
Calumet College



of Saint Joseph

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Calumet College of St. Joseph is a Catholic institution of higher learning dedicated to the academic, spiritual and ethical development of undergraduate and graduate students. Informed by the values of its founding religious community, the Missionaries of the Precious Blood (C.P.P.S.), the College promotes the inherent dignity of all people, social justice, an ethic of service, student empowerment, opportunity, and lifelong learning.

COURSE SYLLABUS, Fall 2018

EWPC 235-A: Introduction to Creative Writing

Instructor Information:	
Instructor Name	Janine Harrison
Office Number:	531
Phone Number:	
Email:	jharrisonpoore@ccsj.edu
Office Hours:	T/R, 12 – 1:30 PM or by appointment
Instructor Background: A graduate of Purdue University (M.A.) and Chicago State University (M.F.A.), I have taught college English for over two decades, including creative and freelance writing, literature, linguistics, and composition. I also work as a freelance writer and a teaching artist throughout Chicagoland. I wrote <i>If We Were Birds</i> , and my work has appeared in <i>Veils, Halos, and Shackles: International Poetry on the Oppression and Empowerment of Women</i> , <i>A&U</i> , <i>Not Like the Rest of Us</i> , <i>The Wabash Watershed's</i> "Six Indiana Poets" feature, and other publications. I am a poetry reader and reviewer for <i>The Florida Review</i> ; I have worked in editing for <i>Writers Unblocked</i> and <i>Warpland</i> literary journals <i>Charles B. Tinkham: Collected Poems</i> ; and <i>Chicago Advertising & Media</i> trade magazine. I served as the 2017 Highland (IN) Poet Laureate and an Indiana Writers' Consortium president. I live with my husband, fiction writer Michael Poore, and daughter, Jianna Sol, in Northwest Indiana.	

“You write in order to change the world, knowing perfectly well that you probably can’t, but also knowing that literature is indispensable to the world.... The world changes according to the way people see it, and if you alter, even by a millimeter, the way...people look at reality, then you can change it.”

- James Baldwin

Course Information:	
Course Time:	T/R, 1:45 – 3:15 PM

Classroom:	261
Prerequisites:	EWPC 103: English Composition
Required Books and Materials:	Roney, Lisa. <i>Serious Daring</i> . Oxford, 2015.
<p>Learning Outcomes/ Competencies: Students in this course will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and recognize the effects of basic literary elements in successful published works of contemporary poetry, short fiction, and non-fiction • Identify relationships between course reading material, published works, and the exercises and drafts from fellow students • Generate and revise a small body of literary work inside the context of the course exercises • Participate in a supportive but critical workshop environment, implementing elements of the class in a discussion of literary works • Create a body of revised works that -- within a given set of literary limitations or using given literary models -- successfully utilize and synthesize basic elements of literary writing • Appraise, evaluate, support and critique the literary writing of peers and of established artists in a guided workshop environment <p>This course meets the following learning objectives for the English Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know the principal authors, works, genres, periods, movements, and terms in the Western literary and professional communication traditions. • Apply their knowledge of rhetoric and grammar to creating and editing a variety of literary, journalistic, and business texts. • Analyze a variety of complex nonfiction, literary and professional communications on both global-structural and local-sentence levels. • Synthesize their knowledge of the English language and its literary and professional forms in clear, well-organized, rhetorically-effective English prose, including nonfiction essays, literary texts, and professional communications. • Evaluate the success of literary, journalistic, and business texts according to a clear set of rhetorical standards 	
<p>Course Description: This process-based workshop introduces students to the fundamentals of good writing in a variety of genres, including non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and drama. Students explore the fundamentals of plotting, controlling point of view, creating characters, managing sound and voice, and developing a concrete, active literary style. The course emphasizes the connections between active reading, composing, and substantial, creative revision. Students will critically analyze (and respond to) professional and student writing.</p>	
<p>Learning Strategies: This class is taught in a process-based, participatory workshop environment. Students will be asked to read, reflect, write and revise in a recursive set of course assignments and activities. Students will be evaluated on their questions and upon their answers, on their process as well as their product.</p>	
<p>Experiential Learning Opportunities: Students will attend a registration-paid trip to the 2018 Steel Pen Creative Writers' Conference on Saturday, October 27th, to attend fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and business of writing panels as well as to hear the keynote speech during lunch. Networking hour will also be included. Related assignment to follow.</p>	

