ENG 468 Contemporary Writers Colloquium Spring 2014

Professor Katharine Whitcomb
Class Time: Mon. 3-6:20 p.m.
Location: L&L 325
Office: L&L 408-B
email: whitcomk@cwu.edu
Phone: 1530

Office Hours: WR 10-11 & by appt

Required Texts:

Miscolta, Donna When the de La Cruz Family Danced
Schrand, Brandon Works Cited
Wunderlich, Mark The Earth Avails
Cavazos, Xavier Barbarian at the Gate

I will be passing out handouts during the quarter.

Poems and stories written by you and your classmates serve as an integral text for this class.

Course Description:

Hello writers! Welcome to Contemporary Writers Colloquium. We are here to take the writing life seriously! This class will give you the opportunity to experience, study, discuss and analyze the newest work by three working and established American writers. You will attend readings by Donna Miscolta, Brandon Schrand, Mark Wunderlich and Xavier Cavazos---and talk to them in the classroom, and get some words of feedback from them. We will be running a writing workshop in class on your own new short fiction, poems, and creative nonfiction (perhaps). You will also be writing reviews of the readings, giving a team presentation on one of the visiting writer’s work, and writing an explication of a particular piece from one of the texts. We will also spend one of our classes on preparing for the writing life after college: submitting your work, looking for jobs, continuing school, finding a writing community (more or less as time allows).

Requirements:

Attendance at every class and reading (readings are all at 7:30 p.m. in the SURC Theatre, the Wildcat Shop and Hertz Auditorium this quarter).

Team presentation and discussion leadership on a selected writer from our texts (sign up).

Reviews of the four readings.
An explication (6 pages) of a particular piece from one of the texts.

Active participation in writing workshop---see schedule for when work is due.

Written and verbal comments on your workshop peers’ poetry.

All weekly assignments, exercises and deadlines.

Photocopies of all workshop assignments for class. Plan to bring a copy for each person in the class and a copy for me in addition to your original.

Assignments are tracked on Canvas—you can check grades and assignments there. All workshop material should be submitted on Canvas as well as in hard copy. Course documents are also available on Canvas, with the exception of some writing exercise handouts.

**Please remember to bring the books we are currently reading to every class. Also remember to bring all relevant workshop material and handouts.**

**Major Projects and Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explication paper (6 pgs.)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading reviews</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final writing portfolio</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework (exercises, poems and papers turned in on time and done correctly)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation (written comments on your peers’ work, verbal comments in class and in workshop, and attendance)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
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*Graduate students enrolled in this class will have an additional creative writing assignment and should arrange with me a conference regarding this piece, as well a meeting with one of the visiting writers.*
NOTES:

The grades in this class are weighted by percentage. To figure your grade by the number of points given an assignment on Canvas will not be accurate. It is important not to skip assignments if you want to get a good grade.

There will be NO acceptance of late exercises or assignments. These will be counted as missing. If you have to miss a class, turn in your workshop material and assignments beforehand to me, or have someone in the class bring them in for you. Make sure to call or email me if you are sick BEFORE you miss class, so that you will not be marked absent. If at any time you would like to discuss your progress in the course with me, please come to my office hours or arrange an appointment.

Attendance is required. You are allowed one absence without penalty, but each additional absence will lower your grade. Failure to attend three class periods or more may result in failure of the course. Absence at a required conference will be counted the same as a missed class. Please come to class, come on time, and come prepared. I will be keeping track of late arrivals—they will hurt your grade and disrupt the class. If you are late, assume you’ve been marked absent until you talk to me.

Late assignments. Please check the syllabus for deadlines. Please keep up with the reading and workshop assignments. Late exercises, workshop poems, and portfolios will not be accepted.

Manuscript format and workshop copies: All writing assignments, including exercises and homework, must be typed. Include your name on all your assignments and PROOFREAD your work. Use 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Staple your work if there are multiple pages.

Diversity
In my classroom, diversity is welcomed and celebrated. I will not tolerate any forms of prejudice or discrimination, including those based on age, color, disability, gender, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status. We are here to learn in a climate of civility and mutual respect.

To find out more about diversity, contact the Diversity Education Center at X1685 or see the website at: www.cwu.edu/~diversity