School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*2920*01  
Course Title: Elements of Creative Writing  
Date of Offering: FALL 2018

Course Instructor: Elaine Chang  
Course Format: Lecture + workshops

Brief Course Synopsis:
This course invites students to explore fundamental elements of creative writing, understood as an ongoing, layered (and not linear) process: e.g., story construction, character development, voice and perspective, figural language, imagery, theme, structure, form, drafting and revision. Working across the primary genres of poetry, prose narrative (fiction and creative nonfiction) and rudimentary screenwriting—represented in the Creative Writing minor—students will examine varied, effective examples of literary, film and TV/video/digital media, improving skills in attentive, critically astute reading and reception that are essential to the creation of one’s own original work for an external audience. Student writing will include brief and informal learning activities inside and outside of class, the drafting and revising of short works, constructive peer feedback and the preparation and submission of a final portfolio.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight: (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)
In-class Learning Activities (LAB): 15%
Take-home Learning activities (GYM): 20%
3 x Short Writing Assignments (sonnet, song, cinematic monologue): 30%
15-page Portfolio (to include approx. 5-page prose narrative piece): 35%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)
(Subject to change) Nancy Pagh, Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology
Ares Course e-Reserve: assigned texts not included in anthology
CourseLink: guidelines, discussion forums, required materials
Notebook for Learning Activities (10”x7” approx.)
Video materials to be screened inside and outside class
Supplementary readings TBD

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):
Please be prepared to bring multiple hard copies for feedback sessions. Missed in-class learning activities cannot be made up afterwards. Late and supplementary work must be arranged with the instructor on a case by case basis. Engagement with other students’ work is a mandatory component of the course; regular attendance is essential and expected.

List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: 20th/21st Century, CW minor