Course Syllabus

Eng 592 — Workshop: Cullman Center Institute for Teachers Summer Seminar

Adams State University
Summer 2016
Credit hours: 3.0

Course description: Teachers completing one of the Cullman Center’s week-long summer seminars (“How to Forget How to Write Fiction: A Creative Writing Workshop”, “The Reporter and the Story: A Workshop in Journalism” and “Imagining Nature in the Age of Discoveries”) have the opportunity to earn three hours of graduate credit. These credits can apply towards Adams State University’s forthcoming MA Degree in English designed especially for secondary education practitioners.

Instructors: This summer’s Adams State University instructors of record are Dr. David Mazel, Dr. David MacWilliams, and Dr. Leah McCormack.

Dr. David Mazel is Emeritus Professor of English at Adams State University. He is the author of American Literary Environmentalism and the editor of A Century of Early Ecocriticism and Mountaineering Women: Stories by Early Climbers. He has published a variety of scholarly articles on literature and the environment.

Dr. MacWilliams is currently Chair of the department of English, Theatre, and Communication at Adams State. He holds an MFA in Creative Nonfiction and a Ph.D. in English literature. He has published scholarly and creative personal essays. The latter have appeared in Pilgrimage, Mason’s Road, Apple Valley Review and in the anthology Littlest Blessings by Whispering Angel Books. He is a Fellow of the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.

Dr. Leah McCormack is an assistant professor of creative writing and literature at Adams State University (ASU). She has her PhD in creative writing and literature from the University of Cincinnati and her MFA in creative writing from the City College of New York, City University of New York. Her short stories have appeared or are forthcoming in such literary journals as Prairie Fire, Hotel Amerika, Redivider, The Portland Review, Fiction, The Portland Review, North Dakota Quarterly, REAL: Regarding Arts & Letters, and South Dakota Review.

Course procedure and requirements:

Students in the fiction seminar How to Forget How to Write Fiction: A Creative Writing Workshop, July 11 - 15. Submit a final portfolio that includes 1) the first draft of the short story you submitted for the seminar, 2) a substantially revised draft of the story, and 3) a rationale (1,500 words min.) in which you explain what you chose to revise and why (i.e., how the group’s discussion of the piece and the ideas brought up throughout the seminar assisted your revision decisions), and how
this experience (participating in the seminar and revising your work, etc.) might transfer over into your own classroom and lesson plans. Remember to be specific in your rationale. Finally, please email assignments as an attachment to asucullmancenter@adams.edu.

**Students in the journalism writing seminar** The Reporter and the Story: A Workshop in Journalism, July 18 - 22.
Monday, July 18, 2016, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Submit a 8-10 page paper that explains (1) how the seminar enriched your understanding of how to engage the news story in less “conventional” way as both a journalist and a teacher and (2) how you might incorporate this heightened understanding into lessons for your own students. Your paper should outline an age-appropriate activity or assignment that explores what is “newsworthy,” how students can examine the multi-faceted nature of the story, identify appropriate state standards addressed by the activity/assignment, and provide a series of discussion questions that prompt students to examine and report on their own news event. Finally, students in this seminar must submit a copy of all formal written assignments completed at the Cullman Center. Please contact Dr. MacWilliams as the seminar begins for more detailed information.

**Students in the history seminar** Imagining Nature in the Age of Discoveries, July 25 - 29.
Submit a formal 10-12 page paper that (1) describes how the seminar changed your understanding of the relations between culture, history, and environment, (2) discusses what is “at stake” in this sort of inquiry, and (3) outlines a relevant assignment or classroom activity that incorporates this new understanding. The latter section of your paper should identify the state standards addressed by the activity/assignment and include a set of discussion questions. In addition, please submit copies of all formal written assignments completed at the Cullman Center. Please contact Dr. Mazel as the seminar begins for more detailed information.

Please email the assignments as an attachment to asucullmancenter@adams.edu

**Frequently asked questions:**

1. *How do I submit assignments?* We prefer that you submit all work via email to us at asucullmancenter@adams.edu. Please save your assignments as .rft, .doc. or docx and submit them as attachments to your email.

2. *What file names should I give my documents?* Please incorporate your full name into the name of your documents (e.g., jane-doe-reaction-paper.doc; john-doe-cinema-paper.doc).

3. *How do I format my reaction/response papers?* Please double space these papers and use left-justification, 12-point Courier font, and one-inch margins all around. If you use outside sources, please include in-text citations (MLA or APA style) plus a Works Cited or References page. Please remember that this is a graduate-level course and that your finished writing should be of corresponding quality.
For other questions, please contact the instructor at asucullmancenter@adams.edu.

**Due dates:** All course work is due within seven days of the last scheduled day of the seminar (“fiction”: July 15th + 7 = July 21st; “journalism”: July 22nd + 7 = July 29th; “history”: July 29th + 7 = August 5th).

**Note on summer schedules and communicating with instructor:** To contact your instructor, email asucullmancenter@adams.edu. Email correspondence ensures a timely response and an accurate record of interactions between you and your instructor. Be sure to list asucullmancenter@adams.edu in your accepted emails if you have any filters set.

**Grading:** All submitted work will be graded within two weeks of submission and entered into the university grading system for reporting. Work for seminars ending after Adams State University’s regular summer term (late July-August) may be temporarily assigned a grade of “incomplete” in order for the student to earn summer instead of fall credit.

**Plagiarism:** Misrepresenting someone else’s work as your own is not acceptable and will result in a failing grade for the course.