Fall 2024

ENGL 3304: Genres in Creative Writing

Texas A&M University - San Antonio Tuesdays & Thursdays (T/R) 12:30pm – 1:45pm online https://tamusa.zoom.us/my/laurieann



Professor: Laurie Ann Guerrero Email: Lguerrero@Tamusa.edu

Office Location: Classroom Hall 314N Office Hours: TH 2:00pm-3:30pm, by appt.

Course Description:

Genres in Creative Writing will help students develop their understanding of writing techniques to best express themselves in nonfiction (memoir & personal essays), poetry, lyric essay, and mixed genre. This course will have a heavy focus on creative writing exercises and will help students develop a formal vocabulary to more effectively analyze, engage, and communicate about literature. As well, this course is intended to more generally improve your critical thinking, reading, speaking, and develop your creative writing skills. This course is discussion-based and thus it is vital that you come to class having completed the reading for that day and prepared to talk about assigned readings. Students will also be required to share their work for feedback from their peers and will be guided in giving critique.

Required Materials:

- Writer's Notebook
- Reading material will be made available as PDFs on Blackboard

Learning Objectives: At the end of the course, students will...

• Exhibit an in-depth understanding of the range of cultural work achieved by writers.

- Demonstrate recognition of the literary, cultural, historical, political and theoretical contexts within which these works were produced.
- Demonstrate an understanding of literary devices through the production of their own creative pieces and comprehend key themes, topics, arguments, and questions in the study of creative writing.
- Gain confidence in oral and written expression, giving and receiving critique, drawing the connection between the personal and the political, and the cultural work of writers we study.

These outcomes will be assessed through the completion of the assignments listed below.

- Participation (attendance, workshops, discussion, homework, etc.): 40%
 - Attendance (worth 50% of the Participation grade)
 - Readings& Discussion (worth 25% of the Participation grade)
 - Workshops (worth 25% of Participation grade)
- Assignments: 40%

• Creative Portfolio: 20%

Grade Breakdown: Grades will be calculated using the following scale.

90-100=A 80-89=B 70-79=C 60-69=D 59 or lower=F

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

General Comments on Assignments: Successful completion of this English course depends to a great degree upon your ability to read with scrupulous care, attention, and insight. Careful reading of all assigned material will be one of the foundations of your work for the course. You will be expected to have completed all assigned reading on the day a text is discussed in class and to prepare for class by taking notes and contributing to discussions.

Participation in Class (40%): A vital, ongoing intellectual conversation is at the heart of the course. Attendance and participation are crucial. I will be taking attendance at every class. Not showing up to class will affect your grade. (See ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES below.) Please observe, though, that your presence in the (zoom) classroom does not automatically guarantee you full credit. Even though the class will sometimes consist of lectures, you are nevertheless required to provide input. It is crucial that students arrive in class with required texts read, prepared to offer thoughtful responses to the readings. You are participating when you are contributing to discussions; being a critical listener and thinker; asking questions of anything you do not understand; and offering constructive feedback on your peers' ideas. Also, you must come to class prepared with the proper materials (paper, pen, text, notebook, etc.).

The following are some guidelines for in-class discussion.

- Please take notes and be prepared to speak about your ideas in class.
- Elaborate. Be sure to look for the literary devices each writer is using and be prepared to discuss them in class.

- Reading or referring to quotes is fine, but it is vital that you aim for your own paraphrase and analysis of the text.
- Be aware of your level of participation. If you rarely speak up, try to challenge yourself to do so more. If you always have something to say, make sure to allow space for others to respond as well.
- Be sure to study the literary devices. Know them. It is necessary to be able to speak to the work we are studying by using the proper terminology.

Assignments & Quizzes (40%): You will only be given FIVE writing assignments throughout the semester. Occasionally, I will ask you to turn in free-write assignments that we do in class. These free writes CANNOT be made up. Be prepared to type them up and submit them by the following day via Blackboard.

We will go over each assignment in detail, and if you have no experience in creative writing, do not fear! During our discussions of the texts we read, we will look at the work from all angles, deconstruct form & ideas, look closely at literary devices, and how each writer explores ideas and genres in their work. You will not be graded on how "good" your writing is, but on how conscientiously you explore in your own work and how you can discuss the application of the techniques we study.

While this class is focused **form** (<u>how</u> you write), we will also cover **content** (<u>what</u> you are writing about). Please be prepared to cultivate a safe space for yourself, and for others, to explore difficult topics.

Creative Portfolio (20%): During finals week, your creative portfolio will be due. The portfolio will consist of 2 drafts of each of the 5 pieces of writing you did with revision notes, and a letter to your reader (details on this will be given in class).

COURSE POLICIES

Class Participation and Attendance: Your responsibility in the class is to be not only a writer, but also a reader and responder for other members of the class community. It is essential, then, that you respond to and engage with class faithfully and be fully prepared to participate in discussions of assigned reading. To be effective participants, students need to complete reading and writing tasks by assigned dates. In fact, the only way the class will work is by actively engaging and taking ownership of your own education.

