu.edu
Office Hours: T, Th 12:30-2:30

Course Identification
Course Number: 84929
Course Name: Introduction to Creative Writing
Course Location: Walker 109
Class Times: T, Th 11:05-12:20
Prerequisites: None

Course Description/Overview
This workshop-style* course is intended to help you grow as a writer and reader of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. To this end, we’ll study published works and craft pieces in all three genres. The bulk of the course will focus on development and discussion of original, student-produced work. Every class meeting will include in-class writing prompts, so please always bring writing materials to class.

*Workshop: a group discussion intended to generate productive questions, comments, ideas, and revision/expansion strategies for works in progress. We’ll discuss protocol and expectations for participation in more detail in class.

Course Learning Objectives
Over the semester, you will:
• Read and respond to published creative work;
• Produce original poems, short stories, and short essays;
• Participate actively and constructively in discussions of your peers’ work;
• Revise and develop your own work and reflect thoughtfully on your writing process.

Course Resources
Course Website(s)
• Canvas<http://www.courses.mtu.edu>
**Required Course Text**

**Journal of the Month subscription** ($40). Through this program, we’ll receive a different (inter)nationally-distributed literary journal each month. I’ll assign some pieces as class readings, and I hope you’ll browse the journals’ remaining contents on your own—thus getting a clearer sense of the contemporary/emerging literary scene happening around you.

The JoTM subscription can be purchased through the MTU bookstore (with a $5 service charge attached) or directly through JoTM’s website: https://www.journalofthemonth.com/

To sign up online, select “subscribe.” From the “Select a Subscription Type” pull-down menu, choose “Courses for Students.” A “Choose a Course” menu will then appear, from which you should select “MTU—Intro to Creative Writing.” This will then direct you to the billing page. You can pay with credit card or PayPal.

Note: regardless of what you enter as the shipping address, all journals will be sent to my office and distributed by me, in class.

Please note: **you must subscribe by 9/10** in order to receive your subscription!

The **remaining readings** for this course will be accessible through our Canvas site, in the Pages section (check the appropriate page for the unit we’re working on).

**Always** bring the readings with you to class, whether as hard copies or in electronic form!

**Assignments**

*Creative Writing Exercises:*
Just as student painters learn about technique by copying masterpieces, a student writer can develop her craft by practicing techniques and/or imitating the work of a more established writer. To this end, we’ll do a lot of ungraded in-class writing.

You will also be assigned a number of short assignments to be completed outside of class and then discussed in small-group workshops. Each of these assignments will be designed in such a way that you can choose to complete it with a poem, fictional scene/short-short story, or micro-essay. You will decide for yourself which form you think best suits your idea for the assignment. However, you **must** complete at least one assignment in each of the three genres. In other words, you could write one poem, one micro-essay, and two fictional pieces—or any combination that covers all three genres.

*Peer Feedback:*
On workshop weeks, you will respond to several pieces of student work in preparation for the class period. Your responses should be typed. Responses to your peers’ exercises should be no less than ½ double-spaced pages in length. Please bring two copies of each of your responses to class: one for the writer (along with any line comments on the manuscript), and one for me. We’ll talk more about our expectations for peer response in class.
Canvas Posts:
An important aspect of your development as a creative writer is learning to read like a writer, with attention to the ways in which other writers are crafting their work. In the interest of developing this skill, you will be assigned to write semi-weekly Canvas posts about our reading assignments. (See reading schedule).

You will be assigned one of two due dates, either Tuesday or Thursday by 8AM (in other words, the morning of class). Your responses should be at least 250 words in length and should demonstrate that you have read and carefully thought about the assigned reading.

You might use this forum to
• Examine the goals of a piece: what issues does it raise; what is it about at a thematic level?
• Examine the structure: how is the piece organized, and why?
• Raise questions or offer observations about specific moments in the readings that inspired, confused, or intrigued you.
• Draw connections between various readings for the day.

These responses should be geared toward figuring out how the readings work—what are their unique components; what patterns, themes, tropes do you notice?—not toward evaluating whether or not you liked them.

Final Portfolio
Your final assignment for the course will be a portfolio in which you expand one of your pieces and revise one piece in a different genre. (A poem might be expanded into a series of linked poems and accompanied by a revised micro-essay; a scene from a story expanded into a full story and accompanied by a revised poem; a brief essay could be extended and accompanied by a revised short-short story). More on this to follow.

The rubric I’ll use to evaluate your creative work is appended to this syllabus.

