INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING

Associate Professor Ana N. June | OFFICE: A 142 D

ENGLISH 2310-501 | CRN 64635 | 3 CREDIT HOURS | AUG. 18 to DEC. 14, 2025

OFFICE HOURS/STUDENT TIME: Mondays from 1:00 to 2:00 pm on Zoom and by appointment

---

Welcome to creative writing!

I'm super excited to write with you this semester!

During this course, we will read and discuss creative works in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction, explore prose style and story craft, and write. A lot.

The craft of writing

In the context of creative writing, "craft" refers to the skills, techniques, and artistry employed by writers to produce compelling literary works. Craft encompasses the mastery of various elements of writing, such as language, style, structure, characterization, dialogue, plot development, and narrative pacing. The craft of creative writing involves using words and storytelling techniques effectively to engage readers, evoke emotions, convey themes, and create a cohesive and impactful piece of literature.

Craft in creative writing goes beyond simply having good ideas; it involves the deliberate use of literary devices, figurative language, and storytelling tools to enhance the overall quality of the work. Writers who focus on honing their craft often pay attention to details such as word choice, sentence structure, and the balance between showing and telling, or in writer-speak, scene and exposition. Writers also consider the overall structure of their work, ensuring it has a clear beginning, middle, and end, and that it follows a logical and satisfying progression.

Learning and improving one's craft in creative writing involves studying published creative works, writing consistently, and receiving feedback from peers and instructors. It also involves taking risks and trying new things—even if you're not sure you'll succeed. By continually refining your craft, you will develop a unique voice and style as well as the ability to connect with your audience on a deeper level through storytelling.

Story is the beating heart of most any creative work—often including poetry—and we will strive to understand this concept and practice telling stories.

Our semester

The first week of class will be introductory. You'll read the syllabus, get to know your writing community through an introductory discussion, and compose your first journal entry.

In week two, we will do a deep dive into the foundations of creative writing: Prose style and story as a concept. You'll watch two videos and reflect on the concepts in your journal.

Focused four-week genre sequences start in week three, beginning with poetry. You will draft a collection of poems and engage in peer review to give you ideas for revision and polishing. This process will repeat for fiction (weeks 7-10) and creative nonfiction (weeks 11-14).

Finally, weeks 15 & 16 will be focused revision and polishing weeks. For your final project, what I call your showcase, you will complete a **substantive** revision of one of your project pieces and a **creative** revision of the other. You will then compose a substantive reflection on your process and your learning.

This is not an *easy* class, per se, but anyone who puts forth the effort can ace it. That is my promise to you. I am not looking for perfect writing (is there even such a thing?); I am looking for your effort, willingness, openness, and curiosity.

Story turns the wheels of society. We all have stories to read and stories to tell. And anyway...it's fun to make stuff up (just not when you're writing nonfiction lol). 😁

Let's get to it.

Best,
Ana N. June

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, UNM 2017
Associate Professor of English
Humanities Division Chair
UNM-Valencia campus

anajune@unm.edu

Office Hours/Student Time
Mondays 1-2 pm & by appointment

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course will introduce students to the basic elements of creative writing, including short fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Students will read and study published works as models, but the focus of this "workshop" course is on students revising and reflecting on their own writing. Throughout this course, students will be expected to read poetry, fiction, and non-fiction closely, and analyze the craft features employed. They will be expected to write frequently in each of these genres.

Prerequisites:

- Complete 1 of the following
  - Earned a minimum grade of C in at least 1 of the following:
    - ENGL1110 - Composition I (3)
    - ENGL1110Y - Composition I: Stretch II (3)
    - ENGL1110Z - Enhanced Composition (4)
  - ACT English =26-28 or SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing =660-690.

CREDIT-HOUR STATEMENT:

This is a three-credit-hour course delivered in an entirely online modality over 16 weeks during the Fall 2025 semester. Please plan for a *minimum* of 6 hours per week to learn course materials and complete assignments.

COURSE DETAILS (ALPHABETIZED)

ASSIGNMENTS

- **10 Discussions**
  - **1 intro discussion board**
  - **2 Zoom conferences with me**
  - **3 craft convos**
  - **4 project draft peer review boards)**
- **12 Journal Entries**
- **Showcase Reflection**
- **Showcase**

I do not weight grades or grade using point scales because the impression is that some assignments are more valuable or valid than others. Thus, each assignment is worth 100%, and

you can earn no less than 50%—no matter how big or small. I don't give zeroes, even for missing work. Final grades are averaged over the entire semester.

