**ENG 560 Creative Writing I, Individual Study with Writing Guide – 3 credit hours**

**Spring 2024**

Professor Jessica Handler

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**Course Description:**

In this individual study, the student will work one-on-one with a mentor to develop elements of writing craft, including image, structure, syntax, diction, voice, tone, style, figurative language, point of view, characterization and plot. The student will submit monthly portfolios of work to the mentor for comments and will revise in response to the mentor’s suggestions. The student and the mentor will draft a timetable of due dates and logistical processes at the beginning of each semester. Additionally, the instructor will familiarize the student with resources for calls for submissions and require the student to compose a query letter and submit at least one piece of work for publication. In addition to monthly portfolio comments, the mentor will write an end-of-semester evaluation detailing the students’ strengths, weaknesses, and progress in the program.

What this means is that in this course we will work together to develop elements of your draft manuscript. We will do this primarily through packet submissions from you to me, which I will return to you with story-editorial comments largely focused on helping you develop the material in the direction discussed early in the semester. We will also meet periodically in video or telephone calls to address the work, and you will write a query letter and submit your work to a publication (on-line or print) for consideration for publication.

This course is graded Pass/Fail. Passing the course requires honoring deadlines, meeting agreed-upon packet criteria, and consistent evidence of well-considered, craft-focused, and genuine creative work. You are welcome to discuss your progress with me at any point in the semester.

**Deliverables schedule:**

1. Four “packets” of original creative manuscript material are due to me during the semester. We will discuss and agree upon a deliverables schedule and method of delivery. A twenty-four-hour delay in delivery is acceptable with written notice.

Packets must be ~ 20-25 pages in length unless otherwise agreed upon. Each packet must be professionally formatted: i.e. Times or Times New Roman 12 point font, double spaced, 1” page margins. Some work, i.e. poetry, dramatic writing, lyrics, or using embedded images will require other formatting. Please consult with me as necessary. Please proofread your material for coherence as well as grammar, spelling, and presentation. I prefer the Chicago Manual of Style as a usage guide. <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>.

Please save your work as a .doc or .docx file in Word and send as an attachment to an email. No other file formats will be accepted without prior agreement.

1. A two-to-three-page reflection paper assessing the craft value of at least one published work you’ve read this semester. This work can be a novel, collection of short stories, craft book, or other material of your choice relevant in some way to your writing practice. This is due to me no later than April 22, formatted as indicated in the prior section.
2. Research into and preparation of an essay or memoir excerpt for submission for publication, including drafting a query letter. One place to start looking for publications with calls for entries is [www.submittable.com](http://www.submittable.com). (Registering for an account is free.)
3. I strongly recommend that you attend a reading by a published author, either virtually or in person. In this way, I hope that you will engage in an act of literary citizenship by participating in the literary community at large. Attending a reading (or more than one) can also help inform you about how authors present their work, take questions, interact with moderators, and give you a sense of authors as working people. How to find a reading? Follow authors you like on social media in order to learn where and when they’ll be speaking. Get on the mailing lists of independent bookstores and literary festivals. Please see me for resources.

**Caution about 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. Please refrain from all use of artificial intelligence when generating creative work. (Note that use of the internet for research purposes is entirely acceptable and must be cited in scholarly work. Keep your resources list/works cited list on hand for your own records regarding 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 human writer.