BTU | BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY

CREATIVE WRITING

Creative writing

This module covers the basics of creative writing, including the essential elements of a story, the different genres of creative writing, and practical tips and exercises for improving writing skills.

Module 1: Introduction to Creative Writing

- Understanding the definition of creative writing
- The different types of creative writing
- The importance of creative writing for self-expression, communication, and entertainment
- The essential elements of a story: plot, characters, setting, conflict, and resolution
- Examples of creative writing that demonstrate these elements

Homework Assignment: Module 1: Introduction to Creative Writing

Assignment 1: Short Story Analysis

For this assignment, students will choose a short story of their choice and analyze it according to the essential elements of a story, including the plot, characters, setting, conflict, and resolution. The analysis should be a 2-3 page paper that discusses how the author used these elements to create a compelling and memorable story.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Demonstrates a clear understanding of the essential elements of a story
- Provides a thorough analysis of the short story, including the plot, characters, setting, conflict, and resolution
- Uses specific examples from the text to support the analysis
- Uses clear and concise writing that effectively communicates ideas
- Shows creativity and originality in the analysis

Assignment 2: Personal Narrative

For this assignment, students will write a short personal narrative that incorporates the essential elements of a story. This could be a personal experience, a childhood memory, or a significant event in their life. Students should make sure to include a clear beginning, middle, and end, and use descriptive language to create a vivid setting and characters.

- Incorporates all essential elements of a story, including plot, characters, setting, conflict, and resolution
- Shows a clear and effective use of descriptive language to create a vivid setting and characters
- Demonstrates originality and creativity in the story and characters
- Shows effective use of narrative techniques to create a compelling and engaging story
- Uses clear and concise writing that effectively communicates ideas

Assignment 3: Genre Analysis

For this assignment, students will choose a genre of creative writing that they're interested in exploring further, such as poetry, memoir, or science fiction. They should read several examples of this genre and write a 2-3 page paper that analyzes the common themes, structures, and conventions of this genre.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Shows a clear understanding of the chosen genre and its conventions
- Provides a thorough analysis of several examples of the genre, including common themes, structures, and conventions
- Uses specific examples from the texts to support the analysis
- Shows originality and creativity in the analysis
- Uses clear and concise writing that effectively communicates ideas

Assignment 4: Story Starters

For this assignment, students will write 3-5 story starters that incorporate one or more of the essential elements of a story. They should share their story starters with the class and discuss which elements they include and how they could be developed into a full story.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Incorporates one or more of the essential elements of a story
- Shows creativity and originality in the story starters
- Demonstrates a clear understanding of the essential elements of a story
- Shows effective use of language to create engaging and memorable story starters
- Engages in productive class discussion about the story starters and how they could be developed into a full story

Assignment 5: Creative Writing Prompts

For this assignment, students will choose 3-5 creative writing prompts from a list provided by the instructor or found online. They should write a short story or scene that incorporates each prompt, using the essential elements of a story to create a compelling and memorable piece of writing. They should share their work with the class and discuss how they incorporated the prompts and elements of a story.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Incorporates each prompt effectively and creatively
- Demonstrates a clear understanding of the essential elements of a story
- Shows effective use of language to create engaging and memorable stories
- Uses clear and concise writing that effectively communicates ideas
- Engages in productive class discussion about the prompts and how they were incorporated into the writing.

Module 2: Finding Inspiration

- Brainstorming and idea generation techniques
- Identifying and developing themes in writing
- Conducting research and gathering information to support writing
- Developing a writing routine to foster creativity
- Using prompts and exercises to spark creativity and overcome writer's block

Homework Assignment: Module 2: Finding Inspiration

Assignment: Journaling and Reflection

For this assignment, students should start a writing journal where they reflect on their personal experiences and observations. They should write for at least 10 minutes each day for a week, using the following prompts to guide their writing:

Day 1: Write about a recent experience that left you feeling happy.

