

# ENGL 2307: Introduction to Creative Writing Fall 2025

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**Instructor:** Christen Barron

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**Office Location:** Classroom Hall 318

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30pm-1:45pm or schedule a virtual meeting by [appointment](#)

## About Your Instructor



Hi! I'm Christen Barron, but most students call me Professor B. I'm a creative nonfiction writer, editor, and writing instructor. Originally from Savannah, Georgia, I hold an M.F.A. in Writing and a B.F.A. in Dramatic Writing from Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). I've taught writing classes at Texas A&M-University San Antonio for eight years. For nearly a decade, I've taught community creative writing classes for The Deep Center's nationally-recognized Young Author Project and San Antonio's Gemini Ink. Most recently, I serve as the faculty supervising editor for *Mosaic*, a student-led literary magazine at Texas

A&M-University San Antonio. Outside of work, I love collaging, hiking, and rewatching nostalgic movies from the 90s and early 2000s. *Zenon Girl of the 21st Century* is my favorite Disney Channel Original Movie 🧡

## Course Delivery

This is an asynchronous online course delivered via Blackboard. Asynchronous means that you aren't required to login to the Blackboard course or attend a virtual lecture at certain times each week. However, you're required to complete weekly course tasks and writing assignments. In lieu of an in-person lecture, instruction takes the form of assigned readings, videos, and other multimedia content that you can review at your own pace each week. **Please plan to access course material and submit assignments at least twice a week.** You're welcome to work ahead as your schedule allows, but keep in mind that course content is generally available two weeks in advance.

## Catalog Description

Students will be introduced to the craft of creative writing.

## Course Section Description

Through weekly discussion of mentor texts and generative writing exercises, we'll explore how craft and content work together to create meaningful poems, short stories, and nonfiction essays. Course assignments invite you to respond both critically and creatively to the craft and conventions of creative writing.

## Course Section Goals

Upon successful completion of this class, you will...

- demonstrate an understanding of craft techniques used in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction
- exhibit an expanded vocabulary for discussing and evaluating creative writing
- demonstrate the ability to compose and revise poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction
- demonstrate knowledge of revision techniques and avenues for publication

## Required Texts, Materials, and Technology

- Equipment: desktop computer, laptop, or tablet with a reliable internet connection
- Software: word processor, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs
- Software: Google account
- Textbook/Required Reading: free Open Access resources posted on Blackboard

## Grading Opportunities

### Weekly Discussion Posts / Due each Sunday at 11:59 pm

Each week, we'll focus on a different creative writing craft technique or concept relevant to the course description. You'll learn about the technique or concept through course readings and/or

videos posted in the weekly Blackboard learning modules. You'll then be asked to engage with the content by completing an activity or answering discussion questions and posting them on the discussion board. Completing each discussion assignment by the deadline earns you a total of 240 points towards your final course grade.

### Weekly Writing Prompts / Due each Sunday at 11:59 pm

In addition to the discussion post assignments, you'll complete weekly writing prompts that ask you to apply what you've learned through the course material and discussion board. You'll submit your writing through the designated writing prompt submission box on Blackboard. Completing each writing prompt by the deadline earns you a total of 120 points towards your final course grade.

### Unit 1-4 Reflections and Sharing / Due at the end of each unit

At the end of each unit, you'll respond to a sharing/reflection activity or reflection writing prompt. These brief exercises are intended to help you reflect on your learning and growth as a creative writer in the class. You'll also get the opportunity to share some of your writing with the class (if you so desire). Completing each reflection assignment by the deadline earns you a total of 40 points towards your final course grade.

### Course Final

At the end of the course, you'll develop and revise a short piece of creative writing in the genre of your choice. Details for this project will be provided after midterms. Completing the final earns you a total of 100 points towards your final course grade.

## Assessment

This class employs labor-based grading. Because this class focuses on developing your understanding of creative writing and deepening your reading and writing practice, your course grade will be based primarily on the amount of work (labor) you put into the course, not the perceived "quality" of your submitted writing assignments. However, you must access Blackboard regularly and submit your work by specified deadlines. Additionally, your submitted coursework must reflect your commitment to develop as a reader and writer. If your submitted work does not appear to reflect your commitment to develop as a reader and writer, you may be asked to revise and resubmit your work for an updated grade at your instructor's discretion.

