ENG 1003 COURSE SYLLABUS
Creative Writing
2014 Spring Semester, Section 01
TR 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM in A-331

The course syllabus is tentative and may be modified at the discretion of the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR: Tracy Lee
OFFICE: A-329
EMAIL: tracy_lee@ivcc.edu
OFFICE HOURS: MWF 10-11:30 AM; Tuesdays 12:20-1:20 PM

REQUIRED TEXT and MATERIALS:
✓ A Guide to Narrative Craft, 8th edition by Burroway
✓ A Poet's Companion: A guide to the Pleasure of Writing Poetry by Addonizio and Laux;
✓ On Writing by King
✓ a good dictionary and thesaurus (online is fine)
✓ a willingness to improve what you think needs no improving and to ask “what will make
  my writing more successful”
✓ a nice folder suitable for your Final Portfolio and a notebook for journal and impromptu
  assignments.

CREDIT HOURS: 3

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the techniques and strategies of creative
writing, including primarily fiction and poetry, and not excluding creative non-fiction, drama,
film scripts, graphic novels, and hypertexts. The course will make use of models from established
contemporary writers and allow students to practice the techniques of these writers.

FINANCIAL AID STATEMENT: Withdrawal from a course can affect financial aid. Students
who receive financial aid should see an advisor in the Financial Aid Office before withdrawing
from a course.

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL POLICY STATEMENT: Effective Summer 2011, students will
have the ability to initiate a withdrawal from classes. By completing the form in the Records
Office or at www.ivcc.edu/withdraw, the student is authorizing IVCC to remove him/her from
the course. Entering the student ID number serves as the student’s electronic signature. IVCC has
the right to rescind a withdrawal in cases of academic dishonesty or at the instructor’s discretion.

Students should be aware of the impact of a withdrawal on full-time status for insurance
purposes and for financial aid. It is highly recommended that students meet with their instructor
or with a counselor before withdrawing from a course.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES and RELATED COMPETENCIES
Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- **Outcome I:** Apply some strategies of storytelling in the writing of at least one short story (or works of creative non-fiction, drama, film scripts, graphic novels, and hypertexts) and the analysis of published fiction.
  - Demonstrate, through the writing of an original work, an understanding of some of the following elements of storytelling: plot, characterization, setting, point of view, symbolism, and style.
  - Identify the narration techniques and elements of storytelling used in published works of fiction and stories written by other classmates.

- **Outcome 2:** Apply some strategies of contemporary poetry in the writing of several poems and the analysis of published poetry.
  - Demonstrate, through the writing of several poems, an understanding of some of the aesthetic aspects of contemporary poetry, such as manipulation of stanzas and line lengths, alliteration, symbolism, setting, tone, and imagery.
  - Identify the aesthetic aspects of poetry in published poems and poems written by other classmates.

- **Outcome 3:** Understand the dynamics of peer editing and group workshops.
  - Participate in both the "giving" and receiving" aspects of group workshops in class, commenting on the works of other classmates and listening to the comments of others about one's own work.
  - Participate in peer editing by writing comments about the works of other classmates.

- **Outcome 4:** Learn how to prepare and submit a piece of work for publication.
  - Display an ability to format a work of fiction (or creative non-fiction) for submission to an agent, editor, or publisher.
  - Demonstrate an understanding of where and how to find opportunities for publication.

**PLAGIARISM and CHEATING:** Don't do it, and if you do, I will fail you for the assignment and can choose to fail you from the class.

1. Cheating: defined as using or attempting to use, giving or attempting to give, and obtaining or attempting to obtain materials or information, including computer material, material pertaining to a quiz, examination or other work that a student is expected to do alone.
2. Plagiarism: defined as the use of another's words or ideas without acknowledgment.

Incident of either, or behavior of a nature deemed inappropriate to the academic setting will be considered just cause for a withdrawal or failing grade.

**STUDENT EMAIL EXPECTATION:** All instructor-student email correspondence will be conducted through IVCC email accounts. It is the student's responsibility to check IVCC email for class announcements and/or updates to assignments or the course calendar. I check my email often and will respond to you as soon as possible; you are expected to contact me as soon as any issue arises so any delay on my part due to normal life circumstances (instructor and/or family obligations, etc.) will not jeopardize you.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** You must (and please do so) attend every class. After three (3) absences, I will reduce your grade; after six (6) absences, I will withdraw or fail you from the
class; every three (3) tardies will add up to an absence and be included in your number of
absences. **Please do not be tardy (late = tardy) to class** as with the nature of creative writing, it's rude to me and your classmates as well as disruptive to writing exercises and workshopping.

Here is my attendance policy:

- 1-3 absences: freebee
- 4 absences: 1 letter grade reduction (A or B)
- 5 absences: 2 letter grade reductions (A or C)
- 6 absences: 3 letter grade reductions (A or D)
- 7 absences: withdrawn from class by instructor

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- **Absence from class:** You are expected to make medical, dental, and other professional appointments at times that do not conflict with class meetings. Missed in-class assignments and workshop credit cannot be made up. It is your responsibility to find out what you have missed if you are absent. If you miss class you are still responsible for assignment deadlines. **Assignments and/or course work cannot be made up except in extreme circumstances that I find valid and with prior communication with me.** If you are unable to attend class on the day an assignment is due, please send it with a classmate, leave it in my department mailbox, or email it to me before the end of the missed class period for.

