**ENG 560: Creative Writing I**

**(3 credit hours)**

**Fall 2023**

**Student: Charity Robertson**

**Mentor: Megan Volpert** ([megan.volpert@reinhardt.edu](mailto:megan.volpert@reinhardt.edu))

**Course Description**

In this individual study, the student will work one-on-one with the mentor to develop elements of writing craft, including form and structure, syntax, diction, voice, tone, style, image, figurative language, point of view, characterization, and plot. The student will submit 4 monthly portfolio packets of work to the mentor for comments and will revise in response to the mentor’s notes and suggestions. Additionally, the mentor will give students a list of relevant texts to read over the course of the semester and require writing that responds to those texts. In addition to monthly portfolio comments, the mentor will write a brief end-of-semester evaluation detailing the students’ strengths, weaknesses, and progress in the program.

**Learning Outcomes**

By means of writing portfolio assessment, students will demonstrate mastery of:

1. Structure and form in their chosen genre.
2. Style, including diction, syntax and tone.
3. Image in concrete description and figurative language.
4. Character, point of view and voice.

**Grades in the MFA Program**

All of the MFA classes are Pass or No Pass. There are no letter grades. If you complete the work, you pass. But you will get out of the program exactly what you put into it. Go beyond what is asked of you. Take full advantage of mentorship and instruction. That said, life happens, and people have varying degrees of other responsibilities. Sometimes it’s hard to balance everything, and events temporarily derail us. We understand this. Keep communicating so we can remain flexible and meet your needs.

**Grade Distribution**

Each of the 4 packets is worth 25% of the course grade. Within each packet:

* New writing, 4 tasks x 4 points = 16 points or 50%

[0 = not submitted, 2 = incomplete, 4 = complete]

* Revised writing, 4 tasks x 2 points = 8 points or 25%

[0 = not submitted, 1 = incomplete, 2 = complete]

* Responses, 4 tasks x 2 points = 8 points or 25%

[0 = not submitted, 1 = incomplete, 2 = complete]

= total of 32 points

[26+ points = pass, 25 or below = no pass]

**Portfolio Packets**

* Due dates: Mon 28 Aug, Fri 22 Sep, Fri 20 Oct, Fri 17 Nov
* Items to include (in this order please): response, new writing, revised writing
* Formatting: 12pt font, double-spaced, Arial or Times New Roman font
* How to submit: via email, as one document with all 3 components in it, can send as attachment or as a link to a shared file
* Guidance for new writings: New writing is any work of yours that the mentor hasn’t yet seen. The writing should be well polished but need not be finished. You can vary your types of work from month to month. No need to box yourself into any one genre. You can also submit multiple pieces. The minimum is 20 pages, and 25 pages is the max. For the August packet submission where there is no revision to do yet, all your writing will be new.
* Guidance for revised writings: After the August packet, aim for a 50/50 split between new and revised writing—so 10 to 12 pages of each. You don’t need to include any annotations to indicate where revisions were made, as I’ll have the previous packets with my comments on file. Select a portion of any previous packet’s feedback to revise; no need to choose only from last month’s round of feedback.
* Guidance for responses: Engage with whatever elements of the text feel valuable to you. This isn’t a book report and there’s no need to summarize anything. Offer a scholarly opinion that resonates with or pushes against the text. Place yourself and your work in relation to the text. Identify the ways your reading has clarified how you approach your writing. Quotation is sometimes valuable (please cite page numbers), but never required. Word count should fall somewhere between 1,000 and 2,500.

**Required Texts**

* August packet: Charles Bukowski, *Post Office* (Black Sparrow, 1971)

[free full text of Bukowski here](https://archive.org/details/charles-bukowski-post-office/mode/2up) and [free full audio of Bukowski here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lDV_Q41oXTc)

* September packet: Karyna McGlynn, *I Have to Go Back to 1994 and Kill a Girl* (Sarabande, 2009)
* October packet: Laura Mullen, *Murmur* (Futurepoem, 2007)
* November packet: Patti Smith, *M Train* (Vintage, 2015)

**Reinhardt MFA Policies**

* Late Work: Your packet should reach me by 5pm EST on the due date. Please don’t be late. I will aim to turn your packet around within a week. If you’re not late, I won’t be, either; it’s important that we respect each other’s time.
* Academic Dishonesty: Please cite your sources. If you plagiarize any work for this class, you will be dismissed and receive an F. Plagiarism is defined as presenting any work that is not your own work as your own. If you represent it as your own work, it is plagiarism, whether it is work written by another student, parent, or work copied from a written source or the internet. If you are using any text generated by artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT in your portfolio, please clearly mark the portion generated by AI and include the prompt you gave the machine that resulted in the portfolio text provided.
* ADA Statement:The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. This legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation for their disabilities. Reinhardt University is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all persons with disabilities. Therefore, if you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to register with the Academic Support Office (ASO). ASO is in the basement of Lawson Building. To receive academic accommodation for this class, please obtain the proper ASO letters.