

## ENGLISH 126, #0796, SPRING 2003

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 11 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. in D108, January 28 through May 27  
CUYAMACA COLLEGE: Marian Dickinson, Instructor; 16 Weeks; 3 Units of Credit

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# BEGINNING CREATIVE WRITING

## WELCOME!

Congratulations! You have just enrolled in an English class designed to strengthen your writing creativity and help you accomplish what you may have only dreamed of doing.

Although writing almost always equals hard work, when we really exert ourselves to create original responses to subjects that are meaningful to us, the work can become far more enjoyable, sometimes a true labor of love.

(The minimum requirement to enroll in this course is a grade of “C,” “CR,” or better in English 111 or assessment placing you in English 120 or its equivalent.)

## SOME FEATURES OF THIS COURSE

### *Necessary Materials*

Your required textbook is *Creative Writing: Forms and Techniques*, by Lavonne Mueller and Jerry Reynolds (Lincolnwood, Ill.: National Textbook Co., 1990). It is a good, basic guide that will ease you into familiarity with four kinds of creative writing—poetry, plays, stories, and literary nonfiction.

We will discuss assigned sections of the textbook before I check your understanding of them—and of any other materials presented in class—by quizzes and by evaluation of your original writing. An emergency copy of this book is on reserve for you in the library, at the circulation desk.

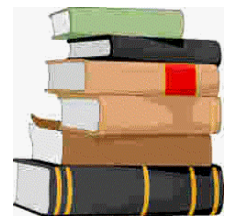
Additional required items include a lightweight, easily portable **notebook for your journal**, a **portfolio** (a durable folder or a large envelope) in which to keep and present your original manuscripts, **floppy disks** for computer files (you should use one

as a backup), and convenient access to a **good dictionary**. Optional, but helpful to *every writer* is an English handbook.

### *Other Sources of Learning*

You will be asked to prepare individual reports on two other books, *one book from each category below*, in addition to getting help from your text. The two categories (please note the difference between them) are (1) books on writing technique (“how-to-write” books), and (2) writing collections (models of successful writing). I have placed a number of good ones on reserve for you at the circulation desk in the library, and I will hand you a descriptive list of those books soon.

One of your reports must be an oral presentation to the class at a prearranged time during the second half of the semester. I recommend that you make your choice of books early in the semester so that you can begin reading them.



### *Your Writing “Major”*

Your emphasis or “major” in one of the four kinds of writing is a special feature of this class. Your selection of books for your two individual reports should reflect this emphasis. In the area of your chosen emphasis, you should start early in the semester to produce a portfolio of *new* writing that will be submitted to me more than once and that you will revise and edit thoroughly. I will grade the whole portfolio at the end of

the semester. To help you produce your original work, you will often do your **journal writing** at the beginning of each class, and you will need to continue it outside class at least twice a week.

### ***The Finished Product***

MLA format is required in all works submitted to me (except in journals). Your papers should be printed out in a *twelve-point font*, double-spaced, with *corrected spelling and grammar*. I may return, unread, any drafts presented otherwise. ***I require, also, that you make and keep an exact paper copy***

***of every writing assignment you submit.*** I will not be responsible for lost papers.

### ***Absence, Tardiness, & Missed Quizzes***

Much of your learning in this course will grow out of classroom activities that require students to be present, prepared, and active. If you should miss all or even part of four classes, I may drop you unless you have a legitimate reason for your absence *and* you notify me of the circumstances *and* you keep up with your assignments as adequately as you are able. Missed quizzes must be made up before the session at which I will return them, usually the next class meeting.

The moral here is “Keep in touch!”

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## **HOW I GRADE STUDENTS, ETC.**

- 24%** Four writing assignments to be given in class, one each in the four kinds of writing
- 20%** Your portfolio in your area of emphasis (number of items and pages dependent on genre)
- 16%** Attendance, promptness to class, oral and written participation (including prompt, adequate preparation of homework and in-class assignments)
- 16%** Quizzes on the reading assignments in the text and on other materials presented in class
- 14%** Reading reports on two books, one from each category (see page 1), one report to be oral
- 10%** Your journal of at least 50 200-word pages, entries graded on a credit/no credit basis  
(Grading Policy: A = 100-90%; B = 89-80%; C = 79-70%; D = 69-60%; F = 59% and below)

### **Writing Workshop Free and Non-Credit**

Taught by Susan Reed, February through May, 2003, this Community Learning class will afford you additional opportunities to get helpful feedback on your writing. Just call (619) 660-4350 to register.



