ENGLISH 9CE
Creative Expressions in Writing

English 9CE is a writing class that explores daily creative practice through readings, prompted exercises, improv, games, collaboration, workshop, and revision. This is an introductory course and recommended for students who have never taken a Creative Writing class before. Our primary aims in this class will be to take risks, succeed, reflect, revise, fail, and recover from failure.

A secondary, but no less important, aim is to become more alert to the various worlds of human experience through language. As we engage with the long tradition of literary art, we’ll think broadly and bravely, and explore the expressive opportunities inherent in writing.
The universe is made of stories, not of atoms.

— Muriel Rukeyser

Stanford 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

Course Requirements

Class Participation (30%) This includes attendance, punctuality, involvement in class discussions, in-class exercises, workshops, and collaborations. If at any point you are falling behind in these areas, I will contact you privately.

Devices: All course materials are available in the course reader or will be handed out in hardcopy. Workshop materials will be distributed by students in hardcopy. It is your responsibility to obtain the course reader and keep track of all handouts. Aside from longer (more than 20 minutes) in-class writing exercises or collaborations, devices/laptops will not be needed and are therefore not allowed in class. If you consistently use devices during class I will make a mark on that date. Three marks will lower your participation grade by 1%; four marks by 2%; five by 3%, and so on. Please note that I will not alert you to this unless your use of devices is particularly disruptive to others. It is your responsibility to keep all devices put away during class.

Absences: Attendance is required and essential to your experience of the course. Individual workshops & class collaborations are especially affected by absences and are impossible to recreate. If you have a legitimate reason to be absent, please arrange this in advance; otherwise unexcused absence will reduce your overall grade by 1/3 of a letter grade. Chronic absences will affect your grade significantly.

In-class workshops: For some of our exercises we will conduct workshops in small groups during class time. You should plan to come prepared, having read your classmates’ work carefully and taken detailed notes. For full-length workshops, you should read everything twice and come to class with a completed rubric for each student being workshopped that day.

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<td>Readings attendance</td>
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<td>Assignments</td>
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<td>Final portfolio</td>
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Assignments (25%) This includes all writing exercises you’ve completed in class and for homework, and a longer essay, set of poems, and/or story submitted for the full-length workshop. We’ll conduct mini workshops and/or cold reads (reading the assignment aloud to the class and then inviting response) for many of these assignments.

Attendance at Readings (10%) Attendance at three readings in the Creative Writing program is required. A list of readings this quarter can be found at http://creativewriting.stanford.edu and http://events.stanford.edu/.

Collaborative project (15%) End-of-term collaborative project, to be presented to the class. More on this to follow.

Final portfolio (20%): One of goals in this course is to produce a lot of writing, in the service of exploration. Not everything we write or dream up will be worth pursuing, or will allow us to do our best work. (As Louise Glück once wrote, "The only real exercise of will is negative; we have towards what we write the power of veto.") We’ll present some of the work we produce to our classmates, either in full-length or small group workshops. As the quarter progresses, we’ll choose some things to pursue and some things to discard. A final portfolio of the work we pursue will be due at the end of the quarter; our goal will be 12-15 pages of revised writing. This portfolio may be composed of a single long essay, a chapter of a memoir, a set of poems, a story, or a series of vignettes and investigations. The main criteria will be sustained engagement and thoughtful revision. The portfolio may not constitute a "completion" of the work you pursue, but it should be a significant step toward polish and achievement.

Accommodation

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 accommodation.

When you read a short story, you come out a little more aware and a little more in love with the world around you. What I want is to have the reader come out just 6 percent more awake to the world.

– George Saunders