English 250 – Creative Writing

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Jennifer Patterson, PhD
Course:	ENGL 250 Creative Writing	Email:	jenn.patterson@imperial.edu
CRN #:	CRN 11355	Office #:	Office 2795
Classroom:	Room 303	Office Phone #:	760-355-6486 (msg. only)
Class Dates:	August 13 to December 3	Office Hours:	Monday 11:00-Noon*
Class Days:	Wednesdays		*Zoom only
Class Times:	6:00 p.m. to 9:10 p.m.		Tuesday 3:00-4:00 p.m.
			Wednesday 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Units:	3 units		Thursday 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Course Description

Study and application of the principles of literary construction, plus exercises in writing of imaginative literature, including short story, poetry, and writing for the stage and screen. The student will be expected to attempt all genres of imaginative writing. The student may elect to specialize in one of the genres to achieve maximum progress.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate use of literary techniques in the short story, drama, poetry, and essay.

2. Actively read and critique his/her own work and the work of others by identifying and analyzing principles of style and structure in all genres.

3. Participate in a community of writers through workshop as well as peer and instructor feedback.

4. Distinguish among various opportunities for publication including contests, literary journals, and other media, applying this information to their own work by writing a query letter and preparing manuscripts for submission.

5. Collect and organize a representative compilation of his/her own works for inclusion in a creative writing anthology.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Lein, Linda Frances. *Introduction to Creative Writing*. Achieving the Dream.

https://library.achievingthedream.org/distanceminnesotacreativewriting/

This text is available in Canvas for ease of student access.

Greenwood: Season 5. Edited by James David Patterson. Glenn Paul Press, 2020.

ISBN: 978-0-578-50372-1 (*on **Reserve** in the IVC Library*).

The student will need access to her/his IVC email account, WebSTAR, and Canvas. The student is expected to check her/his IVC email account daily. Specific instructions and assignments will be available only through the Canvas system.

In addition, the student is expected to have a good, quality English dictionary. Bilingual students are encouraged to use a bilingual dictionary as well.

Think. Write. Think again. Re-write.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Individual Portfolio:

Cover Letter:	addressed to legitimate publication (10 pts)
Poetry Project:	Sonnet, Villanelle, a 16-line Pantoum, and free verse (40 pts)
Drama Project:	10-minute play (25 pts)

25	Well-designed plot written with beginning, middle, and end, having no (or few) errors in grammar, punctuation, and format, and read-aloud is approximately 10 minutes.
20	Simple plot with beginning, middle, and end, with some errors in grammar, punctuation, and format, and read-aloud is approximately 8-12 minutes.
10	Significant errors in grammar, punctuation, and format.
5	Play takes significantly more than (or less than) 10 minutes to perform.

Fiction Project: Short story (1,000-1,200 words = 40 pts)

40	Well-designed story written with beginning, middle, and end, and having no (or few) errors in grammar, punctuation, and format.
30	Simplistic story having no (or few) errors in grammar, punctuation, and format
-5	errors in format
-10	significant errors in basic sentence structure
-15	significant errors in punctuation

Individual Portfolio: (continued)

Reflection: Nonfiction Essay (500-750 words = 25 pts)

Literary Criticism: (20 pts each)

Analysis of a Poem is due prior to the beginning of class on **September 17**. The student must select a published poem from the *Greenwood: Season 5* anthology of at least 20 lines, if free verse, or a Sonnet, Villanelle, or Pantoum. The poem should be analyzed for line length, imagery, symbolism, metaphor, and/or personification, or other tropes and schemes. The analysis must be typed in MLA format with Works Cited, a minimum of 350 words and no more than 600 words. The analysis should culminate in a suggested improvement in the poem. Below is a sample MLA documentation for a book.

Dischell, Stuart. "She Put on Her Lipstick in the Dark." In *Serious Daring: Creative*

　　　　Writing in Four Genres. Lisa Roney, Ed. Oxford UP, 2015.

Analysis of a 10-minute Play is due prior to the beginning of class on **October 22**. The student must select a drama from the *Greenwood: Season 3* anthology. The drama should be analyzed for exposition, inciting incident, complication(s), and climax/denouement. The analysis must be typed in MLA format with Works Cited. The analysis should culminate in a suggested improvement in the play.

Comparison/Contrast Essay is due prior to the beginning of class on **November 12**. The student will explain and provide examples of the differences in writing poetry, drama, and fiction. The essay must be typed in MLA format with Works Cited. This paper should include research from 3 sources.

Collaborative Writing Project: Collaboration (40 pts)
Character development (20 pts)
Story development (20 pts)
Script development & submission (40 pts)

Script Development *expectations*:
　　Each student will submit his or her episode in script format.

Fall 2025:
　　Each script should contain a minimum of **4,000** words and a maximum of **6,000** words.

Required for a Passing Grade of C: **230 points**

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and/or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Compose a short story with adequate development of plot, theme, and character development with properly formatted dialogue, description, and literary devices.
2. Compose a short poem with demonstrated understanding of line length, alliteration, assonance, rhyme, meter, imagery, symbolism, and metaphor.

