RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 248: CREATIVE WRITING

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: ENGL 248 Creative Writing

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2017

D. Effective Term: Fall 2018

E. Sponsoring Department: English

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3

Laboratory: 0

Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites: ENGL 111 (English Composition I)

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair at time of approval: Susan Arvay, Susan.Arvay@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: ENGL 111 English Composition I. A Workshop course designed to encourage and develop a student's creative talents principally in poetry and the short story. Students will analyze and critique their peers' manuscripts as well as examples of published work.

III. Statement of Course Need

A. Creative Writing satisfies the need of a growing population of students who wish to pursue imaginative writing and perfect the crafts of poetry and fiction-writing. The course will offer interested students the opportunity to explore the use of voice in their own texts and prepare them to employ the terminology of that craft. Research reveals that many four-year institutions in New Jersey have equivalent courses to English 248, ensuring successful transferability for students. Overall, for the major

and non-major alike, Creative Writing exposes students to the kinds of discussions and assignments they will encounter in writing workshops, both at RVCC and other institutions.

- **B.** This course does not have a Lab component
- **C.** This course generally transfers as a free elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course does not serve as a General Education course.
- C. This course meets the Category D requirement in the English AA degree.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Introduction to course
- B. Exploring writing processes, including the importance of revision
- C. The Terminology of Fiction: Theme, Characterization, Point of View, Plot, Setting, Description, Dialogue, Tone and Style
- D. The Terminology of Poetry: Stanza, Lineation, Rime, Form, Figurative Language, Sound Devices, Speaker
- E. Reading and writing assignments related to C and D, above
- F. Critical self-reflection

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Employ correct terminology in workshop discussions (GE-NJ 1, 6)
- 2. Read and discuss published poems and short stories in terms of craft (GE-NJ 1, 6)
- 3. Write, revise, and discuss poems and short stories (GE-NJ 1, 6)
- 4. Defend interpretations of above poems and short stories using appropriate critical approaches (GE-NJ 1, 6)
- 5. Use textual evidence to support claims (GE-NJ 1, 6, *)
- 6. Explain individual interpretations of texts in discussion and writing (GE-NJ 1, 6)
- 7. Report on their analyses of student manuscripts in discussion (GE-NJ 1, 6)
- (* Embedded critical thinking)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Develop their own creative voices
- 2. Apply critical approaches to the analysis of texts written by students and published authors
- 3. Apply rhetorical and theoretical strategies to written work
- 4. Analyze texts as a basis for original thinking and writing

C. Assessment Instruments

Given the outcomes described above, the following assessment methods may be used:

- 1. in-class formal and informal writing
- 2. out-of-class formal and informal writing
- 3. discussion questions
- 4. response papers
- 5. self-reflections

VII. Grade Determinants

In order to evaluate achievement of the outcomes listed above, possible grade determinants may be:

- A. Student's own poetry and fiction written during the course
- B. Students' craft response papers
- C. Students' self-reflections
- D. Class participation, which includes group work

Given the outcomes described above, the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course include:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small group work
- C. guest speakers, depending on instructor
- D. student collaboration
- E. independent study

VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. suggested textbook: Jason and Lefcowitz, *Creative Writers' Handbook*, latest edition. Pearson.
- B. course packets of published poems and stories
- C. student writing

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

The library and computer labs provide ample resources for reading published work and printing students' own manuscripts.

X. Honors Options

There is no Honors Option for this course.