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ENG 5025 001: Creative Writing Professional Development

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Purpose of the Course
In this course we’ll examine effective ways of submitting work to literary journals and magazines. We’ll also discuss emerging and established online venues, the use of blogs to showcase work, employment opportunities for writers, and suggestions for applying to graduate programs for further study. We will also work on effective oral introductions to your work, stage presence, and answering impromptu questions.

Please feel free to share ideas, ask questions, bring in interesting items, brag about acceptances, commiserate about rejections.

Catalog Description of the Course
(1-0-1) A seminar for graduate students pursuing the MA in English Studies with Creative Writing Emphasis in which students will study and gain experience in the practice of performing and discussing written creative work for public venues.

Books
*The Creative Writer’s Survival Guide*, by John McNally

Requirements
1. Read the assigned material by the assigned date and participate in class discussions.
2. Submit several creative works to journals of your choice. Keep a record of response times, acceptances, and rejections. Discuss results with class.
3. Complete a special project. Possibilities include starting/setting up a writer's blog, videotaping yourselves reading, watching and critiquing live performances, helping out with Lions in Winters, perhaps teaching one of my creative writing classes. (I’d be happy to write a letter of recommendation regarding this.)
4. Perform your work in a public venue.

University Policies
(1) Academic integrity - Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct [http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php](http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php) Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

(2) Students with disabilities - If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583.

(3) The Student Success Center - Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center ([www.eiu.edu/~success](http://www.eiu.edu/~success)) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations.
To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

#1 August 21 Introductions

#2 August 28 Read Part I: The Decision to Become a Writer

#3 September 4 LABOR DAY/NO CLASS

#4 September 11 Read Part II: Education and the Writer (You can skip over sections that don’t apply to what you want to be doing)

#5 September 18 Read Part III: Getting Published

#6 September 25 Self-publishing and independent publishers

#7 October 2 Performing your work: stage presence, voice control, etc.

#8 October 9 Writer blogs/Social media

#9 October 16 Read Part IV: Publicity

#10 October 23 Read Part 5: Employment for Writers

#11 October 30 Writing communities, conferences, summer workshops

#12 November 6 Read Part 6: The Writer’s Life

#13 November 13 Teaching creative writing

**THANKSGIVING BREAK WEEK**

#14 November 27 TBA

#15 December 4 TBA

**NOTE:** I may make minor changes to this syllabus in order to suit the needs of the class. Changes will always be announced in advance.

**NO FINAL EXAM** in this class