English/Creative Writing 215F,S Introduction to Creative Writing

This course is a student-centered introductory workshop in the techniques of writing prose fiction and poetry. No previous experience with creative writing is expected, but you must have taken the appropriate literature prerequisite as explained in the Viewbook.

Participants in creative writing workshops are expected to a) write a considerable quantity of poetry and prose, including frequent exercises designed to introduce aspects of the craft of writing; b) prepare for and participate in the workshops, in which you will comment in writing and orally on pieces written by classmates; c) read assigned stories and poems and other texts as background for discussions of craft and technique; d) write critical papers on some of the reading assignments; e) attend and write about some of the literary readings given during the semester; and f) hand in a final portfolio of the semester's work, the grade on which will be a significant portion of the final grade in the course.

Because rewriting is an important part of writing, you will not receive grades on individual poems or stories during the semester. Instead, workshop participants will receive extensive feedback on the poems and stories you submit, as well as on the quality and consistency of their oral and written comments on what your classmates have written. Assignments such as reviews of readings by visiting writers, book reviews, or critical analyses of published work may receive grades. At any time during the term, participants are welcome to meet with the professor to discuss their progress.