

Course Title

Creative Writing

Course Number

CRWRI-UA - 9815

Instruction Mode: Blended

Fall 2022

If you are enrolled in this course 100% remotely and are not a Go Local/Study Away student for NYU Accra, please make sure that you've completed the online academic orientation via Brightspace so you are aware of site specific support structure, policies and procedures. Please contact nno211@nyu.edu if you have trouble accessing the Brightspace site.

Syllabus last updated on: 07-August-2022

Lecturer Contact Information

- Kofi Anyidoho, Prof.
- Department of English, University of Ghana. Legon. Room 15
Office Hours : By appointment

Credits Earned: 4 Credits

Course Details

- 10:00am to 1:00pm, GMT
- Tuesday
- Location: Rooms will be posted in Albert before your first class.

- Remote Participants: Your instructor will provide you with the Zoom link via NYU Classes.
- COVID-related details: In the interest of protecting the NYU [SITE] community, we are closely following CDC guidance around COVID-19 and adjusting our recommendations and policies accordingly. Your health and well-being is our top priority.

- o If you are attending in person, you will be assigned a seat on the first day and are expected to use that seat for the entire semester due to NYU COVID-19 safety protocol. Please note that you are expected to attend every class meeting in-person; however, this may change during the drop/add period if in-person student registration increases significantly or at any point during the semester if local COVID-19 regulations require additional physical distancing.
- o Additionally, in-person students will be split into cohorts who will attend sessions [AS INDICATED HERE].

Course Overview and Goals

This is a workshop type course intended for a small group of students, each with a keen interest, a strong aptitude and/or demonstrated talent for creative writing. Our basic objective is to guide students into a systematic approach to creative writing, with a special focus on short fiction (the short story), non-fiction prose (memoir, auto/biography, portrait, travelogue), and poetry. Students are expected to engage in critical discussions on samples of their own writing as well as writing by other members of the class. We shall devote special attention to developing a grasp of the rudiments and general mechanics of the writer's craft, while at the same time allowing for a fuller realization of the personal/individual creative impulse, talent, and skill. We shall emphasize competence in the use of language as the fundamental tool for the expression of the creative imagination. Class sessions will be devoted to various writing exercises and to the discussion of sample texts, especially those produced by members of the class. Each student will be expected to share her/his work with the class and possibly with a wider audience when possible. Selected works of at least three established writers (including at least one guest writer) will provide opportunities for creative and critical dialogue. Sample work by each guest writer will be read in advance by the class in order to allow for a meaningful dialogue. It is expected that this class will:

- encourage the creative use of language
- help students explore the inner world of the imagination
- enable students to lay the foundations of a possible future career in creative writing
- help students cultivate the habit of organizing one's thoughts and sentiments into carefully ordered verbal expressions as objects of aesthetic and sometimes ethical value.

Course Objective

It is expected that this class will:

- encourage the creative use of language
- help students explore the inner world of the imagination
- enable students to lay the foundations of a possible future career in creative writing
- help students cultivate the habit of organizing one's thoughts and sentiments into carefully ordered verbal expressions as objects of aesthetic and sometimes ethical value.

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Assessment Components

You are expected to attend class in person or remote synchronously. Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

As stated above, "Class sessions will be devoted to various writing exercises and to the discussion of sample texts, especially those produced by members of the class. Each student will be expected to share her/his work with the class and possibly with a wider audience when possible."

Weekly Writing Assignments

As indicated in the Course Outline

Assigned Readings

See Column 3 of Course Schedule

Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Class Attendance & Participation	15%
Average of Weekly Assignments	25%
Mid-Term Interim Portfolio	10%
Final Portfolio	50%

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
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<p>Week 1, Sep. 6</p>	<p>Intro: An Overview</p> <p>Students are expected to turn in a sample of their own creative work and be prepared to share them with the class for open discussion.</p>	<p>J.H. Kwabena Nketia: "Welcome Address" [to the 20th Annual Meeting of the ALA, Accra, Mar '94.]. <i>Beyond Survival: African Literature and the Search for New Life</i>, pp. 13-16.</p>	<p>In-class exercise: Students to close their eyes, keep them closed for up to 15 minutes: Imagine that you have just returned from a faraway place you had always wanted to visit or never expected to visit. Write a short piece about where you've been, what you experienced there.</p>
<p>Week 2, Sep 13</p>	<p>Travel Writing GUEST WRITER KOFI AKPABLI.</p>	<p>Work circulated by colleagues and by instructor</p>	<p>Circulate copies to everyone ahead of the class and be prepared to share with the class why made certain changes to the earlier draft.</p>
<p>[Week 3, Sep 20</p>	<p>Sites of Memory: A Place Piece Personal creative responses to a Visit to the Slave Forts and Castles of Elmina & Cape Coast Reading and discussion of initial drafts of narrative, reflective, or poetic pieces on the slave fort/castle as a Site of Memory..</p>	<p>Kofi Awoonor, The House By the Sea [selected poems] K. Opoku-Agyemang, Cape Coast Castle. K. Anyidoho, Gathering the Harvest Dance. [Print and Audio Versions]</p>	<p>Reading and discussion of initial drafts of narrative, reflective, or poetic pieces on the slave fort/castle as a Site of Memory</p>
<p>[Week 4, Sep 27</p>	<p>An in-class exercise: TH TRIAL</p> <p>To be worked on as a longer narrative for submission at the end of the semester.</p>		<p>Begins as an impromptu class assignment, to be continued for the rest of the semester.</p>
<p>[Week 5, Oct 4</p>	<p>The Price of Freedom and the Birth of Our Nation</p> <p>Reflections on INDEPENDENCE DAY.</p>	<p>Chimamanda Adichie, "The Danger of a Single Story." Our lives, histories, our cultures are composed of many overlapping stories Work circulated by colleagues</p>	<p>Write a Creative Piece Recounting/Reflecting on the Coming into Being of Ghana or the United States of America or any other country of your choice.</p>