Day 2: Write about a time when you felt proud of yourself.

Day 3: Write about a person who has had a significant impact on your life.

Day 4: Write about a place that holds special meaning to you.

Day 5: Write about a challenge you have overcome.

Day 6: Write about a dream or goal you have for the future.

Day 7: Reflect on the experience of journaling and what you've learned about yourself through the process.

After completing the week of journaling, students should choose one of their entries to develop into a short story, poem, or essay. They should use the essential elements of a story to create a compelling and memorable piece of writing, drawing on the sensory details and insights they gained through journaling and reflection.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Demonstrates a clear understanding of the essential elements of a story
- Shows effective use of sensory details to create a vivid setting and characters
- Incorporates insights gained through journaling and reflection into the piece of writing
- Shows creativity and originality in the story, poem, or essay
- Uses clear and concise writing that effectively communicates ideas
- Engages in productive class discussion about the journaling and writing process, and how they influenced each other.

Module 3: Writing Techniques and Style

- Understanding the role of language in creative writing
- Developing voice, tone, and style
- Using sensory details to create vivid descriptions
- Employing figurative language and literary devices to enhance writing
- Understanding and applying various narrative techniques such as point of view, pacing, and foreshadowing

Homework Assignment: Module 3: Writing Techniques and Style

Assignment: Sensory Detail and Description

For this assignment, students should write a descriptive paragraph that uses sensory details to create a vivid image of a person, place, or thing. They should focus on incorporating specific, sensory language to create a compelling and memorable description.

After completing the paragraph, students should exchange their work with a classmate and provide feedback on the use of sensory language and the effectiveness of the description. They should then revise their paragraph based on the feedback received.
Next, students should choose one of the sensory details from their revised paragraph and write a short story or scene that incorporates that detail to create a vivid image for the reader. They should use the

essential elements of a story to create a compelling and memorable piece of writing that draws on the sensory detail to create a strong sense of setting and character.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Uses specific, sensory language to create a vivid image
- Demonstrates effective use of description to create a compelling and memorable paragraph
- Provides constructive feedback to a classmate on their use of sensory language and the effectiveness of their description
- Shows originality and creativity in the short story or scene
- Uses clear and concise writing that effectively communicates ideas
- Engages in productive class discussion about the use of sensory language and description in creative writing.

Module 4: The Writing Process

- Outlining and planning a story
- Drafting and revising techniques
- Giving and receiving feedback
- Editing and proofreading
- Formatting and submitting a final manuscript

Homework Assignment: Module 4: The Writing Process

Assignment: Revising and Editing a Short Story

For this assignment, students should write a short story that incorporates the essential elements of a story. They should then revise and edit their work, following the steps of the writing process discussed in class.

First, students should read through their story and identify any major issues or areas for improvement, such as plot holes, inconsistencies, or unclear writing. They should then make a plan for revising their work, focusing on these areas.

Next, students should seek feedback from a classmate or instructor, asking for specific feedback on the areas they identified as needing improvement. They should take notes on the feedback and use it to guide their revisions.

Finally, students should edit their work for grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors. They should pay particular attention to areas that were flagged as problematic during the revision process.
After completing the revision and editing process, students should submit their final short story along with a brief reflection on the writing process and what they learned from it.

- Incorporates all essential elements of a story, including plot, characters, setting, conflict, and resolution
- Demonstrates effective use of the writing process to revise and edit the short story
- Uses feedback received from a classmate or instructor to guide revisions and improve the story
- Shows effective editing and proofreading skills to eliminate errors in the final draft
- Provides a clear and reflective evaluation of the writing process and what was learned
- Uses clear and concise writing that effectively communicates ideas
- Engages in productive class discussion about the writing process and the importance of revision and editing in creative writing.