Important information about assignment submissions:

- This course follows a module structure. Each Monday at noon, our course homepage will refresh and you will see a banner listing our activities for that week. Click that to proceed through the module for that week.
- You'll notice that many of our discussions have THREE deadlines. Please pay close attention to these and budget your time accordingly. Your peers are relying on you to post, read and review, and respond in a timely fashion.
- Discussion posts **MUST** be copied and pasted into the post pane directly—DO NOT UPLOAD DOCUMENTS TO DISCUSSION BOARDS OR I WILL DELETE YOUR POST AND YOU WILL HAVE TO POST AGAIN.
- Please note that I do not accept assignments by email, so please don't ask.
- Always double-check all your assignment submissions to ensure they've uploaded correctly and completely, and save your submission receipts! If Canvas glitches, I will not hold you responsible for any late work, but you MUST have proof of the glitch. If you do not see a preview of your submission after clicking submit, try again. If it still doesn't work, please reach out to tech support.

ATTENDANCE:

If you signed up for this course, I assume that you plan to log in to Canvas and do the work! Students who miss the first assignments or an entire project, or who do not log in regularly will be dropped. See **INTERVENTIONS** below. If you're having trouble keeping up for any reason, please reach out to me. I will work with you to the best of my ability, but ghosts are not allowed in our class.

In addition, please check your UNM email and Canvas Course Messages at least once each weekday. I will communicate with you through Canvas, and those messages also come through in your UNM email. Not checking email means you might miss very important things including drop notices if you fall behind!

COURSE GOALS:

- Become comfortable participating in constructive conversations on either Zoom or a discussion board about creative writing.
- Read and critically engage with a variety of texts.
- Express the idea of "story" as detailed through course instruction.
- Compose creative works in various genres of creative writing.
- Provide respectful, honest, and critical feedback to peers about their work.

- Revise creative work based on instructor and peer feedback and critique.
- Reflect on your own writing and your writing process.
- Evaluate and engage with the publication process.

DISCUSSION BOARD ETIQUETTE:

Every writer needs feedback to improve but it's critical to remember that feedback is about the WORK, not the WRITER. Constructive kindness is the absolute rule in our class.

GRADING AND FEEDBACK:

NEWSFLASH: Grades are rarely an accurate representation of learning. That said, I also understand that they are the currency of school and it feels good to see a reward for your efforts. Plus, I'm required to assign you a grade at the end of the semester. So, here's how things work around here: You will earn full credit for each assignment that reflects thought, effort, learning, and rubric alignment. You will also receive feedback on your work when appropriate, and you are expected to read or listen/watch that feedback, depending on how your peers and I deliver it.

As I mentioned previously, every assignment is worth 100 points, which translates into 100% or a fraction thereof. Grades are averaged over time to yield an overall grade for the course. You cannot earn anything less than a 50% in this course—even for missing assignments. What happens instead is that if you repeatedly miss assignments, I will drop you from the course. See **INTERVENTIONS**, below, for more details.

You need to earn at least 73% to pass the class. A C- is *not* a passing grade in college.

SCORE	**GRADE**
97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C

TO PASS THE CLASS, YOU NEED A 73% OR HIGHER OVERALL.	GRADES BELOW THIS LINE ARE NOT PASSING
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
50-59	F

INTERVENTIONS:

I check each Tuesday for logins from the previous week. If you do not log in for a whole week, the following will happen:

- 1st time: I'll send you an email to check in.
- 2nd time: I'll submit your name to the university for what we call an early alert. An adviser will reach out to you.
- 3rd time: I'll email you that a drop is pending. I will give you until the following Friday to respond and *rectify* the situation. If you do not, you *will* be dropped.
- 4th time: You will be dropped with no notice.

Missed discussion participation (any step):

- 1st time: I'll send you an email checking in.
- 2nd time: I'll submit your name to the university for what we call an early alert. An adviser will reach out to you.
- 3rd time: I'll email you that a drop is pending. I will give you until the following Friday to respond and *rectify* the situation. If you do not, you will be dropped.
- 4th time: You will be dropped with no notice.

