Creative Expression in Writing is designed to fulfill Stanford’s Ways of Thinking & Ways of Creative Expression requirement. In this course we will explore creativity in many different forms -- with an emphasis on writing for certain, but also with sections of the class devoted to improv exercises, visual art, virtual reality, meditation and mindfulness, and many other forms of artistic exploration.

The main requirements for students are an open mind, a willingness to take risks, a collaborative mindset, and a general desire to say “Yes, I will try this.” By the time you finish this class you will have written dozens of shorter writing exercises, developed them into a student portfolio, visited new Stanford spaces and people who can teach us much about creativity, and begun to see your own creative process and your daily creative habits in a different and deeper light.

**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.

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.

**Texts:**
A Course Reader, available from CopyAmerica; *Almanac: Poems* by Austin Smith; many handouts that I’ll bring to class; and... many printouts of your work that you’ll bring to class.
Requirements:

Class participation, 30%. This grade will be determined by your coming to class, by being on time, by your contributions to our discussions, and especially by your participation in group and individual class activities. I will determine this grade. How can you help? Come to class, be on time. Help out in our discussions. Give a good effort in class. I would appreciate it, and your grade will be very much helped.

Your Creative Work, 25% – This will include about 30 short writing exercises and reaction papers. And a few illustrating and visual art exercises too.

Final Portfolio 15% -- You’ll organize a final portfolio of your creative journey from this quarter. This will include some of your previous creative writings, some new writings, and a journal and capstone self-assessment.

Longer Reaction Paper 15% -- In the second half of the class, you’ll write a 2000 word reaction paper to a creative form of your choice.

Reading Attendance, 15% – You’ll attend three campus creative events during the quarter. I’ll announce many of them in class, but one way to stay informed is by following the cw-undergrad email list. And by visiting http://events.stanford.edu

Assignments: I’ve held off on posting a detailed schedule for now. I’d like to get a sense of our class first. However, you’ll always know about assignments in any of three ways: 1. I’ll announce them in class, 2. I’ll write them on the board, and 3. I’ll email them to you.

Late Assignments: Anything turned in late will receive no higher than a grade of C.

Finally: I’ll be working hard to make this class an enjoyable and valuable learning experience for you. If it’s in my power, this will be your favorite class this quarter.

Generally Speaking... Things We'll Do This Quarter:

Wolves at Doors, 6th Grade Selves, Orientations, Tell Tale Hearts, Lords of Rings, Beasts of Southern Wilds, World Building, Hauntings & Ghosts, Magical Realism, Kubla Khan, Utopias, Hells, Flowers for Algernon, Robots, TedTalks, Improv!, Bullets in Brains, Photographs, Don’t Do This Then Do It, Experts, Last Nights At Lobsters, Six Word Stories, Dreams, Horoscopes, Courts of Forgetting, Kurt Vonnegut’s Eight Writing Rules, Mad Libs, Character Maps, Position Changes, Lies, Titles, Poems, and Subtexts.