

Explorations in Creative Writing
LEAP 1270 - 001
Fall 2024
TuTh/9:10AM-10:30AM

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Rivkin (he/him)
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Course Description

In this course, we're going to work towards imagining things into existence. We're going to create new worlds out of our memories, observations, and imagination, with special attention paid to space and place. Students will be asked to think of writing as a creative process and as a form of thinking. Students will write extensively, transforming their ideas into stories and essays. This is a course for everyone, from those who might have never written before, to those who have a dedicated practice, and everyone in between. An essential part of the class will be learning to "read as a writer," analyzing the use of various craft elements by published writers, your classmates, and yourself. We will read stories, essays, and poems, and then use those works as inspiration for ourselves. This class is structured around the workshop process and community. In coming together to support and challenge each other, we will keep in mind what E.B. White had to say: "I admire anybody who has the guts to write anything at all."

Note: LEAP: 1270- 001 fulfills the university's Fine Arts Exploration (FF) requirement.

Course Texts

Bright Dead Things - Ada Limon

Deaf Republic - Ilya Kaminsky

Prose and Poetry Packets

Course Goals

Students will improve their ability...

- write and think critically and creatively
- to discuss published works of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction, specifically focusing on reading *as writers*
- to understand, interpret, and practice elements of craft in a short fiction and nonfiction including setting, scene, structure, time, character, plot, persona, etc.
- write short literary fiction and nonfiction, with a focus on place/space as well as scene development

- collaborate in a community, receiving and offering constructive feedback to their peers

General Education Learning Outcome

Respond Creatively

- Consider context creatively in responding to opportunities.
- Explore and create multi-dimensional approaches in response.
- Explore connections with other topics or opportunities.
- Transform solutions to entirely new forms.

Additionally, as a LEAP learning community, we also have the following goals:

A) Intellectual Connections – We'll work to make connections among disciplines, experiences, academic courses, and perspectives

B) Intrapersonal Connections – We'll work on developing the ability to reflect critically on our own process of thinking, writing, and presenting. Students will reflect on the connections between their life (roles as a student, family member employee, citizen), and the course content.

C) Community Connections – We'll develop a sense of belonging to the campus and community.

FOR FULL SYLLABUS SEE CANVAS OR EMAIL DR. RIVKIN