

INTRO TO CREATIVE WRITING

"Every day we should hear at least one little song, read one good poem, see one exquisite picture, and, if possible, speak a few sensible words."

-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

WHO AM I?



Instructor: Holly Dodge

Call me: Holly (she, her)

About me: I once tried out for American Idol. I didn't make it.

Email: holly.dodge@mnsu.edu

Text: 612-466-0148 [Please don't scratch this number into a bathroom stall]

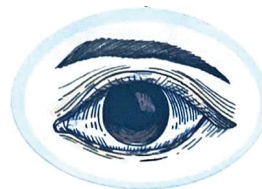
Office Hours: AH210 Tuesdays, 4 - 5p.m. Thursdays, 4- 5p.m. and by appt.



WHAT THE HECK ARE WE DOING HERE?

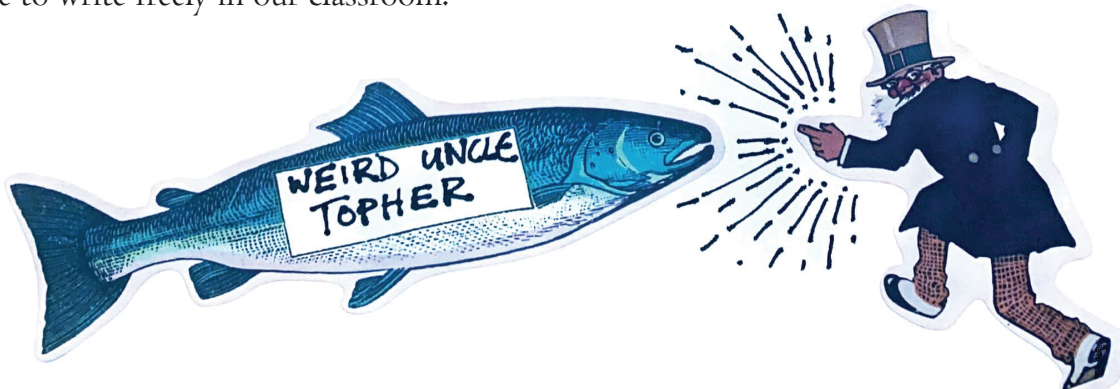
[To write and revise poetry and prose, per the university's course description. To produce 20 pages of work, thus meeting the university's Writing Intensive requirement.]

You are already capable of speaking and writing, but with dedicated practice and exploration, a new thing will emerge: *your own style*. We will be investigating what creative writing is by reading a variety of stories, poems, essays, and even (gasp!) a whole book. We will be activating portions of our brains that are typically complacent gray matter in other classes. In addition to reading and writing, we will look at art, listen to music, doodle, and have wandering conversations to *inspire and challenge* us. My hope is that you will produce sincere work that you will be proud of for a very long time.



WHO WILL READ MY WORK?

Your work will not be shared with anyone outside of this room unless you share it yourself. I will not send a copy of the story you wrote about your weird Uncle Topher to your family, so please feel safe and comfortable to write freely in our classroom.





COURSE MANIFESTO

[A manifesto is a published declaration of the intentions, motives, or views of the issuer, be it an individual, group, political party or government.]

We will have fun

Our classroom will be a safe, expressive place, free of judgement

We will respect ourselves by committing adequate time to complete our tasks

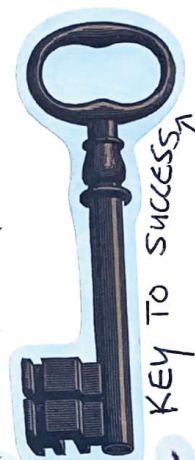
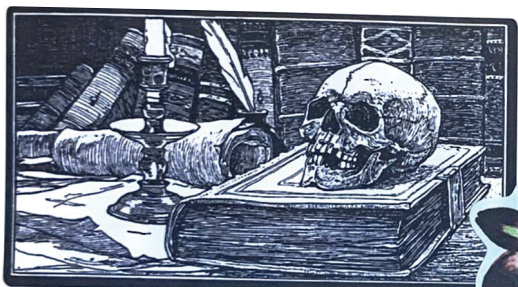
We will explore and take risks in our reading and writing

We will respect one another, freely offering praise and support

We will refrain from using our electronic devices in the classroom unless it is an emergency

If you agree to the above manifesto,
draw a doodle in the box:

Date: _____



WHAT DO I NEED?

[Besides a creative and willing spirit, there are a few things you should bring to class with you...]

- You will need a bound notebook or journal of any size, lined or unlined. This notebook will be dedicated to this class and your coursework and mindfull or mindless wanderings, so, pick something you love!
- A favorite pen and/or pencil
- Colored pencils/crayons/gel pens/ scented markers etc. Anything you prefer to make color with.
- Digital word processing software (Microsoft Word)
- One book of any genre, subject, length, of your picking. You will be reading this book intensively during this course and it will be the basis and inspiration for many of your projects in this class. You will be annotating, drawing, highlighting, and doodling in this book all semester long, so don't check one out from the library (or do, you rebel!). You will be creatively presenting this book to your fellow classmates at the end of the semester.





POETRY: Week 2-6

Writers Toolkit: Tone, Form, Syntax, Rhythm, Meter

- Erasure Poetry in book
- Collage poetry
- Musical Tones
- Poetry Tennis
- Guess the Poet



Readings: Emily Dickinson, e. e. cummings, Richard Hugo, Paige Lewis, Danez Smith, Walt Whitman, et al.

CREATIVE NONFICTION: Week 7-10

Writers Toolkit: Metaphor, tone, simile

- Friends/Family Recipe Book
- Spirit of Nature Essay
- Tarot Essay
- Ekphrastic Essay

Readings: Loren Eiseley, Brian Doyle, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Maggie Nelson, Ralph Waldo Emerson, et al.

FICTION: Week 11-14

Writers Toolkit: Character, Plot, Conflict, POV

- Music or art-inspired short story
- Vices, quirks, and challenges
- Short Story grab bag
- Write a story centered around a holiday or tradition

Readings: Mathias Enard, Aimee Bender, Samantha Hunt, et al.

BOOK PRESENTATIONS: Week 15

PORTFOLIOS DUE: Week 16 (finals week!)



"THIS GATOR IS TRYING TO EAT MY HOMEWORK! AHHHHH!"



BRASS TACKS:



PARTICIPATION POLICY

Your participation helps create a collaborative and engaging classroom experience for all. Our class will exhibit patience, flexibility, and good humor and will never demean, judge, or ostracize one another. Classroom participation will be factored into your final grade. Please be generous with your input!

COURSE GRADES

Your final grade will be determined by the amount of effort and labor you put into the class, as detailed in our course Grading Contract. The contract is available as a separate document on D2L. Once you have read the grading contract and thought about how much effort you are willing to put into the course, I will ask you to sign a contract online. If for any reason you do not accomplish the expected amount of labor for the grade you want in the course, at the end of the semester you will earn the grade that most closely aligns with the amount of work you completed. I encourage you to check your D2L gradebook often and reach out to me whenever you have questions or concerns about your grade.

RESOURCES

I've linked several resources on D2L, to aid in your success at MNSU. These resources range from academic assistance, to counseling, to basic needs such as food and shelter. Please make use of these resources, and if you need something I haven't shared, let me know.

You matter and I am here to support you.

[I, Holly, reserve the right to alter this syllabus at any time...But, I will always give you proper and adequate notice when doing so.]