## Late Work Policy

While I understand that due dates can be challenging, they are crucial for managing the workload and ensuring timely instructor feedback. Please plan to submit your assignments each Sunday to avoid falling behind in the course. I also acknowledge that we all have our 'off' weeks, and life happens. Therefore, I will accept late work for full credit until the end of the unit, but I will not be able to provide feedback on it. My focus will be on checking for completion.

To ensure a fair and manageable workload for both you and me, I can only accept late work until the end of each unit. This is to prevent a last-minute overload of submissions and ensure that I can keep every student's course grade up to date and accurate.

I'm here to help! If you find yourself struggling to meet course deadlines, please contact me as soon as possible. Early communication enables us to collaborate and find a solution that supports your success in the course.

## Class Conduct Policy

Sharing our writing and ideas with others can be a vulnerable act. Please be mindful of the unique perspectives and experiences of others. There may be situations on Blackboard when you disagree with the assigned readings, your instructor, or a classmate. I ask that you arrive at each assignment with an open mind and use respect when communicating with me and your classmates. Another way you can show respect to your classmates and instructor is logging on to Blackboard and participating in the class discussions before or by the posted deadlines.

## Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy

Artificial intelligence is a rapidly evolving technology relevant to anyone who writes. In this class, we may experiment with generative artificial intelligence (GAI) writing tools such as ChatGPT. **In general, you're expected to write your own responses to assignments in this class. I'll let you know on the assignment sheet if and when you may use ChatGPT (or similar GAI tools) as a resource for completing an assignment.** Please contact me for approval if you would like to use ChatGPT or similar tools outside the parameters described above.

## Class Content Advisory

Please note that the creative works we read and discuss in this class include themes that can be challenging or even disturbing for some readers. When appropriate, I will make sure to provide relevant content warnings on Blackboard to help you prepare. If, after reviewing the content warnings, you feel that the thematic material in a particular reading isn't right for you, please don't hesitate to excuse yourself.

## Tentative Schedule of Units/Weekly Course Topics

Unit I: Introduction to Poetry (is it the most accessible creative writing genre?)

Week 1: Welcome Week/Getting to Know You

Week 2: Free Verse Poems, Imagery, and Metaphor (Discuss “cutting greens” by Lucille Clifton, “At Black River” by Mary Oliver, and “Grief by Matthew Dickman)

Week 3: Ekphrastic Poems (Discuss “The Kiss” by Sasha Pimental and “Aubade with Burning City” by Ocean Vuong)

Week 4: The Art of Linebreaks (Discuss “The Red Wheelbarrow” by William Carlos Williams)

Week 5: Unit I Reflection/Sharing

## Unit II: Fiction (who doesn’t love a good story?)

Week 6: Introduction to Fiction and Mood/Tone (excerpts from “The Fall of the House of Usher” by Edgar Allan Poe)

Week 7: Character (Discuss video clips from *Killing Eve*, *Reservation Dogs*, and *The Virgin Suicides*)

Week 8: Point of View (Discuss excerpts from *The Spectacular Now* by Tim Tharp)

Week 9: Unit II Reflection/Sharing

## Unit III : Creative Nonfiction (is it the most misunderstood creative writing genre?)

Week 10: Introduction to Creative Nonfiction

Week 11: The Triptych (Discuss “Fish” by Nicole Walker and “Summer Triptych” by Linda Pastan)

Week 12: Hermit Crab (Discuss “We Regret to Inform You” by Brenda Miller and “Thanksgiving Rider” by Simon Rich)

Week 13: Unit III Reflection/Sharing

## Unit IV: Revision, Publication, and Writing in Your Community

Week 14: Introduction to *Mosaic*

Week 15: Generative Revision/Revision for Publication

Week 16: Final Project/Final Course Reflection

## University Policies and Resources

[University Policies and Resources](#)