

Creative Writing EL3535
Location: MAIN BH 116

Tue, 1:10 PM - 4:00 PM (3/30/2009 - 5/15/2009)
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Course Description

This course will be a workshop in which the students and professor will share their writings during the six weeks. This will be done in order for students to learn not only some of the techniques of writing, but also how their work is read from the workshop participants. Each student will write one of the following assignments for the class (depending on their interests) and bring copies for each student in the class so we can read and comment on them. The assignments are carefully designed to help students learn how to be better writers through the process of revision. They may look small but they will take work outside of class. The real work of the class, however, takes place in the workshop so absences will result in a lowering of the grade.

WEEK ONE

Getting started.

Rules of writing and workshop procedures.

Assessment of what class members want to learn.

WEEK TWO

Hymnody and/or Poetry: Look up a hymn in a hymn book that is in Common Meter (CM) Write a paraphrase of a favorite psalm that you can sing to that tune.

Prose: Write a paraphrase of one psalm in prose, or a short vignette on what the poem meant to you in a certain time in your life. (No longer than a page)

WEEK THREE

Hymnody or Poetry: Paraphrase the same psalm into a poem you can sing to a Long Meter (LM) tune.

Prose: Rewrite your paraphrase, taking into account the comments of the group.

WEEK IV

Hymnody: Paraphrase your psalm so you can sing it to a Short Meter (SM) tune

Poetry: Using the techniques of poetry that you learned in the hymnody exercise, write a poem on any topic in one of the forms you learned.

Prose: Write a short spiritual anecdote from your own life, making reference to some biblical text.

WEEK V

Hymnody: Paraphrase your psalm into any other meter found in a hymnal.

Poetry: revise your poem making use of comments from the class

Prose: Rewrite the short spiritual anecdote using comments from the class.

WEEK VI

Hymnody: Write a hymn on any topic or text in any meter you would like.

Poetry: Rewrite the poem once again making use of comments from the class. You may even want to start from scratch.

Prose: Rewrite the short spiritual anecdote again, making use of comments from the class.

FINAL

Write a reflection paper on how your writing of the hymn text, poetry, or anecdote changed over the three weeks and what you learned not only about your writing, but about yourself

Hymnody: In addition, revise the hymn text

Poetry: In addition, revise your poem

Prose: Revise your piece again and write a reflection paper on how your writing of the anecdote changed over the three weeks and what you learned not only about your writing, but about yourself.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Lessons in Hymn Writing, Gracia Grindal 1986