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Week 6, Oct 11	PA GYA, A LITERARY FESTIVAL OF ACCRA, Oct 14-16	. Dialogue with a GUEST WRITER: [To be confirmed]	PARTICIPATION IN PA GYA, A LITERARY FESTIVAL OF ACCRA
Week 7, Oct 18	MID-TERM BREAK; To be confirmed		An occasional piece inspired by a special mid-term experience
Week 8, Oct 25	The Short Story: Basic Elements, Structure, Style, etc	Ama Ata Aidoo: The Girl Who Can & Other Stories	
Week 9, Nov 1	Dialogue with a GUEST WRITER: [To be confirmed]	Spoken Word Artist CHIEF MOOMEN	Review of a work by the Guest Writer
Week 10, Nov 8	Writing the Memoir: Encounter with Africa through the writer's personal recollections	Kofi Awoonor's Autobiographical Essay on his encounter with America through her writers.	A Memoir
Week 11, Nov 15	THE POET'S WORLD	Poetry as Re-Presentation of Reality; Poetry as Imagination; Some Fundamentals of the Language of Poetry The Poetry of Language & the Language of Poetry A focus on Poetic Diction	A Poem or Two or More: Narrative / Lyric / Ode/ Lament/Dirge
Week 12, Nov 22	A Field Visit Peduase. Location/Setting and Inspiration:		A piece inspired by the special view from the mountain top.
Week 13, Nov 29	Focus on Form, Structure Characterization in the Fo Narrative	Veronique Tadjo, <i>Queen Pokou</i> Funso Aiyejina: <i>The Legend of the Rockhills & other stories</i>	A Story in the Style and Mode of a Folk Narrative

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Week 14, Dec 6	WRITING FOR CHILDREN	Achebe: <i>How the Leopard Got His Claws</i> Meshack Asare: <i>The Brassman's Secret</i> Anyidoho: <i>The Phone Call</i>	
Week 15, Dec 13	Writing the Future A focus on the possibilities & limitations of the Imagination. The challenge of creating a Future so unlike the Past and the Present and yet so Familiar or Believable	David Lodge: <i>The Art of Fiction</i> ("Imagining the Future") Ama Ata Aidoo: "She Who Would Be King" R.E.G. Armattoe: "Letter to an African Poet in the Year 5000AD"	A Future Piece
Week	Final Deadline for Portfolio Submission		

Classroom Etiquette

To optimize the experience in a blended learning environment, please consider the following:

- Please be mindful of your microphone and video display during synchronous class meetings. Ambient noise and some visual images may disrupt class time for you and your peers.
- Please do not eat during class and minimize any other distracting noises (e.g. rustling of papers and leaving the classroom before the break, unless absolutely necessary).
- If you are not using your cell phone to follow the lesson, cell phones should be turned off or in silent mode during class time.
- Make sure to let your classmates finish speaking before you do.
- If deemed necessary by the study away site (ie COVID related need), synchronous class sessions may be recorded and archived for other students to view. This will be announced at the beginning of class time.
- Students should be respectful and courteous at all times to all participants in class.

[Enter further classroom etiquette if applicable; if, for example, it is not permitted to use laptops for note taking, please add the following clause: "Exceptions will be made for students with academic accommodations from the Moses Center." You may also want to tell your students if and how they should signal to you that they would like to speak.]

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities

[Enter suggested voluntary co-curricular activities]

Your Lecturer

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[If you like, please provide a brief text about yourself for the students, possibly positions, publications, research specialization, conferences, etc.]

