COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Communications and the Arts

Programme: BA Contemporary Literature and Creative Writing

FHEQ Level: 3

Course Title: Writing From the Creative Impulse

Course Code: CRW 3200

Student Engagement Hours: 120
Lectures: 10
Workshops / Tutorials: 35
Independent / Guided Learning: 75

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
                                                            6 ECTS credits
                                                            3 US credits

Course Description:
During interactive class sessions, student creative writing is instigated, developed and refined. As part of this process, similarities and differences between academic and creative writing are identified. Through a range of class activities that explore the creative impulse and foster engagement with a variety of texts as springboards, students are steered through multiple drafts of their work towards the attainment of a professional level of written presentation. Each student creates a portfolio of work during the semester and this is assessed at the end of the course.

Prerequisites: None.

Aims and Objectives:
The principal aim of this course is to enable students to develop strategies for becoming "inspired"; for harvesting and organizing elements from experience and imagination into possibilities for writing projects; for beginning new poems, stories and other texts from scratch. In order to achieve this, the secondary aim is for students to produce the raw material or *beginning* of something, which they will draft into pieces of creative writing, e.g., a poem, short story, prose poem, play, at their own pace, for submission at a later date during the semester. An affective aim is for students to acquire the skills to *enjoy* writing, which will have a positive effect on other areas of study, and will enrich the successful student's experience of his or her degree as a whole.

Programme Outcomes:

3Aiii; 3Biii; 3Ci; 3Di

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification.
This is maintained by Registry and located at:
https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:
- Use a range of "starting" strategies to generate a series of texts, while identifying personal creative processes to ensure task criteria are met.
- Analyse poetry and fiction texts, to inform choices available for solving problems of composition and structure in the texts under construction.
- Give and receive appropriate feedback on creative drafts during workshops, directed at developing the drafts further into more complete and communicative pieces.
- Assemble a portfolio of their own writing, communicating effectively in given critical, fiction and poetry formats
- engage actively with texts, analysing a range of information using pre-defined criteria, in order to generate and expand an awareness of reader expectations

Indicative Content:

- Processes of inspiration
- Found poetry
- Character, time and place in the short story
- Flash-fiction and the prose poem
- Writing beginnings - opening the door
- Writing endings – closing the door
- The line v. the sentence
- Revision techniques

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board: https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/

Teaching Methodology:

This course is taught as a workshop in which reading and discussion of peer work, sharing works and ideas in groups, and receiving both peer and instructor feedback are all central to the process of creative writing. In the workshop, participants will be expected to act as a first audience for each other's work. Feedback will be used to let a writer know how much of the vision of the work has been communicated to the audience/reader. Members of the workshop are not expected to be literary critics, but fellow writers working on their craft. Workshop sessions will include the use of small-group tasks, observation exercises, (including at least one field trip), guided individual and small group writing exercises, timed writing exercises, reading and discussion tasks, co-authoring of texts, pair-work, peer-editing tasks and whole group feedback tasks. Students will be encouraged to write daily in their private writer's notebook in order to aid inspiration.

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):
A course reader will be provided.

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Major	New (CRW) Course Code	LTPC 28/11/2014	
Major	Mapped onto Programme Outcomes for new degree.	LTPC 28/11/2014	
Minor	Revised teaching methodology	LTPC 28/11/2014	
	Annual update	May 2023	