Assessments:		
Major Assignments:	Portfolio I: Fiction Portfolio II: Poetry Portfolio III: Creative Nonfiction Video Presentation Cover Letter Assignment	375 Points 150 400 20 25
Assessments:	Quizzes (5 points each) Imagery Characterization Plot Sound Form Creative Nonfiction	30
Class Participation:	While participation will not be formally assessed, if a student is on the border between two grades, it will be a deciding factor as to which grade is earned.	
Total		1,000 Points
Grading Scale:		
100% – 92%: A 91% – 90%: A- 89% – 88%: B+ 87% – 82%: B 81% – 80%: B- 79% – 78%: C+ 77% – 72%: C 71% – 70%: C- 69% – 68%: D+ 67% – 62%: D 61% – 60%: D- 59% and below: F		
(900 – 1,000 points = A, 800 – 899 = B, 700 – 799 = C, 600 – 699 = D, <600 = F)		

Course Schedule:

Week I

T-08/28

Introduction to course
Assn.: Read *SD*, Chs. 1 and 13

R-08/30

Discuss “serious daring” and reading through a writer’s eyes
Assn.: Read *SD*, Ch. 15, and complete 3-5 pg. dialogue journal in response

Week II

T-09/04

Discuss literary and genre fiction. Complete imagery exercise
Assn.: Read *SD*, pp. 108-109, and Ch. 2

R-09/06

Discuss fiction and continue imagery discussion
Assn.: Read *SD*, Ch. 8, and “Son,” pp. 405-419. Complete p. 136, Pathway 8.3.
Study for Imagery Quiz

Week III

- T-09/11 **Imagery Quiz.** Discuss characterization
Assn.: Read *SD*, Ch. 11. In addition, for T-09/18, complete p. 190, Pathway 11.4 and 11.5
- R-09/13 Discuss dialogue and action
Assn.: Read *SD*, Ch. 10 and complete p. 178, Pathway 10.5. Study for Characterization Quiz
- Week IV**
- T-09/18 **Characterization Quiz.** Discuss plot. Discuss short story assignment
Assn.: Complete *SD*, p. 154, Pathway 9.6 or 9.7. Read *SD*, Ch. 7. Study for Plot Quiz. Begin work on short story
- R-09/20 **Plot Quiz.** Discuss place
Assn.: Continue work on short story. Bring opening line of your short story to Class
- Week V**
- T-09/25 Discuss story titles and beginnings. Discuss endings
Assn.: Finish short story draft and bring hard copies to class. Read *SD*, Ch. 14, pp. 233-242
- R-09/27 **Fiction Writing Workshop**
- Week VI**
- T-10/02 **Fiction Videos due.** Introduction to poetry
Assn.: Read *SD*, Ch. 14, pp. 243-45
- R-10/04 Discuss craft. **Short Story Conferences**
Assn.: Read *SD*, pp. 17-18; Ch. 3; “She Put on Her Lipstick in the Dark,” p. 335; “The Orange Cat,” p. 471; and “Pirate’s Admonition,” p. 532. Complete p. 54, Pathway 3.3. Begin short story revisions
- Week VII**
- T-10/09 Discuss poetry lyricality
Assn.: Study for Sound Quiz. Read *SD*, Ch. 4; “Sestina for R,” pp. 301-02; “The Golden Shovel,” pp. 383-84; “The Out-of-Body Experience,” pp. 344-45; and “Apollo (At) Eleven,” p. 509. Continue revising short story
- R-10/11 **Sound Quiz.** Discuss poetic form
Assn.: Read *SD*, “The Changeling,” p. 307; “Little Boys,” p. 372; “America,” pp. 385-86; and “What the Federal Bailout Means to Me,” pp. 517-18.
Continue revising short story
- Week VIII**
- T-10/16 **Form Quiz.** Discuss poetry as agent of social change. Discuss poetry assignments and Portfolio I: Fiction content
Assn.: Prepare Portfolio I for submission. Write first drafts of two assigned poems and bring hard copies to class

