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## ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING PROJECTS in Fall 2019 (CL4000)

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| <b>Course Code</b>    | CL4000                     | <b>Professor(s)</b>     | Amanda Dennis                     |
| <b>Prerequisites</b>  | None                       | <b>Office Number</b>    | G-116                             |
| <b>Class Schedule</b> | W: 09:00-11:55 in<br>G-002 | <b>Office Hours</b>     | Mon. 2:00-3:20 p.m. &<br>by appt. |
| <b>Credits</b>        | 4                          | <b>Email</b>            | adennis@aup.edu                   |
| <b>Semester</b>       | Fall 2019                  | <b>Office Tel. Ext.</b> |                                   |

### Course Description

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Do you yearn to write a novel, a collection of related short stories or narrative essays, or a series of poems? This cross-genre, seminar-style course is designed for students who want to pursue larger, more advanced creative writing projects. Student will submit project proposals for discussion and approval, and then present significant installments of writing at regular intervals during the semester.

The class, as a whole, will discuss the work, offering helpful critical thoughts and suggestions. Revisions will be required along with student-professor individual conferences. Readings will be used as guiding examples. This course is suited, but not limited to students pursuing the Literary Studies and Creative Arts track in the Department of Comparative Literature and English. Previous creative writing experience is required.

### Course Learning Outcomes

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The primary goal of this course is to provide a context for students to initiate and develop a significant body of work in a writing genre.

Students will learn provide critical responses and encourage creative progress of their peers.

Students will learn to present a writing project to their peers and articulate their aesthetic choices and goals

Students will learn to appreciate the importance of revision

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# General Education

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## Course Outline

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### Course Schedule (subject to adjustment)

Readings may be provided for discussion and to serve as examples for workshop projects

**W1 Sept. 4** First meet. Organization of conferences and installments. **Two-page project proposal. (Due Mon., Sept. 9)** along with work sample (2-5 pages of prose or at least two poems). Send work to the whole class. All students to attend class **(Sept. 11)** with annotated versions of peer's work.

**September 8 – last day to drop/add courses online**

**W2 Sept. 11** Proposal Workshop. Each student will present proposals for discussion and perhaps early drafts can be discussed.

**W3 Sept. 18** Conferences (on your proposal) scheduled

**W4 Sept. 25** Writing Week (no meeting) Project **Installment #1 due Fri., Sep. 27**

**W5 Oct. 2** Ways to begin. What makes a powerful opening in fiction, poetry and creative non-fiction? Bring in an opening you find inspiring (x3 copies).

Installment #1 Workshop

**W6 Oct 9** Conferences (Installment #1) scheduled

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**W7 Oct. 16** Writing Week (no meeting). Project **Installment #2 due Fri., Oct. 18**

**W8 Oct. 23** Ways of seeing: transforming experience into writing. (Readings: Annie Dillard, Borges "Blindness")

Installment #2 Workshop

**W9 Oct. 30** **No Class (Fall Break Writing Time! October 30 - November 3)**

Begin to revise in preparation for your final portfolio

**W10 Nov. 6** Conferences (Installment #2). Project **Installment #3 due Fri. Nov. 8**

**W11 Nov. 13** Archetypal plots and other secrets of narrative, tension and pacing (Aristotle et. al) OR open topic

Installment #3 Workshop

**W12 Nov. 20** Conferences (Installment #3) scheduled

**W13 Nov. 27** Writing Week. Project **Installment #4 due Fri. Nov. 29**

**W14 Dec. 4** The art of endings or open topic. Discussion of portfolio requirements

Installment #4 Workshop

**December 7-11 Reading days; December 12-18 Final exams**

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**Portfolio: Due Dec. 11**

**Final Conference:** Individual conferences on complete portfolio and discussion of future directions for your work (TBA, probably Dec. 17th)

## Textbooks

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This course doesn't have any textbook.

## Attendance Policy

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Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

## Grading Policy

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|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Conferences/Installments          | 20% |
| Portfolio: A chapbook-length work | 80% |

### **SUBMITTING WORK:**

When you send your submissions by email (adennis@aup.edu), make sure that your work is in a Word Document. Please put your name and the title of the work at the top of the document. Label your document like this:

Your Name\_Installment 1

Your Name\_Installment 2

Your Name\_Portfolio (all work for your portfolio should go in one Word Document)

## **Other**

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*For your calendar...*

### **Writing Due Dates:**

**Proposal & work sample due Sept. 9**

**Installment #1 due Fri., Sep. 27**

**Installment #2 due Fri., Oct. 18**

**Installment #3 due Fri. Nov. 8**

**Installment #4 due Fri. Nov. 29**

**Final Portfolio due Dec. 11**

### **Workshop Dates:**

**Sept. 11 (proposal workshop)**

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**Oct. 2**

**Oct. 23**

**Nov. 13**

**Dec. 4**

### **FAQ's**

**Q:** Is there a length requirement for each installment? How many pages must I submit?

**A:** There is no length requirement for the installments. Everyone's project (and process) is different, and the course is designed to help you meet the goals you set for yourself at the beginning of term. Installment length will vary as a function of your proposal, and we will decide on reasonable chunks of work to submit during your proposal conferences. A very rough guideline might be something like 10-50 pages of prose or 3-5 poems.

**Q:** What goes into the final portfolio? Am I expected to make revisions?

**A:** Yes, revisions are an important part of the work you will do this term, even though they won't be "visible" until the end. Your portfolio consists of revisions of each installment plus a one-page reflection on your creative process and work this term.