

ENGL 250: Creative Writing

Basic Course Information

Semester	Fall 2015	Instructor Name	James Patterson, PhD
CRN #	10291	Email	james.patterson@imperial.edu
Room	1308	Webpage	http://faculty.imperial.edu/james.patterson
Mtg Days	Wednesday	Office	Office 406
Mtg Times	6:00-9:10 p.m.	Office Hours	Monday-Thursday, 9:30-10:15 a.m. Tuesday evening, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Units	3 units	Office Phone	760-355-6486 (message)

Course Description

This course covers the 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 in order to achieve maximum progress.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

Course Objectives

To ensure satisfactory completion of the course, the student must be able to:

1. Distinguish and explain principles of writing in the short story, drama, poetry and essay.
2. Demonstrate the ability to recognize and interpret styles and techniques in all genres and to practice these in their own writing.
3. Criticize his/her own work and the work of others by identifying and analyzing principles of style and structure in all genres.

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.

Required Textbook

Lisa Roney. *Serious Daring: Creative Writing in Four Genres*. Oxford University Press, 2014.

ISBN-13: 978-0199941629

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

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)
Fiction Project:	Short story (1,000-1,200 words = 40 pts)
Reflection:	Nonfiction Essay (500-750 words = 25 pts)

Literary Criticism: Analysis of a poem and a 10-minute play (20 pts each)

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

Required for a Passing Grade of C: **240 points**

Course Requirements

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. The Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC) has adopted a similar requirement.

Tentative Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading for Class
August 19	Introduction to Course	
August 26	Poetry, introduction	Chapter 1
September 2	Poetry, imagery & figurative language	Chapter 2
September 9	Poetry, forms	Chapter 3
September 16	Poetry Workshop	Chapter 4
September 23	Drama, introduction	Chapter 8
September 30	Drama, plot & character	Chapter 9
October 7	Drama, formats for stage and screen	Chapter 11
October 14	Drama, writing for television	Chapter 12
October 21	Fiction, introduction	Chapter 7
October 28	Fiction, genres	Chapter 10
November 4	YA Fiction Workshop	Chapter 13
November 11	Veterans' Day – no class meeting	
November 18	Workshops and seminars	Chapter 15
December 2	Contests and publishing	Chapter 16
December 9	Final Production Meeting for Anthology	

Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. 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 absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Classroom Etiquette

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices may be on during class. Students may bring a laptop or tablet to class for note-taking and in-class writing. Students are expected to step outside the classroom to make or receive a phone call.
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed.
- 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.

Academic Honesty

- Plagiarism is to take and present as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly reference a source, you must ask for help.

Generally speaking, any time you copy three or more words in sequence from a source, it is a quotation needing a full and correct reference. For this class, 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, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or 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 School 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, (e) use of a commercial term paper service

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313 if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see the webpage for the [Student Health Center](#). The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 1536, telephone 760-355-6310.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the [IVC General Catalog](#) available online.

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access [tutorials](#) online.