- R-10/18 **Portfolio I is due. Poetry Workshop**
Assn.: Revise poems and bring hard copies to class
- Week IX**
T-10/23 **Poetry Workshop II**
- R-10/25 **Poetry Videos due.** Introduction to Creative Nonfiction
Assn.: Read *SD*, pp. 75-77, Ch. 5, and “Remember, I Was Not There,” pp. 473-75. Complete p. 91, Pathway 5.6
- Week X**
T-10/30 Discuss creative nonfiction and memory
Assn.: Read *SD*, Ch. 6 and “Teeth,” pp. 373-81. Complete Pathway 6.5 or 6.6 (as exercise not essay)
- R-11/01 Discuss creative nonfiction and research. Discuss timeline assignment
Assn.: Study for Creative Nonfiction Quiz. Read *SD*, “Tracks and Ties,” pp. 339-43. Start timeline that is due on R-11/08
- Week XI**
T-11/06 **Creative Nonfiction Quiz.** Discuss poetry craft. Discuss Portfolio II: Poetry content
Assn.: Read *SD*, “Son of Mr. Green Jeans,” pp. 430-35. For R-11/13, revise assigned poems again and prepare Portfolio II for submission
- R-11/08 **Creative Nonfiction Videos due.** Discuss timelines
Assn.: Finish Portfolio II submission preparation
- Week XII**
T-11/13 **Portfolio II: Poetry is due.** Poetry Reading. Discuss Creative Nonfiction (CN) assignment
Assn.: Read *SD*, pp. 208-11 and pp. 528-31. Begin CN draft
- R-11/15 Discuss hybrid forms and new media. Begin discussion of the writing life
Assn.: Continue writing CN draft (due R-11/29). Read *SD*, “On Not Bringing Your Mother to Creative Writing Class,” pp. 293-295; “Connie May is Going to Win the Lottery This Week,” pp. 364-67; and “Peril,” pp. 436-37. Complete 4-5 pg. dialogue journal
- T-11/20 & R-11/22 – No classes – Fall Break and Thanksgiving Recess. *Eat, drink, & be merry!***
- Week XIII**
T-11/27 Continue discussing the writing life
Assn.: Finish CN draft and bring hard copies to class
- R-11/29 **Creative Nonfiction Workshop**
Assn.: Read cover letter materials

Week XIV

T-12/04 Discuss how to write a cover letter for a literary journal submission.
 Discuss craft
Assn.: Begin work on cover letter

R-12/06 **Creative Nonfiction Conferences.** Discuss Portfolio III: Creative Nonfiction content
Assn.: Complete Portfolio III and cover letter assignments for submission during finals week (due date TBA)

F-12/07 Last day to withdraw from a class with instructor's approval

I reserve the right to change this schedule to meet the needs of the class.

