

Creative Writing

Winter 2018

CAW 4505

Instructor: Natalia Nagyne Nyikes [nyikesn@ceu.edu](mailto:nyikesn@ceu.edu)

Academic Writing Center and Dean of Students Office

Meetings: Fridays 16:00-17:40

Central European University

Course Status: Elective

**Course Description:** Students are invited to participate in an introductory course on the techniques and strategies of Creative Writing focusing on two genres, mainly on fiction and poetry. The class will include reading assignments, studying the art and craft of story writing and poetry making. The aim of the course is two-fold: on the one hand, to familiarize students with creative writing techniques and strategies; on the other hand, to further enhance students' critical thinking. There will be numerous activities such as reading, presentations, group discussions, and technique specific writing exercises.

**Learning Outcomes:** Students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the following elements of storytelling: plot, story, scene, summary, point of view and flashback. Course participants will identify these elements in the reading assignments and utilize these components in their writing assignments. At the same time, students will also use some strategies of contemporary poetry in the writing of poems and the analysis of published poetry.

**At the end of the course, students will be able to submit their poetry piece or their fiction piece to a creative writing contest and the two best pieces will be published in CEU Weekly.**

**Requirements:** Janet Burroway, *Imaginative Writing*, *The Elements of Craft*

*Attendance and participation:* **No more than three absences are allowed.** Students are expected to actively participate in classroom discussions.

*Assigned readings:* Students are required to read the assigned texts for each class. In-class tests on the assigned readings may be expected in each seminar. Test results contribute to the final grade demonstrating to what extent students' answers draw upon the sources assigned.

*Presentations:* Each student is required to give a 10-15-minute long presentation on a relevant topic or an analysis of a poem or a short story.

*End term poetry pieces or a short story (1000 words max.):* Students will be expected to produce either poems or a complete short story/minifiction, which will be subjected to a peer critiquing process.

*Feedback:* The final products will be evaluated by the presence of and the extent to which they contain the components of storytelling covered in class. Course participants are expected to give feedback on each other's work in a nonjudgmental way.

**Assessment:**

This is a Pass/Fail course. For a successful completion of this course students are expected to fulfill all the requirements listed above. This course has been specifically designed to foster a diverse learning environment. Please kindly inform me about any unseen hurdles that may present a barrier to your learning. Feel free to speak to me at any time about concerns or questions you may have about assignments, activities, or assessments.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

### **WEEK 1 (JAN 12) Introduction**

**Review syllabus.** Chapter 1 in Burroway (handout);  
Presentation dates to be agreed.

### **WEEK 2 (JAN 19) Fiction,**

**Read:** Burroway's "Fiction" chapter (pgs. 264-274) & Wallace's *Incarnations of Burned Children* (pgs. 180-182);

### **WEEK 3 (JAN 26) Poetry**

**Read:** Burroway's "Poetry" chapter (pgs. 294-310, 312: Plath's *Stillborn*)

### **WEEK 4 (FEB 2) Guest lecturer**

### **WEEK 5 (FEB 9) Image**

**Read:** Burroway's "Image" chapter (pgs. 13-24);

### **WEEK 6 (FEB 16) Setting**

**Read:** Burroway's "Setting" chapter (pgs. 132-144);  
**Workshop of first drafts**

### **WEEK 7 (FEB 23) Voice & Character**

**Read:** Burroway's "Voice" and "Character" chapters (pgs. 47-60 & 87-100);  
**Read:** Eliot's *Preludes* (poetryfoundation.com);  
**Read:** Jarrell's *The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner* (poets.org);

### **WEEK 8 (MAR 2)**

**Workshop of second drafts**

### **WEEK 9 (MAR 9) Development & Revision**

**Read:** Burroway's "Development & Revision" chapter (pgs. 196-211);  
**Read:** Aimee Buckner's *Try Ten* (handout)

### **WEEK 10 (MAR 16) Special Day Off /CEU is officially closed**

### **WEEK 11 (MAR 23) Workshop of final drafts**

### **WEEK 12 (MAR 30) Good Friday/CEU is officially closed**

**Poetry pieces due/Short story due**

**Guest lecturer**