Missed journal entry:

- 1st time: I'll send you an email checking in.
- 2nd time: I'll submit your name to the university for what we call an early alert. An adviser will reach out to you.
- 3rd time: I'll email you that a drop is pending. I will give you until the following Friday to respond and *rectify* the situation. If you do not, you will be dropped.
- 4th time: You will be dropped with no notice.

Missed Showcase:

- I'll send you an email reminder at the deadline if your work is not uploaded.
- The portal will remain open for 24-36 hours while I grade, and as long as you see it, you may turn in your work
- Once the portal closes, your grade will be locked at 50% for missing components.

Assignment flagged for plagiarism and/or AI:

- 1st time: Your work will receive the minimum grade and I will share the AI report with you. I will regrade you if you resubmit work that is not composed by AI within 5 days of notification.
- 2nd time: I'll email you that a drop is pending. I will give you until the following Friday to respond and *rectify* the situation. If you do not, you will be dropped.
- 3rd time: You will be dropped with no notice.

PLEASE NOTE: I WILL NOT READMIT YOU IF YOU ARE DROPPED.

LATE WORK POLICY:

Deadlines are a reality you will face your entire life. In our class, deadlines ensure that I can assess and return your work to you so that the feedback is helpful to your learning. It's very hard for me to complete a grading cycle only to have another part of that grading cycle show up in my grading queue. That said, most assignments are due on **MONDAYS at 5 pm,** but the assignment portal will remain open until I finish grading that particular assignment for everyone. After that, I will close the portal for submissions and we will move on. As long as the portal is visible to you, you may turn in your assignment. I have reserved Tuesdays as my grading days this semester.

Please note the three different deadlines for each peer review discussion!! I will keep a close eye on participation and be in touch if you miss a deadline. See **INTERVENTIONS**, above.

If you have an urgent situation that makes it difficult to complete your work at any time, please be in touch. I will work with you to support your success by helping determine a new deadline or other accommodation.

Remember: If in doubt, reach out! I will not judge you and you do not have to explain yourself (although I am always happy to listen).

OUR COMMUNITY:

Before anything else, we are a community of scholars working, thinking, learning, and writing together! To that end, this class will be conducted respectfully at all times. This means that though we might disagree sometimes (in fact, discussion and debate are an important part of a well-rounded education), we will always communicate with respect for each other as human beings.

Kindness is the rule in our class. We will all show respect for each other and actively honor the risks we take in sharing our experiences through discussions and writing.

I will not tolerate any expressions of racism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, ableism, ageism, classism, sexism, religious prejudice, or any other form of speech or interaction that may in any way diminish another person or people. **I will not tolerate such things in anybody's written work either.** There are some topics that are not appropriate for writing assignments in this class and I am happy to expand on what that means if you're unsure. If you do not know what the terms above mean, please Google them. This applies to any other words you don't know this semester.

If you have a pronoun preference or are at all concerned that you will be misgendered, I invite you to let me know by email or course message.

Our classroom is a safe and dynamic space, and I expect you to respectfully push the boundaries of your ideals, beliefs, and thoughts. I will, in return, protect and respect your personal integrity to every degree possible. If you have any questions about any of this, please let me know.

It is my strict policy to never disclose any student's personal information, including immigration status, to anyone without explicit student consent. All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. I will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. UNM as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of our undocumented community. The Administration's welcome is found on our website: http://undocumented.unm.edu/.

We all have a shared responsibility for ensuring that learning occurs safely and equitably. UNM has important policies to preserve and protect the academic community, especially policies on student grievances (Faculty Handbook D175 and D176), academic dishonesty (FH D100), and respectful campus (FH CO9). These are in the *Student Pathfinder* (https://pathfinder.unm.edu) and the *Faculty Handbook* (https://handbook.unm.edu).

Please ask for help in understanding and avoiding plagiarism or academic dishonesty—including AI use—which can both have very serious consequences.

Support: Center for Academic Program Support (CAPS). Many students have found that time management workshops can help them meet their goals (consult the CAPS website under "services").

Our classroom and university should foster mutual respect, kindness, and support. If you have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or violence, please seek support and report incidents. Find confidential services at LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, the Women's Resource Center, and the LGBTQ Resource Center. UNM prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including gender, sex stereotyping, gender expression, and gender identity). All instructors are "responsible employees" who must communicate reports of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence to Compliance, Ethics and Equal Opportunity. For more information, please see UAP 2720 and UAP 2740.