- **Late Assignments:** Assignments handed in late will be lowered by a third of a grade for every day late (A to A-). Assignments more than a week late will not receive a grade. An assignment is considered “late” when it is turned in after the class period of the assigned date per instructor requirements or after the specified assignment sheet requirements.

- **Student Writing:** **Word processing or typing is required for all assignments.** All written work should be word-processed (typed with a computer). We will be sharing and workshopping our writing on a regular basis in class. For full workshop credit, you must attend workshop days and be able to demonstrate thorough and thoughtful comments written on the work of your peers. For full assignment credit, all assignments must be typed and printed in 12 pt, Time New Roman font on white paper with black ink. Students should always save an electronic copy of their work for themselves along with the one they give the instructor. NEVER give an instructor your only hard copy of anything.

- **Computer Mishaps:** Personal computer mishaps are not considered an excuse for late course work. If you know you have an unreliable computer and/or internet connection, manage your time so you can always use a college computer if something goes wrong.

- **Cell phone and Personal Tech:** Students are expected to turn off their cell phones or set them to silent (not vibrate) during the duration of class. **No cell phone, iPad, iPad, laptop, tablet, etc. use is permitted during class.** The use personal technology during class will be considered disruptive behavior. I reserve the right to reduce the participation points that factor into your final grade due to excessive use of such devices.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES** continued

- **Unacceptable Behavior:** Students are expected to conduct themselves in an adult manner, and those who choose to be disruptive will be withdrawn from the course.
This includes language in email correspondence between peers and written workshop comments. Language is inappropriate if it results in individuals feeling outcast from the learning environment due to gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, lifestyle, and/or creed. Derogatory, intolerant, and/or bigoted ideas and opinions should not be expressed as fact in your writing. In academics we are open-minded (or at the very least neutral) to all beliefs and lifestyles, meaning all people are welcome to their individual opinions but that intolerant beliefs will not be considered fact or “the way of life” while participating in learning activities. Regardless of belief or lifestyle, all students should feel welcome in the classroom environment this semester. Email me if you have concerns or questions about this policy.

Participation: You are expected to participate in class discussions and to work effectively in small group workshops. Your grade depends on consistent participation in class discussions and workshopping.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT: Your final grade will be based on your written work, one oral presentation, class and workshop participation, and attendance. The break-down:

- Formal Writing Assignments 50%
- Impromptu Writing Exercises 20%
- Workshop Participation 15%
- Final Portfolio & Presentation 15%

Assessment includes:
1. the depth and quality of the responses you provide your peers during workshop
2. completion of in-class exercises and impromptu writing
3. completion and punctuality of written assignments
4. clear attempt to thoroughly revise your work for portfolio
5. an oral reading of your original work(s) during the final exam period of the course; should be introduced with background as to the piece's inspiration and journey
6. a twenty-five page Final Portfolio of your creative writing, and a one-page essay which discusses writing in general or your portfolio selections specifically. Twenty pages must be pieces we've begun and worked on during the semester.
7. proof of submission to a contest or magazine, including IVCC's River Currents

GRADING SCALE: Students need to receive a final grade of C or better in order to receive transfer credit.
- A = 90+
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59-0

WORKSHOPPING: The intention of workshopping is to give you a peek at how readers are viewing and interpreting your work. This processes is not successful if you are able to explain yourself during the workshop, thus you will be asked to remain quiet while your peers discuss and analyze your work. This allows for better editing and revision of the piece because you see
how readers react; this is not a mode of either negative criticism or unhelpful praise.

When we workshop a piece as a class, I will not disclose the student's name unless the student requests otherwise. PLEASE REQUEST OTHERWISE: the writer needs to put him/herself out there.

**MATURE COURSE CONTENT:** Readings may contain mature themes, subject matter, and/or language. It is not my intention to offend or disturb you, but exploring creative writing also means exploring the many real-life subjects authors choose to expose or express in their work. If you have any reservations about course content for personal reasons, please talk to me privately.

**DISABILITY STATEMENT:** The college provides several support services for students who have barriers to learning. They include, but are not limited to Disability Services Office, Writing Center/Peer Tutoring, Counseling Center, and Project Success. If you are a student with a documented cognitive, physical or psychiatric disability (anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, AD/HD, post-traumatic stress, and others) you may be eligible for academic support services such as extended test time, texts on disc, note taking services, etc. If you are interested in learning if you can receive these academic support services, please contact either Tina Hardy (tina_hardy@ivcc.edu or 224-0284) or Judy Mika (Judy_Mika@ivcc.edu or 224-0350), or stop by the Disability Services Office in B-204.

Additionally, this course is designed to support diversity of learners. I encourage you to make me aware of any barriers that may inhibit your learning. Feel free to speak to me at any time about concerns or questions you may have about assignments, activities, or assessments.