Welcome to Introduction to Creative Writing!

This course will introduce you to the skills and tools needed for a creative writer. We will explore reading and writing of three genres: poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction (switching every five weeks). This is a process workshop course so there will be much experimental work in class, a variety of assignments to get you to try new things, and reading of “the masters.” Emphasis will be placed on discussion, re-visioning your work, class critiques, and reading three books of creative writing. Class critiques in group workshops and single partner work will provide you with the opportunity to give and receive feedback.

Expectations:
Have and bring a notebook to class for lecture notes and writing exercises. Take notes! Read assigned readings prior to class meeting. NOT DURING CLASS!
Expect cold calls, so be prepared to have something to say. Participate actively in discussion and critiques. Make effort. Get your money’s worth!
Attend class since that work can NOT be made up. Contact professor when absent. Be on time. Late arrivals disrupt both students and professor.
Make contact with professor and fellow students when you have been absent.
Backup all your work. Don’t learn the hard way.
Meet with professor to initiate any help you might need.
No cells phone talk or texting!
Eating to be done before or after class.
Revise, revise, revise!
Keep a process folder to contain all typed drafts of your on-going work. Bring to class each time Participation in class does not refer to mere attendance. Speak up!
Everyone will have one reserved time for a full class discussion about your work.

Mandatory Texts needed:
Poetry: The Book of Goodbyes by Jillian Weise
Fiction: Buddha in the Attic by Julie Otsuka
Creative Non-fiction: Fun Home by Allison Bechdel
Poetry Schedule

Jan. 26: Intro to class
Jan. 30: first draft of **first assignment** due in Dropbox for prof. feedback. First big workshop. See workshop schedule in mycourses.

Feb. 2: Second draft of **first assignment** due. Bring hard copy to class. Start reading Jillian Weise’s *The Book of Goodbyes* and keep reading to the end of this genre section.
Feb. 4: Watch Ted Lecture of C.K. Williams in mycourses.
Feb. 6: Big workshop. See schedule.

Feb. 9: First draft of **second assignment** both in Dropbox and hard copy.
Feb. 13: Big workshop. See schedule.

Feb. 16: Second draft of **second assignment** due as hard copy.
Feb. 18: Bring a copy of the Weise book to class for discussion. Be sure to read entire book. Watch Ted Lecture of *poetry in prisons*.
Feb. 20: Big workshop. See schedule.

Feb. 23: First draft of **third assignment** due in Dropbox for feedback.
Feb. 25: Bring a hard copy of poems you are working on for peer feedback.
Feb. 27: Big workshop. See schedule.

March 2: **Poetry packet due**. See mycourses for expectations. Fiction section begins.
Poetry Packet Expectations

- Include your favorite poem you wrote during this genre section with three drafts that reveal re-thinking the poem each time. You can leave peer remarks on the earlier drafts. Label each draft in the order you wrote it. Staple them together with latest draft on top. Three copies that look the same won’t be considered “re-thinking.”
- Include a 3 page typed letter (double-spaced) that talks about what was most helpful, interesting, and hard in this genre. What did you learn? What did you try? How did you stretch yourself? What growth did you witness? What exercises were most helpful? What challenges did you have? Which assignment spoke to you most and why? Talk about the individual poems we read, Jillian Weise’s book, and the Ted Lectures you listened to. What meant something to you and why?

Writing Commons:

A free service in the Wallace Library to help you with your writing of any sort. You can schedule an appointment online or drop in. You will find student and faculty writing consultants there to help you at any stage you are at. Dr. Rachel Chaffee is the coordinator. Her email is: rlcuwp@rit.edu.

Grading:

- Attendance: 15%
- Participation: 10%
- Poetry Packet 25%
- Fiction Packet 25%
- Creative Non-fiction Packet 25%
Workshop Schedule

January 30: Heather, David
Feb. 6: Daniel, Mariya
Feb. 13: Markus, Maxine
Feb. 20: Matthew, Matilda
Feb. 27: Anna, Maria
March 6: Benjamin, Kyle
March 13: Forrest, Kristen
March 20: Danelle, Jordan
April 3: Jeff, Sally
April 17: Claudia, Adrian

When it’s your scheduled time up, you must email your piece to everyone on the class list (see mycourses) by midnight the night before. We will have read it before class so we can work with it and give you feedback. Therefore, everyone must bring a hard copy or have access to it on a computer for the sake of the discussion. Each person will get a chance for the entire class to see your work. We will be thoughtful and supportive in our feedback and follow a standard approach to the workshop.