

**Kresge 65W: Creative Writing—Abbreviated Syllabus 2018**  
Second Session—Tuesday Evenings  
Roz Spafford\*

This summer we will work on fiction, poetry and creative non-fiction, in ways that will help you jump-start your writing, experiment with genres that are newer to you, and/or continue projects you have begun. The course has successfully included both beginning and experienced writers: Everyone is welcome.

Everyone will be expected to write one story (at least 1,000 words), three poems, and a short (1,500 words or so) piece of creative non-fiction. For a final project, students may either revise one of the pieces they have submitted or turn in part of a bigger project they have been working on (a collection of poems, a chunk of a novel, a group of non-fiction pieces).

In addition, students will write comments on other students' work and do writing exercises in and out of class. Finally, each student will be invited to one conference with the instructor to talk through directions and possibilities.

Textbook: *Naming the World and Other Exercises for the Creative Writer*, edited by Bret Anthony Johnston.

Reading: Various handouts plus on-line texts—the links are in the web version of the syllabus which I will email to you once you are enrolled

Contact information: [rozspafford@gmail.com](mailto:rozspafford@gmail.com)

Grades: Grading will be based on attendance, comments on other students' work, and commitment to your own work, as evidenced by the quality of your exercises, drafts, and revisions.

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## Schedule

### Week 1: Getting Started

Agenda:

Discussion of writing: Processes, practices and purposes

Fiction: Structure and strategies

World-building, character and structure exercises

Read: Assigned stories

Write: Exercises, as assigned. One story, 3-5 pages.

## **Week 2: Fiction**

Agenda:

Workshop on stories  
Discussion of assigned reading  
Launching poetry

Read/Listen: poems as assigned

Write: exercises as assigned. 3 poems.

## **Week 3: Poetry**

Agenda:

Workshop on one of your poems  
Discussion of poetry—out loud, on the page  
Introducing creative non-fiction

Read: Examples of creative non-fiction

Write: A piece of creative non-fiction, 4-5 pages.

## **Week 4: Creative Non-Fiction**

Agenda:

Discovering the “creative” in creative non-fiction  
Workshops on creative non-fiction  
Discussion of revision

Read: Assigned pieces on publishing, student publications

Write: Revise your short story, your poems, OR your piece of creative non-fiction

Alternatively, turn in a section of a larger project you are working on.

## **Week 5: Revision and reading**

Agenda:

Turn in revisions.  
Discuss revision  
Read one piece in class.

**\*About the instructor:**

Roz Spafford's book of poetry, *Requiem*, received the 2008 Gell Prize from Writers & Books, and her fiction has won awards from *Quarry West*, *New Millennium Writings*, *Southwest Review*, and other journals. She has also written journalistic pieces, newspaper columns and blog pieces, and is at work on a memoir. Until 2006, she taught with the UCSC Writing Program, Rachel Carson College & Kresge College, as well as fiction and poetry for Creative Writing. She now teaches at the University of Toronto. Some of her work, along with her teaching philosophy, is available at [rozspafford.org](http://rozspafford.org).