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**Summer Enrichment at Penn State**  
**Mark Curcio**  
**Building/ Classroom**

**Creative Writing**  
**7/7/2008 – 7/25/2008**

“Beneath the rule of men entirely great,  
The pen is mightier than the sword.”  
- Edward George Bulwer

**PURPOSE:** This class is designed so that you may improve your writing by engaging in enjoyable creative writing exercises.

**OBJECTIVES:** Students will learn to write creatively through the mediums of poetry, flash fiction, journal entries, and various creative writing exercises. At the end of the course, all students will complete a portfolio of their work consisting of everything they had written through the course. The ultimate goal of the portfolio is illustrate each writer’s personal growth.

**CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:** R-E-S-P-E-C-T. That is what it means to me. Not everyone is comfortable with his/her writing, but with the support and comfort of peers, writing becomes less of a chore and more of an enjoyable experience.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Supplies needed: pencil or pen, journal or laptop, creative minds
- Format of assignments: All written materials should be typed, 12 size font when submitted
- No tests or exams
- No “home” work, only class work
- Student Participation is encouraged but if you are shy, let your paper and pencil do the talking.
- Attendance, on the other hand...
  - o 1 class missed... No points subtracted
  - o 2 classes missed... 5 points subtracted
  - o 3 classes missed... 10 points subtracted
  - o 4 or more classes missed... results in failure

**GRADING POLICY:** Total grades are calculated by this simple formula:

- Student Participation: 10 points
- “iTunes Shuffle” Mix: 20 points
- Poetry submission: 10 points
- Micro Fiction Story: 10 points
- Portfolio: 50 points
  - o Total: 100 points

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**Grading Scale:**

- 92 – 100 = A
- 82 – 91 = B
- 72 – 81 = C
- 62 – 71 = D
- 61 or less = F

- **Bonus:** You have the opportunity to accumulate up to 10 bonus points throughout the course. i.e. If you end up with 89 percent but you accumulate 3 bonus points throughout the course, then you will earn an “A.”

**PROCEDURE FOR EXTRA HELP: You may contact me for extra help and/or questions by phone, email, room (All given upon request)**

**“DAY-BY-DAY...BY-DAY” CLASS OUTLINE:**

**Week One**

Monday	July 7 .....	First Day of Class Syllabus Handout Overview of Course Begin Neighborhood Map
Tuesday	July 8 .....	Word of the Day Introduction to Creative Writing Continue Neighborhood Map
Wednesday	July 9 .....	iTunes Shuffle Finish Neighborhood Map
Thursday	July 10 .....	“Pass It” Marathon: Choose medium from a hat
Friday	July 11 .....	Rewrite the ending of your favorite book, movie, story, song, life experience, etc. Student readings

**Week Two**

Monday	July 14 .....	Word Wiz Poetry Crash Course Free Verse: Write like Whitman
Tuesday	July 15 .....	Word of the Day Dante: Create Your Own Canto
Wednesday	July 16 .....	iTunes Shuffle

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Write like W.C.W.

Thursday July 17..... “Pass It”  
Pick a Poet, Write like a Poet

Friday July 18..... Workshop Day  
Student readings

### **Week Three**

Monday July 21..... Word Wiz  
Flash Fiction  
Readings of Flash Fiction + discussion  
**Poetry Submission Due**

Tuesday July 22..... Word of the Day + “Pass It”  
Readings of Flash Fiction + discussion  
YOUR LIFE or LAST NIGHT... in 250-1,000 words  
Workshop

Wednesday July 23..... iTunes Shuffle  
Student readings  
Workshop  
**Flash Fiction Story Due**

Thursday July 24..... Workshop Day  
**iTunes Shuffle Mix Due**

Friday July 25 ..... Final Day of Class  
**\*\*\* PORTFOLIO DUE \*\*\***  
Questions about College, College Papers, etc.

### **Week 3 1/2**

Monday July 28 ..... Non-teaching Day; Wrap up  
Hand back portfolios

**Summer Study 2008  
Creative Writing**

Word Wiz

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- Every Monday, I will choose a new letter at random and subject at random
- Come up with as many words that start with the letter and fit in the subject as possible within 10 minutes
- All duplicates do not count, each word is 1 point
- Winner at the end with the most words receives bonus points depending on number of original words written not repeated by other students
  - o 10-20 words = +1
  - o 20-30 words = +3
  - o 30-50 words = +5

### Word of the Day

- Every Tuesday, I will present to the class 3 “new” words on the board
- For each word, come up with your own definitions and/or what you think the word means and write them down on a piece of paper and turn them in
- Students with the closest definitions get one bonus point per word. If you get all three correct, you double up and get six bonus points.

### iTunes Shuffle

- Every Wednesday, I will play 3-5 songs on shuffle thru iTunes
- Write something creatively (poem, short story, play, song, journal entry) about the song being played, ie...
  - o Memory attached to the song
  - o Memory attached to the lyrics
  - o An emotion that is motivated by the song
  - o If never heard before, what you thought about it, would you listen to it again?
- End of the semester, take all entries, make a “Mix CD”
  - o Collection of the writings into one “CD” themed Journal.
  - o An actual “Mix CD” complete with CD book, list of songs, and 1-2 page response/review to the songs included in it.
  - o Bonus: Write a song that was influenced by 1 of songs included in “Mix”

### “Pass It” Pass Around Poetry

- Every Thursday, each student will start a poem with one line and pass it around the class until everyone gets a chance to write at least one line
- The first person is in charge of starting the poem, the last person is in charge of titling the poem.
- Poems are then thrown in a hat and each student chooses one and is in charge of proofreading it and editing it to make it the best poem possible. The student then turns all of theirs in at the end of the semester in their portfolio including the newly revised one and the original written one done by the students.

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### Portfolio

- Includes **everything** written throughout the entire course minus the iTunes Shuffle writings.
- Students will be given a template as to what should be included in the Portfolio once it comes closer towards the due date.