### ***Opportunities for Instructor Help Outside of Class***

You are welcome to visit me during my office hours here at the college (see the schedule below) or to contact me by e-mail at <[marian.dickinson@gccd.net](mailto:marian.dickinson@gccd.net)> or by college voice mail at (619) 660-4000, ext. 3016. In addition, please visit my Web site at <<http://www.cuyamaca.net/dickinson>> and try its helpful writing links.

## **MARIAN'S OFFICE HOURS, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED**

<b><i>Tuesdays</i></b> 10 to 11 a.m.	<b><i>Thursdays</i></b> 10 to 11 a.m.
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## ENGLISH 126, #0796, SPRING 2003: Activity Schedule for Weeks 1 to 8

<b>Week 1:</b>	Discuss the course and journal writing.
Jan. 28	Do in-class creative writing.
and	Share students' previously done original writing, especially poems.
Jan. 30	Start discussion of pages 8 to 93 in <i>Creative Writing</i> (textbook).
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<b>Week 2:</b>	Continue discussion of pages 8 to 93 in <i>Creative Writing</i> .
Feb. 4	Share student writing warm-ups done last session and as homework.
and	<b>Tuesday: College Hour, 11:30-12:30, but this class meets, 11 to 11:25</b>
Feb. 6	<b>Saturday: Last day to officially add this class or drop it without a "W"</b>
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<b>Week 3:</b>	Discuss Special Section 1 (234-242) in <i>Creative Writing</i> .
Feb. 11	Review journal and poetry writing.
and	Share homework assignments, original work, and favorite poems by others.
Feb. 13	Other: _____ <b>Friday and Saturday: Holidays</b>
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<b>Week 4:</b>	<b>Quiz 1</b>
Feb. 18	Discuss Chapters 4 and 5 (96-149) in <i>Creative Writing</i> .
and	Share homework assignments, original work, and excerpts by others.
Feb. 20	Other: _____ <b>Monday: Holiday</b>
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<b>Week 5:</b>	Discuss Special Sections 2 and 3, (243-251) in <i>Creative Writing</i> .
Feb. 25	Review fiction techniques and play writing.
and	Other: _____
Feb. 27	_____ <b>Friday: Last day to apply for CR/NC</b>
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<b>Week 6:</b>	Quiz 2 and the first experimental writing (a poem) is due.
Mar. 4	Discuss Chapter 6 (152-183) in <i>Creative Writing</i> .
and	Share homework assignments, original work, and excerpts by others.
Mar. 6	Other: _____ <b>Wednesday: College Hour, 6-7 p.m.</b>
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<b>Week 7:</b>	Share homework assignments, original work, and excerpts by others.
Mar. 11	Review short story writing.
and	Other: _____
Mar. 13	_____
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<b>Week 8:</b>	<b>Quiz 3 and the second experimental writing (a short play) is due.</b>
Mar. 18	Discuss Chapter 7 (186-211) in <i>Creative Writing</i> .
and	Other: _____
Mar. 20	<b>Friday: Last day to apply for a Spring 2003 degree or certificate</b>

## ENGLISH 126, #0796, SPRING 2003: Activity Schedule for Weeks 9 to 16

**Week 9:** Review nonfiction writing.

Mar. 25 Share homework assignments, original work, and nonfiction by others.

and Oral reading reports

Mar. 27 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Week 10:** **Quiz 4 and the third experimental writing (a short story) is due.**

Apr. 1 Manuscript workshop

and Oral reading reports

Apr. 3 Other: \_\_\_\_\_ *Monday, April 7: College Hour, 10-11 a.m.*

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**Week 11:** Manuscript workshop

Apr. 8 Oral reading reports

and Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Apr. 10 \_\_\_\_\_ *April 14 through 19: Spring Recess*

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**Week 12:** **The fourth experimental writing (a nonfiction piece) is due.**

Apr. 22 Manuscript workshop

and Oral reading reports *Friday and Saturday: Last opportunity to drop this class*

Apr. 24 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Week 13:** Manuscript workshop

Apr. 29 Oral reading reports

and Other: \_\_\_\_\_

May 1 \_\_\_\_\_ *Thursday: College Hour, 1-2 p.m.*

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**Week 14:** Manuscript workshop

May 6 Oral reading reports

and Other: \_\_\_\_\_

May 8 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Week 15:** **Your written book report is due.**

May 13 Portfolio assembly workshop

and Manuscript workshop

May 15 Oral reading reports

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**Week 16:** **Your portfolio of original work in your area of emphasis is due.**

May 20 **Your journal of 50 200-word pages is due.**

and Prep for presentations at final *Saturday & Monday, May 24 & 26: Holidays*

May 22 Other: \_\_\_\_\_ *Tuesday, May 27: Final, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.*