*Note: All work for this course should be original, meaning written by you, for this course. While literary borrowings or retellings are welcomed (e.g., reinterpretations of fairy tales or myths), “fan fiction” or pieces related to RPGs are not acceptable for this class. In all cases your work should stand alone: it should be accessible to the reader without prior knowledge of the plot or characters.
Formatting:
All prose work (fiction and nonfiction) submitted for this class must be typed, double-spaced, in Times Roman 12-point font or an equivalent, with 1-inch margins on all sides and no extra spaces between lines or letters. (Make sure you’ve set up your word processing program according to these guidelines; do not just turn in your work in the default format of your word processing program).

In the default format for poetry, new lines should be left-justified and stanzas should be single-spaced, with an extra space to signal stanza breaks; variations on this will be interpreted as experiments with form. Think about the form that best suits your content.

All work must have an original title.

Late work: ***I deduct 5% per day for late work.*** Thus, if you turn in an assignment two days late, the maximum you can possibly get on it is an AB (90%). Extensions and exceptions will be made in rare circumstances; please TALK TO ME if you foresee a problem completing your work on time.

Multiliteracies Center: It’s your responsibility to submit your work in as polished a state as possible. If you would like feedback on your work before the due date, please consider visiting the Multiliteracies Center (MTMC). This free resource exists to help you with writing projects for any course on campus. For more information about the MTMC or to schedule an appointment, go to the MTMC website at http://www.mtu.edu/humanities/resources/mtmc/ or call (906) 487-2007. The MTMC is located in 107 Walker.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation are critical to your success in this workshop-style course. If you must miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining notes from one of your classmates.

Two tardies of five minutes or more will count as an absence; leaving class more than 15 minutes early also counts as an absence.

If you are using your electronic devices for recreational purposes, working on non-course related projects, or texting during class I will count you as absent for the day. (If you have a personal emergency, let me know. Please also let me know if you use your phone as an e-reader).

Three absences will bring your overall grade down by half a letter (50 points); five will bring it down by a full letter (100 points); if you miss six or more class meetings, you will not pass this class.

Under some circumstances, with proper notification and documentation, an absence may be excused (see http://www.mtu.edu/dean/conduct/policy/attendance/ for guidelines).
Your level of engagement in the class also affects this part of your grade.
- **Always bring the readings to class!** If you don’t have the materials necessary for the day’s work, I may ask you to leave (and mark you as absent for the day).
- Be respectful of me and of your classmates.
- Speak in class. I’d be happy to talk with you about ways to increase your involvement!

I expect you to participate actively and thoughtfully in each of our class discussions. I will determine participation grades at the midterm and end of the semester. Here’s how I evaluate participation:

- Meets attendance requirements; participates thoughtfully and respectfully in every class discussion: 100%
- Meets attendance requirements; participates thoughtfully and respectfully in many class discussions: 90%
- Meets attendance requirements; occasionally participates or participates superficially: 80%
- Meets attendance requirements; rarely participates or participates without seeming to have completed the reading assignments: 70%
And so on…

**Grading Scheme**

Your semester grade in this course will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXERCISES (4 @ 10% EA.)</th>
<th>40%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PEER FEEDBACK (4 SETS @ %5 EA.)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL PORTFOLIO:</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANVAS POSTS</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading System**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade points/credit</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% &amp; above</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>92%-87%</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86%-83%</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>82%-77%</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>Above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>76%-73%</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>72%-67%</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>Below average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66%-60%</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Inferior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I  Incomplete; given only when a student is unable to complete a segment of the course because of circumstances beyond the student’s control.

X  Conditional, with no grade points per credit; given only when the student is at fault in failing to complete a minor segment of a course, but in the judgment of the instructor does not need to repeat the course. It must be made up by the close of the next semester or the grade becomes a failure (F). A (X) grade is computed into the grade point average as a (F) grade.

**University Policies**

**Academic integrity:**
Academic integrity and honesty are central components of a student's education, and ethical conduct fostered in an academic context will be carried into a student's professional career. Academic integrity is essential in a community of scholars searching and learning to search for truth. Anything less than total commitment to integrity undermines the efforts of the academic community. Both students and faculty are responsible for insuring the academic integrity of the University.

This policy applies to the academic conduct of all persons at Michigan Technological University who have ever matriculated at the University, whether or not the person is enrolled at the time an allegation of academic misconduct is made.

