

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:**

**Creative Writing**

**Course Number and Section:**

ENGLISH

3999G 550

**Instructor Name(s):**

Jenny Berkel

**Instructor Email(s):**

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

### Course Description:

Welcome to 3999G, a writing course that focuses on the discovery and cultivation of our creative writing capacities. This class is rooted in poetry, but we will go beyond the poem itself—we will spend time exploring how poetic tools and approaches are used in other genres like short stories and personal essays. By closely examining different texts, engaging with writers' thoughts on craft, and opening ourselves to creative exploration, we will begin to refine our writing practices and styles. We will take the tools we have gathered and experiment with them in our own work. Students can expect to spend a significant amount of time writing and refining their pieces. Because this is a workshop course, participation is vital. We will be learning how to give and receive constructive feedback. As such, it will be critical that we create a welcoming and supportive shared space.

### Learning Outcomes:

Identify poetic tools in other writers' poems, short stories, and essays

Analyze and discuss the effectiveness of the tools—and, more generally, the writing—in depth

Apply poetic tools to one's own writing

Develop and/or deepen one's own writing practice

Give and receive constructive feedback through workshopping

Revise and refine one's own work

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

A notebook to write in and something to write with.

Mary Oliver, *A Poetry Handbook*, Harper Collins, 1994  
Janet Burroway, *Imaginative Writing*, Pearson, 2023

## Methods Of Evaluation:

| Assignment                                 | Due Date mm/dd/yy | Weight - % |
|--|-------------------|------------|
| Your Writing Journey (in class assignment) | 01/10/24          | 5          |
| Poem #1                                    | 01/29/24          | 10         |
| Poem #2                                    | 02/12/24          | 10         |
| Short Story                                | 03/11/24          | 10         |
| Lyric Essay                                | 03/25/24          | 10         |
| Journal                                    | ongoing           | 10         |
| Final Portfolio                            | 04/08/24          | 30         |
| Participation                              | ongoing           | 15         |

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Saturday, December 9, 2023