

## **ENGL 248**

### **Creative Themes in Writing**

3 Credits

## Community College of Baltimore County

### Common Course Outline

#### **Description**

**ENGL 248 – Creative Themes in Writing:** In this course, students are introduced to a special topic or genre within Creative Writing. Special topics include, but are not limited to, Travel Writing, Memoir, the Personal Essay, and Novel Writing. Each course focuses on a specific Creative Writing genre as indicated by the instructor. Students read the work of influential writers and learn the essential craft elements of the genre. Students also participate in regular writing workshops designed to guide and support their growth as writers, as well as their ability to develop and communicate informed evaluation of their peers' work. This course is taught as an interactive workshop where students will critique each other's work and participate in collaboration and revision exercises.

**Pre-requisites:** ENGL 209

#### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate facility with a special topic within Creative Writing;
2. identify various notable writers within the covered genre;
3. prepare for peer editing and revision workshops;
4. evaluate writings within a workshop group;
5. apply creative writing skills to writing prompts and exercises;
6. differentiate among the techniques of notable authors within the covered genre;
7. construct written work utilizing the authorial strategies of the covered genre;
8. maintain a portfolio of their own original writing samples from the genre, including multiple drafts and revisions; and
9. develop the "writer's voice" via a presentation of original work.

#### **Major Topics**

- I. Essential elements of the genre
- II. Influential writers in the genre
- III. Craft techniques, terminology, and related theoretical underpinnings of the genre of focus
- IV. Critical reading skills for developing informed critique of one's own written work within the genre, as well as the work of others
- V. Appropriate utilization of the academic workshop method of review
- VI. Effective revision and development of work based on instructor and workshop feedback
- VII. Genre-Specific Topics will vary but may include:

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.  
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- a. Travel Writing
- b. Memoir
- c. The Personal Essay
- d. Novel Writing
- e. Other Genres within Creative Writing

### **Course Requirements**

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Three creative writing assignments that direct students to practice and develop their skills and abilities within the defined Creative Writing genre,
- A portfolio containing revisions and multiple drafts of the writing assignments that show the writer's growth in both the art (voice) and craft (stylistic conventions and control of the creative elements) of the genre,
- A final presentation of the student's work in which each student demonstrates their proficiency with the basic elements of the genre and development of their writer's authentic creative voice on the page. Presentations may be live/synchronous or asynchronous; faculty may conduct presentations in the classroom or via various audio/visual platforms.

Written assignments & projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is an elective that counts toward completion of the transfer pattern in Creative Writing within the parameters of the AA Degree in Humanities and Social Sciences.

Individual faculty members may include course objectives, major topics, and other course requirements in addition to the minimum expectations stated in the Common Course Outline.

Date Revised: 9/18/2019