ENG 205, Academ-e program
Introduction to Creative Writing
Fall 2007

Instructor: Henry Garfield
Office: 211 Neville Hall
Office Hours: 10-10:45 a.m. MWF or by appointment
FirstClass: Henry A. Garfield

Texts:
The Liars’ Club, by Mary Karr
The Ode Less Traveled, by Stephen Fry
Contemporary Maine Fiction, Wesley McNair, editor
Tartabull’s Throw, by Henry Garfield

Recommended: The Elements of Style, by Strunk & White

Course Description:
ENG 205 introduces the basics of the autobiographical essay, poetry, and fiction. Students will read examples of each form and produce their own original work. In addition, techniques of drama and storytelling structure will be discussed through use of examples from film, television and songwriting.

Course Objectives:
Students who have successfully completed ENG 205 will be able to recognize a variety of techniques used in creative writing, demonstrate critical thinking skills in relation to assigned readings, and to apply those skills to the revision of their own work.

Reading, Responses and Exercises
To write well, you must read. If you aren’t in the habit of reading every day, now is the time to start. Writing is much like playing a musical instrument, in that you must observe how other people do it, and you must practice. Consequently, I have assigned a great deal of reading and short written responses. Weekly writing assignments are due Wednesday at noon. Students are required to post a response to at least one other student by Friday at noon.
I have not set a weekly schedule for reading my novel, Tartabull’s Throw. The only requirement is that you finish it by Week 14 so that you can participate in the on-line discussion (see class schedule). Students will not be writing book-length fiction in this course, but we will discuss story structure as it applies to novels and screenplays.

Student Participation:
This is an on-line workshop course. Each week, students will be required to participate in an on-line discussion based on the assigned texts. Students will critique each other’s work in groups. The instructor may or may not respond to weekly assignments, but will monitor all discussions and critiques. Participation will count toward the student’s final grade.

Grading Policy:
Students will turn in, for a grade, the following assignments: 1) a piece of autobiographical nonfiction of at least 2,000 words; 2) a poetry packet consisting of five poems; 3) a piece of fiction of at least 2,500 words; and 4) a final portfolio consisting of revisions to these three assignments.
The final grade for the course will be determined on the basis of 500 points, divided as follows:

Reading Responses and Workshop Participation:...................100 points
Writing Exercises:.................................................................50 points
Autobiographical Piece:.......................................................100 points
Poetry: .........................................................................................100 points
Fiction: .........................................................................................100 points
Portfolio: .......................................................................................50 points

Average work will receive 75 of a possible 100 points. Above average work will receive 80-90 points; outstanding work will receive 90-100 points.

Late written assignments will lose ten points the first week, twenty points the second week, and will receive a zero thereafter. It is extremely important in an on-line course to post work on time. Late Responses, Writing Exercises, and Workshop Participation will receive a zero.

Plagiarism:
Students are expected to create and submit their own work. Using all or part of another person’s work without giving credit is plagiarism, and constitutes a violation of the University’s Student Conduct Code. Students who are found to have plagiarized will receive a zero grade for the assignment and will be reported to the University for possible disciplinary action, which could include expulsion from the course. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, check with the instructor.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

A lesson conference for each week will be posted on the class site. This will include full explanations of each assignment. Most lessons will consist of assigned reading and written responses. Some lessons will include video and audio material.

Week 1: September 3-7
READ: Liars’ Club, chapters 1-4
WRITE: Introduce yourself.

Week 2: September 10-14
READ: Liars’ Club, chapters 5-8
WRITE: Assignment as posted

Week 3: September 17-21
READ: Liars’ Club, chapters 9-13
WRITE: Assignment as posted

Week 4: September 24-28
READ: Liars’ Club, chapters 14-end
WRITE: First draft of autobiographical piece. Post to GROUPS for discussion.

Week 5: October 1-5
Autobiographical piece due. Post to PAPERS

Week 6: October 8-12
READ: Ode Less Traveled, Part 1
WRITE: Assignment as posted

Week 7: October 15-19
READ: Ode Less Traveled, Part 2
WRITE: First drafts of poems. Post to GROUPS for discussion.

Week 8: October 22-26
READ: Ode Less Traveled, Part 3
WRITE: Second drafts of poems. Post to GROUPS for discussion.

Week 9: October 29-November 2
Poetry Packet due. Post to PAPERS
READ: From CMF:
Ellwood’s Last Job, by Elaine Ford
A Job at Little Henry’s, by Bill Roorbach
WRITE: Assignment as posted

Week 10: November 5-9
READ: From CMF:
Charity, by Richard Ford
Monhegan Light, by Richard Russo
WRITE: Assignment as posted

Week 11: November 12-16
READ: From CMF:
Ernie’s Ark, by Monica Wood
The Music of Angels, by Cathie Pelletier
WRITE: Assignment as posted

Week 12: November 19-23
READ: From CMF:
The Reach, by Stephen King
Slow Monkeys, by Jim Nichols
WRITE: First draft of fiction piece. Post to GROUPS

Week 13: November 26-30
Fiction piece due. Post to PAPERS

Week 14: December 3-7
READ: Finish Tartabull’s Throw by this date.
WRITE: Assignment as posted

Week 15: December 10-14
Portfolio due. Post to PAPERS