OFFICE HOURS/STUDENT TIME:

Student time will be held on Zoom Mondays (except holidays) from 1-2 pm. This is your opportunity to discuss your work or progress in our class. You are welcome to just stop by unannounced but priority will be given to students who schedule a time. Please email me to do so and when you do, let me know what you'd like to discuss!

If that time doesn't work for you, please make an appointment with me.

you have an appointment, I will wait for no more than five minutes before I move on to another student. Students who make time to meet with me outside of class typically do better overall!

WRITING GUIDELINES:

All of your assignments must be typed and turned in as a Word doc or a PDF. Unless you are taking creative liberty with your formatting in a way that serves your writing (poetry for example) please format your writing to MLA. style, which is the standard in the Humanities, as closely as you can. Basically, write in 12 pt., Times New Roman font with double-spaced paragraphs and 1" margins. All work must be uploaded to the proper discussion board or assignment portal in Canvas.

Again: I do not accept work via email!

POLICIES AND UNIVERSITY SUPPORT

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

We all have shared responsibility for ensuring that learning occurs safely, honestly, and equitably. Submitting material as your own work that has been generated on a website, in a publication, by an artificial intelligence algorithm, by another person, or by breaking the rules of an assignment constitutes academic dishonesty. It is a student code of conduct violation that can lead to a disciplinary procedure. *Please ask me for help in finding the resources you need to be successful in this course. I can help you use study resources responsibly and effectively.* Off-campus paper writing services, problem-checkers and services, websites, and AI tools can be incorrect or misleading. Learning the course material depends on completing and submitting your own work. UNM preserves and protects the integrity of the academic community through multiple policies, including policies on student grievances (Faculty Handbook D175 and D176), academic dishonesty (FH D100), and respectful campus (FH CO9). These are in the *Student Pathfinder* (https://pathfinder.unm.edu) and the *Faculty Handbook* (https://handbook.unm.edu).

As a writing professor I take academic integrity very seriously. Plagiarism is not tolerated. Any instance of this will result in a grade of 50% for that assignment. Click here for the UNM Academic Dishonesty Policy. The policy states that each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or who otherwise fails to meet the expected standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact Accessibility Resource Center at arcsrvs@unm.edu or 505-277-3506. Support: Contact me via email (anajune@unm.edu) or Canvas messaging or during office/student hours on Mondays from 1-2 pm.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:

Artist and writer Lynda Barry, when discussing the quality of lines that she sees in student artwork at the beginning of her class, says, “There is something beautiful in the lines made by people who stopped drawing a long time ago."

She continues, “There is an aliveness in these drawings that can’t be faked, and when I look at them, that aliveness seems to come into me. I’m glad to see and feel them. Real aliveness of line is hard to come by."

What Lynda Barry calls “aliveness,” we often call “voice” in writing. In this class, I care more about *your* voice—the “aliveness” of your writing—than I do about polish, perfection, or sheen.

GenAI tools are very good at producing writing that is technically proficient, that has a sort of “sheen.” It is terrible, however, at writing creatively. Aliveness can only come from you—not from a bot. Like Lynda Barry’s students, you come to this class with varying backgrounds and skill levels. Depending on your educational experience, you likely have adopted habits and mindsets about writing that may or may not serve you at this point in your life. Part of our work together is to figure out what to keep and what to rebuild. Central to this process is your willingness to engage with your *own* writing voice, to put your unique “aliveness” on the page or into pixels. That’s work that will allow you to learn and grow, and it’s work that only you can do.

Each of your professors feels differently about using GenAI, but for the purposes of this class, I ask that if you choose to use it you disclose that to me and explain what you used it for. Brainstorming and assistance in clarifying ideas are acceptable; using even a sentence of writing generated by a Large Language Model (LLM) is not.

Please note that Canvas has an AI checker built into Turnitin, and it is fairly accurate. Please write your own poetry, fiction, and nonfiction.

STUDENT SUPPORT:

Pasos Resource Center (505) 925-8546, or email: pasos@unm.edu. The Resource Center is an on-campus center that serves as a “one-stop” for both advising and non-academic needs of UNM-Valencia students.

