Spring 2019 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Marcela Fuentes  
Course: 235  
Title: Elements of Creative Writing

Description: Initiation into the craft of creative writing in prose and poetry; extensive reading in the genres; peer workshops.

This introductory course will encompass the foundational principles and techniques of writing effective fiction and poetry, and creative nonfiction. Students will examine a range of examples, engage in writing exercises and share work in writing workshops to gain editorial insights into improving the craft of their writing.

Exercises will emphasize techniques such as how to choose scene vs. summary, POV, setting, tense, direct vs. indirect dialogue, formatting concerns for each genre, and how to take steps towards effective revision. Other assignments will entail doing weekly writing journal entries to help foster new stories, poems, essays, and stylistic experimentation. Class time will also include the sharing of the results of craft exercises, completed drafts for workshop, and discussion of assigned readings of published literary works. Full participation is required for all activities.

The trajectory of the course will build from writing activities, craft exercises, readings, and discussions to completed drafts of prose and poetry for workshopping, then revision and refinement as the semester progresses towards the portfolio of final work.

Proposed Readings: Brian Kiteley, The 3 a.m. Epiphany 1st Ed.  
Carmen Maria Machado, Her Body and Other Parties  
Supplemental Materials as Assigned