Module 5: Genres of Creative Writing

- Exploring different genres such as fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and playwriting
- Understanding the conventions of each genre
- Analyzing examples of each genre and their common themes and structures
- Choosing a genre to focus on and developing skills within that genre

Homework Assignment: Module 5: Genres of Creative Writing

Assignment: Exploring a New Genre

For this assignment, students should choose a genre of creative writing that they are less familiar with, such as poetry, nonfiction, or playwriting. They should then read at least two examples of this genre and analyze them according to their structures, themes, and conventions.

Next, students should write a piece of creative writing in the chosen genre, focusing on incorporating the essential elements of a story (plot, characters, setting, conflict, and resolution) into their work. They should draw on the examples they read and the conventions of the genre to create a compelling and memorable piece of writing.

Finally, students should share their work with the class and participate in a discussion about the genre they explored, including its structures, themes, and conventions, as well as what they learned through the process of writing in this new genre.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Shows a clear understanding of the genre and its conventions
- Provides a thorough analysis of at least two examples of the chosen genre
- Demonstrates effective use of the essential elements of a story in the piece of creative writing
- Shows originality and creativity in the piece of writing, drawing on the conventions of the genre to create a compelling and memorable piece of writing

- Uses clear and concise writing that effectively communicates ideas
- Engages in productive class discussion about the genre explored and what was learned through the writing process.

Module 6: Publishing and Building an Audience

- Understanding the publishing industry
- Finding and submitting to literary agents and publishers
- Self-publishing and online publishing options
- Developing a platform and building an audience through social media and other means
- Navigating the world of literary events and readings

Homework Assignment: Module 6: Publishing and Building an Audience

Assignment: Building a Writing Platform

For this assignment, students should create a plan for building a writing platform, which includes a website or blog, social media accounts, and other online and offline resources to help promote their writing.

First, students should research best practices for building a writing platform and identify strategies that are most relevant to their goals and interests. They should also research other writers in their chosen genre and analyze their platforms to see what works and what doesn't.

Next, students should create a plan for building their own platform, including specific steps and goals for developing their website or blog, social media accounts, and other resources. They should also identify potential audiences for their writing and how to reach them through their platform.

Finally, students should implement their plan and track their progress, making adjustments as needed. They should also reflect on the process of building their platform and what they learned about promoting their writing.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Shows a clear understanding of best practices for building a writing platform
- Provides a thorough analysis of other writers' platforms in their chosen genre
- Demonstrates a well-developed plan for building their own platform, including specific steps and goals
- Identifies potential audiences for their writing and how to reach them through their platform
- Shows originality and creativity in their approach to building their platform
- Uses clear and concise writing that effectively communicates ideas
- Engages in productive class discussion about building a writing platform and the importance of promoting one's writing to a wider audience.

Module 7: Additional Resources and Next Steps

- Understanding the importance of continuous learning and growth as a writer
- Exploring writing communities and resources
- Identifying next steps and creating a plan for ongoing development and success

Homework Assignment: Module 7: Additional Resources and Next Steps

Assignment: Crafting a Writing Plan

For this assignment, students should reflect on what they've learned throughout the course and create a plan for their future writing practice.

First, students should reflect on their writing strengths and weaknesses and identify areas they want to improve. They should also consider their goals as a writer and what steps they can take to achieve those goals.

Next, students should research additional resources, such as workshops, conferences, and writing groups, that can help them improve their writing and achieve their goals. They should create a list of potential resources and how they could benefit from each one.

Finally, students should create a writing plan that includes specific goals, strategies, and timelines for improving their writing practice. They should also identify potential obstacles and how to overcome them.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Shows a clear understanding of their writing strengths and weaknesses
- Identifies specific areas for improvement and how to achieve those goals
- Provides a thorough analysis of additional resources that can help improve their writing practice
- Demonstrates a well-developed plan for achieving their writing goals, including specific goals, strategies, and timelines
- Identifies potential obstacles and how to overcome them
- Shows originality and creativity in their writing plan
- Uses clear and concise writing that effectively communicates ideas
- Engages in productive class discussion about next steps in their writing practice and what they've learned throughout the course.