Responsibilities	
Attending Class	You cannot succeed in this class if you do not attend. We believe that intellectual growth and success in higher education occur through interaction in the classroom and laboratories. Being absent doesn't excuse you from doing class work; instead, you will have more responsibilities to keep up and meet the objectives of this course.
Turning In Your Work	You cannot succeed in this class if you do not turn in all your work when due. If an absence is unavoidable, please let me know in advance, in which case it will be marked as excused. Students with excused absences will be able to make up work for full credit if it is submitted at the beginning of the next class period and will receive a 10 percent grade deduction if it is submitted at the beginning of the second period after returning to class. Missed in-class work, including quizzes, cannot be made up. Students with unexcused absences will automatically receive a 10 percent grade deduction on any classwork submitted at the beginning of the next class period after the work is due and a 20 percent deduction on work submitted the second period after returning to class. After one week of tardiness, work will no longer be accepted.
CCSJ Student Honor Code	This course asks students to reaffirm the CCSJ Student Honor Code: I, as a student member of the Calumet College academic community, in accordance with the college's mission and in a spirit of mutual respect, pledge to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuously embrace honesty and curiosity in the pursuit of my educational goals; • Avoid all behaviors that could impede or distract from the academic progress of myself or other members of my community; • Do my own work with integrity at all times, in accordance with syllabi, and without giving or receiving inappropriate aid; • Do my utmost to act with commitment, inside and outside of class, to the goals and mission of Calumet College of St. Joseph.
Using Electronic Devices	Electronic devices can only be used in class for course-related purposes. If texting or accessing the Internet for other purposes becomes a problem, you may asked to leave, in which case you will be marked absent.

Participating in Class	You must be on time, stay for the whole class and participate in a way that shows you have done the assigned reading.
Doing Your Own Work	<p>If you turn in work that is not your own, you will be subject to judicial review by the Faculty-Student Grievance Committee. These procedures can be found in the Student Planner. The maximum penalty for any form of academic dishonesty is dismissal from the College.</p> <p>Using standard citation guidelines to document sources avoids plagiarism. You'll find guides to the major citation methods at the CCSJ Specker Library Web page at http://www.ccsj.edu/library/subjectsplus/subjects/guide.php?subject=cite</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: All papers may be electronically checked for plagiarism.</p>
Sharing Your Class Experience	At the end of the term, you will have the opportunity to evaluate your classroom experience. These confidential surveys are essential to our ongoing efforts to ensure that you have a great experience that leaves you well prepared for your future. Take the time to complete your course evaluations – we value your feedback!
Withdrawing from Class	After the last day established for class changes has passed (see the College calendar in the CCSJ Course Catalog), you may withdraw from a course by following the policy outlined in the Course Catalog.

Resources	
CCSJ Book Rental Program	The CCSJ Book Program ensures that everyone has the right course materials on the first day of class to be successful. You pay a book rental fee each semester, and in return, receive all the materials for all your classes prior to the beginning of classes. At the end of the semester, simply return the books. For traditional students, the Book Rental Program is conveniently located in the library, where students can pick up and return their books. For students in accelerated programs and graduate programs, books will be delivered to their homes and they can return them by mail. For more information, see http://www.ccsj.edu/bookstore . All books must be returned at the end of the semester or you will incur additional fees, which will be charged to your student account.
Student Success Center:	The Student Success Center provides faculty tutors at all levels to help you master specific subjects and develop effective learning skills. It is open to all students at no charge. You can contact the Student Success Center at 219 473-4287 or stop by the Library.
Disability Services:	Disability Services strives to meet the needs of all students by providing academic services in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. If you believe that you need a “reasonable accommodation” because of a disability, contact the Disability Services Coordinator at 219-473-4349.
Student Assistance Program	Through a partnership with Crown Counseling , Calumet College of St. Joseph provides a free Student Assistance Program (SAP) to current students. The SAP is a confidential counseling service provided to students for personal and school concerns which may be interfering with academic performance and/or quality of life. The SAP counselor is available on campus once a week and off-site at the Crown Counseling offices in Crown Point or Hammond. For more information, contact Kerry Knowles SAP Counselor,

	at 219-663-6353 (office), 219-413-3702 (cell), or kerryk@crowncounseling.org .
CCSJ Alerts:	Calumet College of St. Joseph's emergency communications system will tell you about emergencies, weather-related closings, or other incidents via text, email, or voice messages. Please sign up for this important service annually on the College's website at: http://www.ccsj.edu/alerts/index.html .