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## ENG 5025-001: Creative Writing Professional Development

Bess Winter Kosinec

*Eastern Illinois University*

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**ENG 5025-001: Creative Writing Professional Development (1-0-1)**  
**Tuesdays 3:30-4:20 pm \* Coleman 3140**

**Instructor**

Dr. Bess Winter

[bwkosinec@eiu.edu](mailto:bwkosinec@eiu.edu)

Office: Coleman 3576

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 1pm-2pm, Wednesdays 1pm-3pm

**Required Texts**

Lerner, Betsy. *The Forest for the Trees (Revised and Updated): An Editor's Advice to Writers*  
Readings on d2l, as assigned

**Course Description**

The fact is, most writers—even professionals—need jobs. This course focuses on the next stage of your writing career by familiarizing you with a) how to take the first steps toward publication and becoming an editor, and, b) how to support yourself while you do so. You'll build experience in three areas: submitting your work, editing a literary journal, and developing application materials for further graduate school (the M.F.A. or PhD in creative writing), or jobs.

By the end of the course you will:

- Have deepened your understanding of the contemporary publishing landscape and where your skills fit into it;
- Have produced at least one publishable interview for *Bluestem* and have an idea of additional venues for publication of reviews and interviews;
- Possess knowledge of the workings of a national literary journal;
- Have a plan for your own next steps, including materials for job or graduate school applications.

**Assignments & Grading (out of 1000 points)**

Attendance & Participation—100 (includes participating in class discussion, in-class exercises, arriving having done reading, occasionally completing a homework response, meeting one-on-one with me)

Lit journal cover letter – 50

Lit journal submissions (5 journals) and justification – 150

Statement of Purpose or Job Letter – 225

List of jobs or programs and justification – 225

*Bluestem* contributor interview -- 150

*Bluestem* submission reading -- 100

## **Attendance & Late Assignments**

Your success in this class depends on full attendance and participation. Barring emergencies, you're expected to attend every class and participate fully in class discussion. Late assignments will not be accepted and will result in a failing grade.

## **The Fine Print (EIU Policies):**

### **Plagiarism**

*EIU English Department's Statement on Plagiarism:* 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 Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources. **Please note that submitting work you have completed/are completing for another class is plagiarism, and will be treated as such unless you get permission from me first. Permission is granted on a case-by-case basis.**

### **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>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

### **Accommodation for Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability and are 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. Stop by Ninth Street Hall, room 2022, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

### **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.

**Schedule** (note that I may make small changes to this schedule, all of which will be announced beforehand)

#### **Unit 1: The Lit (Journal) Life**

Aug 20—Intro to the class

Aug 27— Lerner's introduction and Part 1: Writing

Sep 3 – Reading for a lit journal

Sep 10— Lerner: "Rejection" (Finding and submitting to lit journals)

Sep 17—Submitting cont, Literary Citizenship

Sep 24—Submission roundtable

Oct 1—Lit journal presentations

#### **Unit 2: Oh, the Places You'll Go (with an M.A. in Creative Writing)**

Oct 8—Real talk: jobs or more degrees (or both)? Identifying your strengths.

Oct 15—Further study in creative writing: the M.F.A. & PhD

Oct 22—Careers (and education) in publishing

Oct 29—Careers in writing

Nov 5–Career/program roundtable  
Nov 12–Career/program presentations  
Nov 19–SOP/cover letter workshop  
Nov 26—THANKSGIVING BREAK, NO CLASS  
Dec 3–Wrap-up