FSAF: Creative Writing
ENGL F695P, Two Credits
July 14-28, 2013 M-F, Time: TBA  Location: TBA

Instructor: Peggy Shumaker (UAF Professor of English, Emerita) is instructor of record. Other participating instructors include Jonny Gray (Associate Professor, Southern Illinois University), Jeanne E. Clark (Associate Professor of English, University of California, Chico), Frank Soos (UAF Professor of Creative Writing, Emeritus) and Margo Klass (Book Arts expert).

Phone: 907-350-9894
Email: peggyzoe@gmail.com

Course description: During the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, the Creative Writing class will focus on the study and writing of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. The Festival offers a unique opportunity for graduate students to work with several distinguished faculty and receive comments from a variety of perspectives. Students will participate in class for three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon M-F for the two weeks of Festival.

Instructional Methods: This intensive two-week course offers graduate students a unique opportunity to focus completely on generating new writing. Each student will write every day, under the guidance of the Festival creative writers. There will be five writers teaching, all with distinguished writing and publishing records, and with teaching experience at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. With the low student-to-teacher ratio, students receive very personalized attention. This class offers graduate students a chance to spend two weeks with working writers, listening to them talk about their writing processes, the business side of writing, and the writing life.

Graduate level students will be expected to participate fully in discussions, to ask professional-level questions, and to address writing problems they face in their own work.

Because the class attracts writers of all levels, graduate students who wish to teach may use this class as a laboratory, gleaning ideas for helping students generate and polish new work.

The class will work on prose and poetry, and students may write either or both.

Directed writing activities with assigned homework, close readings of literature from writerly perspectives, and discussions of topics vital to writing will be included each day.

Course Objectives: The class will focus on generating new writing or bringing in-progress work to a publishable level. Graduate students will be expected to move fluidly from one stage of the writing process to another and come to a clearer understanding of their personal writing process.

Expected Student Outcomes: These sessions will be especially advantageous for:

a. teachers who must motivate others (and themselves) to write
b. writers who want fresh ideas and ways to focus their writing.
C. students who want to hone their craft.
Credit:
This course is available for UAF credit. Students must be full-time registrants of the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival and register for this class through UAF Summer Sessions. UAF Summer Sessions’ registration information is available at www.uaf.edu/summer. To register for ENGL F695P students must be currently admitted to a master’s level writing program or must have permission of the instructor. To receive graduate credit, students must generate literary work of publishable quality, consistent with work done in other graduate workshops.

Grading:
Grading is pass/fail. Passing grade is 60% or higher based on the following factors:
- Portfolio 60%
- Participation 20%
- Attendance 20%
If a student misses more than three days of class, he/she will receive no credit for attendance.

Portfolios:
Each student registered for credit will turn in a portfolio of writing on the last day of the Festival. Each student will also turn in a self-addressed stamped envelope large enough for the portfolio to be returned by mail.

The portfolio must contain rough drafts of all material written during class time and all material written in response to assignments. It must also contain revisions.

Prose writers will turn in two polished essays or stories, or twenty pages of prose. There is no length or format requirement for the essays and stories, because the length and style will vary depending on the piece of writing.
Poets will turn in ten polished pages of poems.
Students may write both prose and poetry if they choose.

To earn credit for English F695, students will produce work on the graduate level. The aim is to produce publishable work of literary quality. (Students in this category will likely already have published work.)

Honesty:
All work presented as the student’s must be written by that student. For a writer, plagiarism is the worst kind of theft. Any student who plagiarizes will not receive credit.

Disabilities Services:
Instructor will work with the Office of Disability Services (203 Whitaker Building, 474-7043) to accommodate students with special needs.

Sample Day’s Schedule
9:00-10:00 AM Fiction
10:00-11:00 AM Poetry
11:00 AM-12:00 PM Creative nonfiction
12:00-1:30 PM Lunch Bites
1:30-2:30 PM Writing activities
2:30-4:30 PM Special Topics in Writing