Proofread, edit, analyze, and critique fellow students' stories and poems based on their mastery of the appropriate elements as described above.

Academic Honesty

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification. Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

> "Sometimes if you ask an AI like ChatGPT, Bard or Bing a question, it will respond with great confidence – but the facts it spits out will be false. This is known as a hallucination. One high profile example that emerged recently led to **students who had used AI chatbots to help them write essays** for course work being caught out after ChatGPT "hallucinated" made-up references as the sources for information it had provided" ("What is AI?" by Richard Fisher).

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings (words, phrases, ideas, or organization) of others without citing the source completely and correctly.
  - Failure to identify quoted words with quotation marks is plagiarism.
  - Failure to provide complete and accurate bibliographic information is plagiarism.
  - Incorrect paraphrasing (using words or sentence structure from the original source) is a form of plagiarism called fabrication.

- Putting your own words in quotation marks and citing a published source is a form of plagiarism called fabrication.

- Students are expected to understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. There is no difference between accidental and intentional plagiarism.

- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing **will receive a zero (0)** on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) plagiarism;

(b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment;

(c) communicating test information with another person during an examination;

(d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; and/or

(e) using a commercial term paper service.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through *DSPS*, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

Course Policies

Attendance
- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class will be dropped by the instructor on the Opening Day Roster. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class.

It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details.

- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absence exceeds the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. However, Dr. Patterson only drops students on the Opening Day Roster and on the Census Roster. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw officially from the course.
- The deadline to drop with 'W' is **1 November 2025**.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Classroom Decorum

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices may be used during class.
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Please comply as directed by the instructor.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! To continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Makings SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	
13 August	Introduction and Overview of the Course	
20 August	Building the Habit of Writing	
27 August	Introduction to Poetry	
3 September	Workshop: The Sonnet	**Analysis of a Poem** due before next class

Date	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	
10 September	Workshop: The Villanelle and the Pantoum	
17 September	Workshop: Free Verse and experimental patterns	
24 September	Introduction to Drama: Playwrighting and Screenwriting	
1 October	Collaboration	**Portfolio Poetry** due before next class
8 October	Workshop: Writing Scenes	**Analysis of a Drama** due before next class
15 October	Workshop: Act structures	
22 October	Introduction to Fiction: Short Story	
29 October	Review of Plot Structures	**Portfolio 10-min Play** due before next class
5 November	Review of Portfolio Poetry	**Comp/Cont. paper** due by end of week
12 November	Review of Portfolio Drama	**Portfolio Screenwriting** due by end of week
		Portfolio Short Fiction due before next class
19 November	Review of Collaborative Project	
3 December	Final Examination	

Subject to change without prior notice

Copyright, Intellectual Property Rights, and the Course Anthology

Imperial Community College District
Administrative Procedure 3715: Intellectual Property

Student Intellectual Property Rights

District students who created a work are owners of and have intellectual property rights in that work. District students own the intellectual property rights in the following works created while they are students at the District: (1) intellectual property created to meet course requirements using college or District resources, and (2) intellectual property created using resources available to the public. Intellectual property works created by students while acting as District employees shall be governed under provisions for employees.

Modification of Ownership Rights

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Assignment of Rights; When the conditions outlined in the sections on employee intellectual property rights or student intellectual property are met, ownership will reside with the employee or student responsible for creating the intellectual property. In these circumstances, the creator may pursue intellectual property protection, marketing, and licensing activities without involving the District. If such a decision is made, the creator is entitled to all revenues received.

Any person may agree to assign some or all of his or her intellectual property rights to the District. In the event the creator offers to share or assign intellectual property rights in the creation to the District, the District may support and finance application for intellectual property protection (trademark, patent, or copyright) or it may enter into an agreement for other exploitation of the work, including management, development and commercialization of the property under terms and conditions as may be agreeable to the parties. After evaluating the creator's offer, the District may or may not decide to become involved in a joint investment agreement. A negative response from the District will be communicated in writing to the creator. An affirmative response from the District will be summarized as an offer to enter into a written contract. If the creator accepts the District's proposed contract, any revenues received from commercialized of the intellectual property will be distributed as defined in the contract.

It is the intention of the instructor, Dr. Jennifer Patterson, to publish the class anthology in early 2026. One (1) copy of the anthology shall be delivered to each student who has contributed to the anthology insofar as the student provides Dr. Patterson with a valid and reliable mailing address or agrees to meet Dr. Patterson on the campus of Imperial Valley College for the personal delivery of the copies.

Dr. Jennifer Patterson will bear the costs of the initial printing of no more than sixty (30) copies of the anthology. After delivering the one (1) copy to each student who contributed to the anthology, Dr. Patterson reserves the right to sell any and all remaining copies to recoup some or all of the printing costs.

In the event the sale of the anthology exceeds the cost of printing, any remaining profits shall be donated to the IVC Foundation for their general scholarship fund.