Absences: More than two absences will affect your final grade, which will drop by ½ letter for each additional absence. Lateness for class, if extreme or chronic, will be counted as an absence. If tardiness becomes an issue, any tardy that exceeds 20 minutes will result in one absence. Lateness is discourteous to the instructor and students. If you must be absent from class or cannot submit an assignment on time because of a personal emergency, you should email me as soon as possible. If you were unable to attend class due to illness, please talk to me after you return. A doctor's note would be ideal. After an absence, a student should contact a classmate about class material and obtain handouts that were distributed. Please also make every effort to

avoid leaving class early. If you must leave class early, please inform me in advance. If you leave 30 minutes or more before the end of the class without discussing it with me beforehand, you will be considered absent for the day. Since our class functions as a community, it is essential that students attend class consistently.

Classroom Conduct: Be respectful. We will be discussing sensitive topics in this course, and it is perfectly normal that we may not all agree. However, you are to refrain from using language or behavior that is sexist, homophobic, classist, racist, intolerant and/or insensitive to the differences of others. I have a zero-tolerance policy on oppressive and unproductive language. It is disrespectful and unacceptable. I reserve the right to ask you to leave if you do not abide by these standards. You may also face more serious consequences as detailed below in "Classroom Conduct Expectations" and your participation grade will suffer the consequence as well.

The following behaviors will also negatively impact your participation grade: missing class; coming to class without the required assignments; disrespecting your peers and your teacher; being on your phone or engaging with others while we are on Zoom; off-topic conversations with your classmates; doing work for other courses; constantly keeping your camera off and not participating; rolling your eyes when others speak; hostile behavior toward a classmate or me, or any behavior that is inappropriate, and/or off-task. These behaviors are not conducive to a positive classroom environment. If I witness repeated inappropriate behavior, I will turn off your camera and/or ask you to leave, and you will be counted absent.

Note: If you choose to have your camera off for any reason during class, please expect to be engaged with first during our discussions.

Deadlines & Late work: Unless there are extenuating circumstances, **no late work will be accepted.** All written and online work must be submitted on time. No exceptions, unless for real and serious emergencies, in which case you should get in touch with me at once. Extensions for emergencies will be granted only once per student per semester and will subject to a 10-point deduction for every day that it is late.

Assignment Policies: You are expected to submit original work for this course. Do not recycle papers written for other courses. If any assignment is unclear, please ask questions.

No Use of Generative AI Permitted: ENGL 3304 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic Dishonesty for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication,

multiple submission, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Dishonesty Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook.

http://osa.tamuk.edu/studentorganizations/studentorganizations_files/studenthandbook.pdf.

Simply put, plagiarism is copying another's work, whether it's word-for-word or paraphrasing. Using AI is also a form of plagiarizing, and it is considered a form of cheating.

Collaboration: All written assignments outside of the classroom should be completed individually. There will be in-class and online assignments where you will work in pairs or in small groups, though. I will let you know when an in-class activity is a collaborative one; if I do not specifically tell you to collaborate, you can assume that the assignment should be completed on your own. Note that in some situations uncalled for collaboration can be construed as plagiarism. For more information on plagiarism, see the classroom "academic honesty" policy.

Availability: My office is located in **Classroom Hall 314N**. However, because this is an online course, you may make an appointment to meet with me via Zoom during my office hours. Please email me or see me after class to set an appointment. If you make an appointment with me, I expect that you will keep it like any other professional meeting. If you must cancel an appointment, please let me know at least 24 hours in advance, if possible. Office hours are an appropriate venue to confer with me about any aspect of the course, clarification of my expectations or your grades, comments on assignments, questions about course material. I recommend meeting with me early in the semester as one-on-one help and individual attention often results in a deeper understanding of course materials and clearer expression of that understanding in your writing.

E-mail: I am available by email at LGuerrero@tamusa.edu, and I check my email at least once a day Monday-Thursday before 5pm for any questions or comments. *Do not use the Blackboard message option*. I usually return emails within 48 hours, but I do not check my email on the weekend.

Blackboard: Everything we do for class will be on Blackboard—get familiar with it if you are not already. Blackboard can be accessed at http://tamusa.blackboard.com/ If you need assistance (technical support) with Blackboard, please email HelpDesk@tamusa.tamus.edu or call (210) 784-4357 BEFORE you contact me with tech questions. They are the experts.

