

ENG 500 010 HY ORIENTATION & PROGRAM PLANNING

Prof. Walsh

ENG 500. Orientation and Program Planning 1

This course is designed to familiarize first-semester MFA students with the curriculum and processes of the MFA program and to help them begin to map out their course of study and creative goals.

It is possible to conduct this class online; however, it is best to meet as a group for approximately four hours on a Saturday or Sunday at the university where all the resources are housed. Most often, it is a combination of a Zoom meeting and students meeting in the George Scarbrough Room (Lawson Building).

This year, the class will meet on **August 19, 2023 at 9:00** on campus or via ZOOM. An invitation will be emailed to each student.

This is an enjoyable half-day event where everyone meets to understand the ins and outs of the MFA program and where the faculty answer all questions.

What will be covered:

- A discussion of our MFA philosophy will ensure, which is different than most programs across the country.

- Will discuss the MFA Guideline Book—what is most important to new students, as well as what you do not need to worry about at this time. A copy will be emailed to each student.
- Students will have read two essays on the writing process and there will be a discussion.
- There will be a discussion about the publishing industry for creative writing and how to work toward that goal, as well as setting goals publication.
- They will receive instruction in the core characteristics of strong writing across the genres.
- They will learn about the art of revision and be given *instruction* regarding how a creative writing workshop functions.
- There will be a practice workshop of one page per student, as an example of the process, which can be intimidating; however, this will not be intimidating.
- They will be given a writing prompt with which to generate a piece for the practice workshop that will follow this class.
- For those on campus, we usually go out for lunch.

All of this usually takes about four hours.

Essay: Anne Lamott: "Shitty First Drafts"

<https://wrd.as.uky.edu/sites/default/files/1-Shitty%20First%20Drafts.pdf>Links to an external site.

Videos: Writers on Writing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xty4QPdXWqk>Links to an external site.

<https://youtu.be/fDkbyyPRKFY>Links to an external site.

<https://youtu.be/SskmdYBkNs4>Links to an external site.

<https://youtu.be/AcYvU5rw1G4>Links to an external site.

<https://youtu.be/wUreP76ktIY>Links to an external site.

<https://youtu.be/xS168QJfiU4>Links to an external site.

<https://youtu.be/5aMy-KUenTA>Links to an external site.

<https://youtu.be/lwhOd65gGoY>Links to an external site.

<https://youtu.be/2cLfCNwC5fw>Links to an external site.

The Use of Artificial Intelligence

All machines invented by *mankind* are some form of artificial intelligence (AI)—even the most basic abacus. However, it is and should not ever be a substitute for human brilliance. It is a device to assist in the process of life and a person’s pursuit of greater knowledge. Therefore, any use of artificial intelligence, whether it is Chat GPT or other platforms is permissible in my classes; however, the RU student must adhere to the rules of citation as we understand them at this time. Otherwise, plagiarism is likely to occur, which can result in a failing grade, dismissal from the class, and/or dismissal from the university. Be prudent in your use of artificial intelligence. College students are scholars in training, and a portion of your education is the understanding of secondary sources. In most cases, as it stands, artificial intelligence cannot provide adequate documentation; thus, it is quite likely that the use of artificial intelligence will result in the student’s inability to properly document their research. The result is likely a failing grade. Use artificial intelligence with the upmost caution. Regarding creative writing in classes taught by Professor Walsh, it is highly advised that the RU student refrain from all use of artificial intelligence when generating

creative work. The incarnation of creative work is an individual process which creates a nuance identifiable to the specific writer; therefore, artificial intelligence is likely to subvert that process as it pertains to the individual student writer.