UNM Valencia Learning Commons (tutoring)

Tutoring is available to you in math, science, writing, and other subjects through the Learning Commons: Learning and STEM Centers and Writing Center. In-person tutoring is in these centers in the LRC (the building that also has the library). Tutoring in Zoom and, for writing,

through email, is also available. Making use of tutoring is a fantastic way to use your resources and set yourself up to learn deeply and well in your courses. To schedule an appointment, please go to: Learning Commons Bookings Links to an external site.If you are making an email appointment with the Writing Center, email your draft to tutor@unm.edu after you fill out the form above. If you have difficulty with the scheduling link above, would like an appointment in a subject not listed at that link, or have a question, email tutor@unm.edu. You'll get answers during business hours Monday through Friday. The webpage, with more details about available hours, is here: Learning Commons: Tutoring Services webpage.

Student Health and Counseling (SHAC at UNM Albuquerque) at (505) 277-3136. If you are having active respiratory symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, etc.) AND need testing for COVID-19; OR If you recently tested positive and may need oral treatment, call SHAC.

LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center (505) 277-2911 can offer help with contacting faculty and managing challenges that impact your UNM experience.

Connecting to Campus and Finding Support: UNM has many resources and centers to help you thrive, including opportunities to get involved, mental health resources, academic support including tutoring, resource centers for people like you, free food at Valencia Campus Food Pantry, and jobs on campus. Your advisor, staff at the resource centers and Academic Affairs Office, and I can help you find the right opportunities for you.

Our classroom and our university should always be spaces of mutual respect, kindness, and support, without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence. Should you ever need assistance or have concerns about incidents that violate this principle, please access the resources available to you on campus. Please note that, because UNM faculty, TAs, and GAs are considered "responsible employees" any disclosure of gender discrimination (including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence) made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported by that faculty member, TA, or GA to the university's Title IX coordinator. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct and reporting, please see: https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html.

Support: LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, the Women's Resource Center, and the LGBTQ Resource Center all offer confidential services.

TITLE IX:

Our classroom and our university should always be spaces of mutual respect, kindness, and support, without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence. Should you ever need assistance or have concerns about incidents that violate this principle, please access the resources available to you on campus. Please note that, because UNM faculty, TAs, and Gas are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education, any disclosure of gender discrimination (including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence) made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported by that faculty member, TA, or GA to the

university's Title IX coordinator. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, please see https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html.

Course Summary:

Date	Details
Mon Aug 25, 2025	Assignment JOURNAL 1
	Discussion Topic WEEK 1 DISCUSSION: WHO ARE YOU?
Mon Sep 1, 2025	Assignment JOURNAL 2
Mon Sep 8, 2025	Assignment JOURNAL 3
Mon Sep 15, 2025	Assignment JOURNAL 4
Mon Sep 22, 2025	Discussion Topic WEEK 5 DISCUSSION: POETRY DRAFT 1
Mon Sep 29, 2025	Assignment JOURNAL 5
	Discussion Topic POETRY CRAFT CONVO
Mon Oct 6, 2025	Assignment JOURNAL 6
Wed Oct 8, 2025	Assignment FIRST 8 WEEKS MEETING
Mon Oct 13, 2025	Assignment JOURNAL 7
Mon Oct 20, 2025	Discussion Topic WEEK 9 DISCUSSION: FICTION DRAFT 1
Mon Oct 27, 2025	Discussion Topic FICTION CRAFT CONVO
	Assignment JOURNAL 8
Mon Nov 3, 2025	Assignment JOURNAL 9

Date	Details
Mon Nov 10, 2025	Assignment JOURNAL 10
Mon Nov 17, 2025	Discussion Topic WEEK 13 DISCUSSION: CREATIVE NONFICTION
Mon Nov 24, 2025	Discussion Topic CREATIVE NONFICTION CRAFT CONVO
	Assignment JOURNAL 11
Mon Dec 1, 2025	Assignment JOURNAL 12
Fri Dec 5, 2025	Assignment SECOND 8 WEEKS MEETING
	Discussion Topic WEEK 16 DISCUSSION: SHOWCASE DRAFT 1
Mon Dec 15, 2025	Assignment SHOWCASE
	Assignment SHOWCASE REFLECTION