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## ENG 5025-600: Creative Writing Professional Development

Colleen Abel

*Eastern Illinois University*

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# ENG 5025: Creative Writing Professionalization

Online Fall 2021

Colleen Abel

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Virtual office hours [via Microsoft Teams](#)

Office: CH 3811 (remote for Fall 2021)

Monday 11:00-noon

Tuesday 9 to 10 a.m.

Thursday 5 to 6 p.m.

## Required Texts

*The Forest for the Trees: An Editor's Advice to Writers*, Betsy Lerner

Miscellaneous readings (D2L)

## 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.

## 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

## 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).

## Grade Breakdown

\*You can find detailed assignment descriptions of each of these on D2L.

**Writer's Statement: 100 points**

**Journal Presentation: 100 points**

**Cover Letter for Journal Submission: 100 points**

**Query letter: 100 points**

**Project Proposal: 100 points**

**Final Interview: 100 points**

**Q&A Participation: 150 points**

**Discussion Board Posts & Responses: 250 points**

**Total: 1000 points**

## Late work

Late work will be penalized by two points for each day late. If you need an extension due to extenuating circumstances such as illness, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

## Instructor Response Time

For emails, please allow me up to 24 hours to respond to your message. For grades, please allow a week 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 the week they are completed. Please note that I read and grade all discussion board posts, and responses, **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.

## 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. However, I do hope to have some virtual Q&A sessions; these will be highly recommended, but optional to attend, and I will record them. I’ll let you know more about these as they get closer.

My expectation is that each week you have a discussion board question due, you will 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 responses to two of your classmates. These responses should be at least 75 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.

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.

## 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.

## 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.
- 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.

## Course Schedule

\*specific details will always be available in the content modules on the D2L site

Weeks One & Two, 8/23 through 9/5

What kind of writer am I?

Readings & Discussion

**Writer's Statement due, Thursday September 2 by 11:59 p.m.**

Weeks Three & Four: 9/7 through 9/19

Where does my work belong?

Readings & Discussion

**Journal Presentation due, Thursday September 16 by 11:59 p.m.**

Weeks Five & Six: 9/20 through 10/3

How do I get published in journals?

Readings & Discussion

**Cover Letter for Journal Subs due, Thursday September 30 by 11:59 p.m.**

Weeks Seven & Eight: 10/4 through 10/14

How do I get a book published?

Readings & Discussion

**Query Letter due Thursday, October 14 by 11:59 p.m.**

Weeks Nine & Ten: 10/18 through 10/31

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

Readings & Discussion

Weeks Eleven & Twelve: 11/1 through 11/14

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

Readings & Discussion

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

Weeks Thirteen & Fourteen: 11/15 through 12/5

What can I do to remain a good literary citizen?

Readings & Discussion

**Final Interview due Thursday December 2 by 11:59 p.m.**

Week Fifteen: 12/6 through 12/10

Wrap-up