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## ENG 5025-600: Composition Theory and Pedagogy

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*Eastern Illinois University*

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# ENG 5025: Creative Writing Professionalization

Online Fall 2022

Colleen Abel

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Office hours

Office: CH 3811

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Wednesday 11:00 to noon

Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Note: Contact me via Microsoft Teams during these hours or by appointment for fastest response times

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## Required Texts

*Before and After the Book Deal*, Courtney Maum

Miscellaneous readings (D2L)

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## Course Description

There's more to being a writer than just sitting down in front of a blank page or screen. What does it mean to be a part of the creative writing professional community? How does one go about getting published anyway? How are literary publications run? How do I continue to learn, grow, and be part of a literary network once I've graduated from EIU? This course will help students chart a path as a literary citizen and learn how to put their work into the world.

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## Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, you should be able to

- Describe your own work and writing projects for various audiences
  - Learn about professional paths available to writers
  - Gain knowledge of the publishing industry
  - Understand the concept of literary citizenship
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## Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered online through our learning management system, D2L Brightspace, <http://www.eiu.edu/d2l>. If you need help, contact ITS User Services for technical support issues.

Email: [support@eiu.edu](mailto:support@eiu.edu)

Phone: (217) 581-4357

Support Hours: 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday-Friday with your EIU NetID account or password, contact Campus Technology Support at (217) 581-4357 or [support@eiu.edu](mailto:support@eiu.edu).

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## Grade Breakdown

**Writer's Statement: 50 points**

**Journal Presentation: 50 points**

**Bluestem Analysis: 50 points**

**Query letter: 50 points**

**Project Proposal: 50 points**

**Interview: 50 points**

**Discussion Board Posts & Responses: 200 points**

**Total: 500 points**

**Writer's Statement**

In 250-300 words, reflect on your work in general terms. What are your main themes? What genre(s) do you write in? What larger ideas form the foundation of your own work? Who inspires you?

### **Journal Presentation**

Choose one literary journal and present on it in some primarily visual format (i.e. Canva, Powerpoint, Google Slides, etc.). The point of these presentations is to introduce your classmates to the kinds of journals that exist out there that could be a potential place to submit in the future.

### **Bluestem Analysis**

Using EIU's long standing international journal, *Bluestem*, you will have the opportunity to read some submissions in the genre of your choosing to evaluate their presentation and quality to better understand how the process of publication works at the journal level.

### **Query letter**

This assignment is customizable to your particular publishing goals, and will give you the chance to research a potential agent or publisher for your writing project and learn to write a successful synopsis of your work. (Note: students not interested in finding an agent or publisher may choose to undertake an industry-style book review instead.)

### **Project Proposal**

You'll be introduced to seeking and applying for non-publication opportunities such as residencies, fellowships, grants, reading series, and more.

### **Interview**

Select an artist from either the Bluestem archives or from another publication venue and craft a series of thoughtful interview questions for them, using several writerly interviews as models.

## Late work

If you need an extension due to extenuating circumstances, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

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## Instructor Response Time

For emails, please allow me up to 24 hours to respond to your message, 36 hours on weekends or holidays. For grades, please allow a week to ten days for me to get back to you for large assignments, though it will likely take less time than this. For discussion board posts, I will grade all posts and responses each week. Please note that I read and grade all discussion board posts, responses, and exercises, though I may not necessarily respond to each one, as the discussion board is a space that is designed to be student-centered, just as our classroom would be.

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## Learner Participation Guidelines

This class is asynchronous, which means “not happening at the same time.” This means that we aren’t going to be meeting at a specific time all together. Instead, most of our “meetings” will take place on the discussion board throughout each week. When it comes to the discussion board questions and the creative exercises, you can think of this as our class meetings. These cover activities we would otherwise be doing in face-to-face meetings. They are attendance, participation and in-class writings all rolled into one.

My expectation is that each week you have a discussion board question due, you can write your response by the due date. I’ll be looking for about 250 words in your response; the more specific, the better. The second part of the discussion board will be at least two responses to a classmate. These responses should be at least 100 words, and

should be more than simply saying “Good point!” or “I agree!” If you respond to their discussion question, you should be adding to what they say, not merely echoing what they say. Please limit your responses to other discussion posts, rather than any creative exercises we might be doing that week.

Specific instructions will be given each week for the discussion board expectations for the week to come, but the above guidelines should give you a general sense of what to expect.

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### Classroom (N)etiquette

Perhaps the most important classroom policy of all concerns our learning environment. A successful learning community is one in which we can learn from people whose perspectives we might not necessarily share and I ask everyone to be constructive and mindful. Speaking our minds is a fantastic privilege of this environment, but doing so in an aggressive or hostile way helps no one. Clear incidences of hate speech will be reported to the University.

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### EIU Policies

- Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU’s Code of Conduct. Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards. The English Department’s policy reads as follows: *Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—“The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one’s own original work” (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the*

*incident to the Office of Student Standards. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.*

- Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center for assistance with time management, 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 McAfee 1301.
  - 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 McAfee 1210, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.
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## Course Schedule

\*more specific details are available on D2L

Weeks One & Two, 8/22 through 9/5

What do I want from writing?

Readings & Discussion

**Writer's Statement due, Thursday September 1 by 11:59 p.m.**

Weeks Three & Four: 9/6 through 9/18

Where does my work belong?

Readings & Discussion

**Journal Presentation due, Thursday September 15 by 11:59 p.m.**

Weeks Five & Six: 9/19 through 10/2

How do I get published in journals?

Readings & Discussion

**Bluestem analysis, Thursday September 29 by 11:59 p.m.**

Weeks Seven & Eight: 10/3 through 10/16

How do I get a book published?

Readings & Discussion

**Query Letter due Thursday, October 13 by 11:59 p.m.**

Weeks Nine & Ten: 10/17 through 10/30

What's the next step of my career, Part One?

Readings & Discussion

Weeks Eleven & Twelve: 10/31 through 11/13

What's the next step of my career, Part Two?

Readings & Discussion

**Project Proposal due November 10 by 11:59 p.m.**

Weeks Thirteen & Fourteen: 11/14 through 12/4

What can I do to remain a good literary citizen?

Readings & Discussion

**Interview due Thursday December 1 by 11:59 p.m.**

Week Fifteen: 12/5 through 12/9

Wrap-up