Self-Reliance: This is an upper division English course. I realize that some of you are either non-majors or new to the English major; however, because this is a major and upper division course, I expect a certain level of proficiency in terms of reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking. If you need extra help or assistance in a particular area, you need to be proactive and independently seek solutions.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Please consult Student Handbook

Texas Senate Bill 17, the recent law that outlaws diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at public colleges and universities in Texas, does not in any way affect content, instruction, or discussion in a course at public colleges and universities in Texas. Expectations and academic freedom for teaching and class discussion have not been altered post-SB 17, and students should not feel the need to censor their speech pertaining to topics including race and racism, structural inequality, LGBTQ+ issues, or diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Six Drop Policy: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the

University. The university will provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant students that would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition and that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

- 1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
- 2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
- 3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
- 4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

- 1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and administration.
- 2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, <u>Student Code of Conduct</u>, on our website, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.

- 3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
- 4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.
- 5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated. Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct.

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Support Services in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210, or at (210) 784-1335 or visit https://www.tamusa.edu/index.html or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Student Academic Success Center: This center takes a developmental approach to help students complete their academic goals from orientation through graduation. It offers academic and skills workshops, one-on-one appointments, and online resources to help retention efforts at TAMUSA. The goal of the Center is to help students discover, self-reflect, and become independent learners. Student Academic Success is located in the Madla Building, Suite 202. To contact the Center, please call 210-784-1307 or email Student.Success@tamusa.edu

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is

available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance).

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services.

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). For more information and self-help resources, please visit the following: www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa inperson room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-action-plan.pdf

Download the SafeZone App for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

*Note: I reserve the right to make changes to the schedule and requirements as necessary. This document serves as a contract between the professor and the students. Upon receipt of this document by the students, the professor assumes that expectations set forth in the syllabus have been read and acknowledged by the student, and that proper communication has been initiated about assignments, schedule, and grading. Please contact me at the aforementioned email address with any questions or comments. I look forward to the semester!

	Week/Dates	Reading Schedule	DUE
	Week 1 Aug. 27 & 29	TUES • Introductions/expectations • Building a literary vocabulary; note-taking THURS • content vs. craft • Generative workshop	
Nonfiction: Memoir/ Personal Essay	Week 2 Sept. 3 & 5	 TUES Nonfiction: "Learning to Read" by Malcom X tone THURS Nonfiction: "Indian Education" by Sherman Alexie Diction Assignment #1 	
Nonf Pe	Week 3 Sept. 10 & 12	 TUES Nonfiction: Memoir: "How to Love a Woman with No Legs" by Natalie Diaz THURS Nonfiction: Memoir: "La Prieta" by Gloria Anzaldua Assignment #2 	Assignment #1 due Thurs. Sept. 12 th
	Week 4 Sept. 17 & 19	 TUES Nonfiction: "Tulips" by Naomi Shihab Nye THURS Nonfiction: TBA by Ross Gay 	Assignment #2 Due Thurs. Sept. 26 th
,	Week 5 Sept. 24 & 26	TUES • WORKSHOP #1 - Group A THURS • WORKSHOP #1 - Group B	
Poetry/Lyric Essay/ Prose Poems	Week 6 Oct. 1 & 3	TUES • Poems: Hayden, Borjas, Frost • lyric vs. narrative THURS • Poems: Asghar, Lee, Oliver • enjambment, lines • Assignment #3	

Week/Dates	Reading Schedule	DUE
Week 7 Oct. 8 & 10 midterm	TUES • Poems: Hernandez • assonance & consonance THURS • Hernandez & Olivarez • Generative workshop • Assignment #4	Assignment #3 Due Thurs. Oct. 10 th
Week 8 Oct. 15 & 17	TUES • Poems: Olivarez THURS (In lieu of class on Thursday, October 17th, students are required to attend the following event. Lunch will be provided, and you will have the opportunity to purchase books & have them signed by the authors.) LATINX HERITAGE MONTH VISITING AUTHORS READING SERIES: Saúl Hernandez & Jose Olivarez Thursday, October 17th @ 12 noon BLH Multipurpose Room	Assignment #4 Due Thurs. Oct. 24 th
Week 9 Oct. 22 & 24	TUES • WORKSHOP #2 - Group A THURS • WORKSHOP #2 - Group B	
Week 10 Oct. 29 & 31	TUES • Mixed Genre: TBA THURS • Mixed Genre: TBA	
Week 11 Nov. 5 & 7	 Mixed Genre: "Inheritance" by Jasminne Méndez THURS Mixed Genre: "Children in the Garden" by Carla Reyes Assignment #5 	

Week/Dates	Reading Schedule	DUE
Week 12 Nov. 12 & 14	 TUES Mixed Genre: Victoria Chang THURS Mixed Genre: Guerrero 	Assignment #5 Due Thurs. Nov. 14 th
Week 13 Nov. 19 & 21	TUES • WORKSHOP #3 - Group A THURS • WORKSHOP #3 - Group B	
Week 14 Nov. 26 & 28 Thanksgiving	THANKSGIVING BREAK!	
Week 15 Dec. 3 & 5	TUES • Revision workshop THURS • Revision Workshop	
Week 16 Dec. 7-13	FINAL PORTFOLIO	Final Portfolio due TBA