This policy addresses academic misconduct in course work. Allegations of misconduct in research or publication are addressed under the Misconduct in Research, Scholarly and Creative Endeavors ([http://www.mtu.edu/research/administration/integrity-compliance/pdf/Misconduct_in_Research_Scholarly_Creative_Endeavors_Policy.pdf](http://www.mtu.edu/research/administration/integrity-compliance/pdf/Misconduct_in_Research_Scholarly_Creative_Endeavors_Policy.pdf)) and its associated procedures ([http://www.mtu.edu/research/administration/integrity-compliance/pdf/Misconduct_Procedures.pdf](http://www.mtu.edu/research/administration/integrity-compliance/pdf/Misconduct_Procedures.pdf)).

Of these policies, the university’s position on plagiarism is most relevant to HU 2110. Plagiarism or other appropriation of the work of another individual and presenting it as if it were one's own or without credit to the originator as is required by commonly accepted practices in the community of one’s discipline; plagiarism also includes self plagiarism, for example excerpting or reusing papers written for another class.

**Student disability services:**
Michigan Tech complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For more information about reasonable accommodation for or equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at (906) 487-2212 or go to [http://www.mtu.edu/dean/disability/policies/](http://www.mtu.edu/dean/disability/policies/)
**Title IX**
Title IX is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally-funded education program or activity (www.justice.gov). Title IV makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and/or gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources at http://www.mtu.edu/equity/title-ix/overview/

**Assessment:**
Student work products (exams, essays, projects, etc.) may be used for purposes of university, program, or course assessment—the institution’s efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of its programming. All work used for assessment purposes will not include any individual student identification.
Course Schedule

Note: The readings listed beside each date should be completed by that date. Unless otherwise indicated, readings can be found on Canvas. Dates marked [A] or [B] indicate due dates for Canvas Discussion posts.

**WEEK 1: INTRODUCTIONS / GENRES**

_T 9/1_ Introduction: to one another, to the course.

_Th 9/3_ **Poetry** Bishop, “Writing Poetry;” “Tips on Reading Poetry;” Greenberg and Ramspeck poetry folios from _TMR_

**WEEK 2: THE GENRES**


_Th 9/10_ **Nonfiction** Silverman, “The Meandering River;” Zoby, “Hobart Dreams” and Wasserboehr, “Possess Stone Wall” (_TMR_) [B]

**WEEK 3: IMAGE**


_Th 9/17_ Kardos, “Relevant Detail” and story TBD [B]

**WEEK 4: IMAGE**


_Th 9/24_ Exercise 1: _Image due_; mock workshops in class

**WEEK 5: IMAGE/ADDRESS**

_T 9/29_ **Peer responses due;** workshop student pieces in class.

_Th 10/1_ Vogrin, “Point of View;” poems from _Tin House_

**WEEK 6: ADDRESS**

_T 10/6_ Nonfiction from _Tin House_ [A]

_Th 10/8_ Fiction from _Tin House_ [B]

**WEEK 7: ADDRESS**

_T 10/13_ **Address exercises due;** in-class character exercise

_Th 10/15_ **Peer responses due;** workshop student pieces in class.

**WEEK 8: CHARACTER**

_T 10/20_ Reissenweber, “Character;” stories TBD [A]

_Th 10/22_ Persona poem essay; poems by Louise Gluck and Margaret Atwood [B]

**WEEK 9: CHARACTER**

_T 10/27_ Nonfiction pieces TBD

_Th 10/29_ **Character exercise due;** pass out and begin discussing _Iowa Review_
**WEEK 10: PLACE**

*T 11/3*  Peer responses due; workshop student pieces in class.

*Th 11/5*  Fiction of place TBD

**WEEK 11: PLACE**

*T 11/10*  Poetry of place TBD [A]

*Th 11/12*  Nonfiction of place TBD [B]

**WEEK 12: PLACE**

*T 11/17*  Place assignments due via Canvas groups

*Th 11/19*  *No class meeting.* Peer responses due through Canvas by class time.

**No Class; Thanksgiving**

**WEEK 13: STRUCTURE**

*T 12/1*  Sellers, “Structure: Forms” Face-to-face Q&A with workshop groups.

Begin discussing Journal #4, *Booth*

*Th 12/3*  Read selections from *Booth*; revision exercises in class

**WEEK 14: STRUCTURE**

*T 12/8*  Skype conversation with *Booth* staff and/or visit from U.P. Poet Laureate,

*Th 12/10*  Conferences TBA

**Finals Week**

Final portfolios due to my mailbox in Walker by 5PM, Tuesday December 15