Academic Policies

Grade Conversion

Your lecturer may use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

A = 94-100 or 4.0

A- = 90-93 or 3.7

B+ = 87-89 or 3.3

B = 84-86 or 3.0

B- = 80-83 or 2.7

C+ = 77-79 or 2.3

C = 74-76 or 2.0

C- = 70-73 or 1.7

D+ = 67-69 or 1.3

D = 65-66 or 1.0

F = below 65 or 0

Attendance Policy

Studying at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers, or online through NYU Brightspaces if the course is remote synchronous/blended, is expected promptly when class begins. Attendance will be checked at each class meeting. If you have scheduled a remote course immediately preceding/following an in-person class, you may want to write to nno211@nyu.edu to see if you can take your remote class at the Academic Center.

As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor and/or the Academics team by e-mail immediately (i.e. before the start of your class). Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, Moses Center accommodations, religious observance or emergencies. Your professor or site staff may ask you to present a doctor's note or an exceptional permission from an NYU Staff member as proof. Emergencies or other exceptional circumstances that you wish to be treated confidentially must be presented to staff. Doctor's notes must be submitted in person or by e-mail to the Academics team, who will inform your professors.

Unexcused absences may be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade for every week's worth of classes missed, and may negatively affect your class participation grade. Four unexcused absences in one course may lead to a Fail in that course. Being more than 15 minutes late counts as an unexcused absence. Furthermore, your professor is entitled to deduct points for frequently joining the class late.

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Exams, tests and quizzes, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation. It is the student's responsibility to produce this doctor's note and submit it to site staff; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F and no make-up assessment is scheduled. In content classes, an F in one assignment may lead to failure of the entire class.

Regardless of whether an absence is excused or not, it is the student's responsibility to catch up with the work that was missed.

Final exams

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Should there be a conflict between your final exams, please bring this to the attention of the Academics team. Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave the site before the end of the finals period.

Late Submission of Work

1. Work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late (including weekends and public holidays), unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor's note or by approval of NYU SITE Staff), in which case the 2 points per day deductions start counting from the day the extended deadline has passed.
2. Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 days (including weekends and public holidays) following the submission date receives an F.
3. Assignments due during finals week that are submitted more than 3 days late (including weekends and public holidays) without previously arranged extensions will not be accepted and will receive a zero. Any exceptions or extensions for work during finals week must be discussed with the **Site Director**.
4. Students who are late for a written exam have no automatic right to take extra time or to write the exam on another day.
5. Please remember that university computers do not keep your essays - you must save them elsewhere. Having lost parts of your essay on the university computer is no excuse for a late submission.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

As the University's policy on "[Academic Integrity for Students at NYU](#)" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.

NYU takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form, and may check your assignments by using TurnItIn or another software designed to detect offences against academic integrity.

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The presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images, or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism. It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you **MUST** inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

[NYU Academic Integrity Policies and Guidelines](#)

[NYU Library Guides](#)

Inclusivity Policies and Priorities

NYU's Office of Global Programs and NYU's global sites are committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion. In order to nurture a more inclusive global university, NYU affirms the value of sharing differing perspectives and encourages open dialogue through a variety of pedagogical approaches. Our goal is to make all students feel included and welcome in all aspects of academic life, including our syllabi, classrooms, and educational activities/spaces.

Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays

Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance should notify their lecturer AND NYU SITE's Academics Office in writing via e-mail one week in advance. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Academics Office will schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also [University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#)

Pronouns and Name Pronunciation (Albert and Zoom)

Students, staff, and faculty have the opportunity to add their pronouns, as well as the pronunciation of their names, into Albert. Students can have this information displayed to faculty, advisors, and administrators in Albert, **NYU Classes**, the NYU Home internal directory, as well as other NYU systems. Students can also opt out of having their pronouns viewed by their instructors, in case they feel more comfortable sharing their pronouns outside of the classroom. For more information on how to change this information for your Albert account, please see the [Pronouns and Name Pronunciation website](#).

Students, staff, and faculty are also encouraged, though not required, to list their pronouns, and update their names in the name display for Zoom. For more information on how to make this change, please see the [Personalizing Zoom Display Names website](#).

Moses Accommodations Statement

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Academic accommodations are available for students with documented and registered disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Student Accessibility (+1 212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance. Accommodations for this course are managed through NYU [SITE].

Bias Response

The New York University Bias Response Line provides a mechanism through which members of our community can share or report experiences and concerns of bias, discrimination, or harassing behavior that may occur within our community.

Experienced administrators in the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) receive and assess reports, and then help facilitate responses, which may include referral to another University school or unit, or investigation if warranted according to the University's existing Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy.

The Bias Response Line is designed to enable the University to provide an open forum that helps to ensure that our community is equitable and inclusive.

To report an incident, you may do so in one of three ways:

- Online using the [Web Form \(link\)](#)
- Email: bias.response@nyu.edu
- Phone: 212-998-2277
- Local Phone Number: 054 315 0011