ENG 9CE: Creative Expression in Writing
3 units, Fall 2014
Instructor: Maria Hummel

Course Description:
Creative Expression in Writing is a writing class that explores daily creative practice through readings, prompted exercises, improv, games, collaboration, workshop, and revision. It is an introductory course and recommended for students who have never taken a Creative Writing class before. It is a safe space to take risks and fail. You’ll walk out with dozens of pages of new material, and a self-awareness of your own creative process.

Creative Expression in Writing fulfills Stanford’s Ways of Thinking/Ways of Doing Creative Expression Requirement: The ability to design, create, and perform – each enriches our lives in substantial and meaningful ways. Thinking creatively, giving expressive shape to ideas, and communicating those ideas with imagination and precision are not only indispensable to all artistic endeavors, they also represent broadly applicable skills that strengthen and enhance traditional academic pursuits, stimulate effective problem-solving, and foster originality and innovation in new areas.

Course Objectives for Creative Expression students:
1. Explore your own potential and produce original creative projects.
2. Engage in artistic collaboration and the creative reinterpretation of art made by others.
3. Take creative risks beyond your comfort zones
4. Experience what it is to make the unimagined possible and real.
5. Appreciate how experimentation, failure, and revision can play a valuable role in the creation of successful and innovative works.
6. Consider multiple and possibly divergent solutions to a problem.
7. Explore the role of artistic expression in addressing issues that face society.
Required text:
Course reader, available from CopyAmerica and during first week of class.

Grade:
Participation (35%):

- Come to class prepared and on time
- Contribute thoughtfully to discussions and activities
- Read and respond insightfully to published or peer work

This class depends on the full participation of its members. Please keep the tone in the classroom professional, constructive, and respectful; it is possible to be both generous and rigorous.

If you must miss class for illness, sports, etc: 1) let me know in advance. 2) expect some make-up work. Unexcused absences will lower your grade by a half-letter each time, i.e. one unexcused absence knocks A down to A-, etc.

Written Exercises (35%): Over the course of the quarter, you will complete multiple written exercises, both in class and out. These exercises will include imitations, flash fiction, poetry and prose poems, observations, and illustrations. You will keep a daily creativity journal. You will revise work periodically and for the final portfolio.

Late assignments automatically receive a C grade.

Collaborative Project (15%): End-of-term collaborative project, including a “live” element to be presented in Week 10.

Reading Attendance (15%): Over the course of the quarter, you must attend three creative writing readings and/or workshops including The Art of Writing series.

Content of Creative Pieces:
Because this class is based on collective trust, you should not include references to any instructors or students in your work.

Laptops, Cell Phones, Food:
Laptops may be used only during in-class writing exercises, with WIFI off. Feel free to bring them to class, but don’t leave them on the table or open during general discussion. Because ringing and buzzing and One Direction are disruptive, all cell phones should be switched off prior to entering the classroom. If for some reason you must be reachable, please talk to me before class.
**Students with Documented Disabilities:**
Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the OAE as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone: 723-1066, URL: http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/oae).

**ABRIDGED CLASS CALENDAR**

**Week 1: CREATIVITY AND CREATIVE PRACTICE**
--What is creativity? What does it mean to develop and maintain a personal creative practice? How do we go about doing it?

Readings:
   Sandra Cisneros, “My Name”
   Michael Martone, “Contributor’s Note”
   Shelley Carson, “Brainsets and the Creative Process”

**Week 2: BECOMING A PERSON ON WHOM NOTHING IS LOST**
--How is creativity a response to the world as it is? How can we become observers of both our internal and external worlds? How can concrete details create an experience—i.e. of loss, of longing, pleasure, contentment, isolation—for the reader?

Readings:
   Joanne Beard, “Behind the Screen”
   Robert Hass, “A Story About the Body”
   Some descriptions of faces
   Scott McCloud, excerpts from *Making Comics*
   Kevin Young, “Ode to Pork”
   Pablo Neruda, “Ode to My Socks”
   Sei Shonagon, “Hateful Things”

**Week 3: THE LAND OF THE FIGURATIVE**
--How does art and writing transcend the “real”? The “real” vs. the “true.”

Readings:
   Aloysius Bertrand “Five Fingers of the Hand”
Honor Code
The Honor Code is the University's statement on academic integrity written by students in 1921. It articulates University expectations of students and faculty in establishing and maintaining the highest standards in academic work:

The Honor Code is an undertaking of the students, individually and collectively:

1. that they will not give or receive aid in examinations; that they will not give or receive unpermitted aid in class work, in the preparation of reports, or in any other work that is to be used by the instructor as the basis of grading;

2. that they will do their share and take an active part in seeing to it that others as well as themselves uphold the spirit and letter of the Honor Code.

3. The faculty on its part manifests its confidence in the honor of its students by refraining from proctoring examinations and from taking unusual and unreasonable precautions to prevent the forms of dishonesty mentioned above. The faculty will also avoid, as far as practicable, academic procedures that create temptations to violate the Honor Code.

4. While the faculty alone has the right and obligation to set academic requirements, the students and faculty will work together to establish optimal conditions for honorable academic work.