

REEDLEY COLLEGE  
ENGLISH 15J:  
LITERARY JOURNAL PUBLICATION



**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT:**

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**English 15J Catalog Course Description:** This course focuses on developing and using literary and professional skills to solicit and select creative submissions from primarily outside of the college, designing and producing the college's professional literary journal. This hands-on course emphasizes development of craft while introducing basics of editing others' manuscripts and preparing them for publication in digital and printed forms. Students will maintain a website and a social media presence for the journal.

Students with creative writing or art backgrounds will benefit from participating in creating and maintaining a literary community. As such, students are encouraged to continue study in literature and languages as well as other creative writing courses. (Pre-req: 15A, 15B, 15E, or 15F) (CSU, GE)

This course is a part of the Creative Writing Certificate.

**Reading Assignments:** While there are no required textbooks for this course, we will still be reading a substantial amount of published creative writing, examining its craft and merit in addition to a number of creative writing and art submissions from students at other two-year colleges. Students will learn how to “read” art as well.

**Writing Assignments:** In addition to discussion forum posts, there will be more formal written critiques of creative writing and art. Other writing assignments will include revising submission guidelines, editing submissions, composing letters of acceptance and rejection, generating website text, and creating text for the digital journal.

**Class Participation:** Class participation is vital in this course. Collaboration and cooperation are key to the *Kings River Review* publication. Decisions on content and design will need to be agreed upon and students will need to contribute equally. Since weekly writing and discussion forums are required, you need to keep a calendar and stay organized. It is a good idea to check Canvas and email daily, not only on days you are coming to class,

downloading assignments, and uploading work. Set your Canvas notifications to be notified of announcements immediately. **Announcements contain additional lectures and assignment materials.**

**Discussion Forum Posts:** Multiple posts will be due weekly. See each week's assignments for questions and additional guidelines. The more thorough and complex your responses and replies, the stronger your score will be. Use academic language when writing your responses, proofreading and correcting sentence level errors accordingly, exhibiting the care of work we expect to see in submissions. Compose in Word and copy/paste your work. Do not draft on your phone.

**Digital Design:** Students will apply learned computer publishing skills in designing printed and digital journals, coming to learn what is a visually appealing and meaningful presentation of creative works. **The College will be providing you with a laptop with apps specific for the course to use during the semester.**

**Due Dates and Due Date Policy:** Deadlines are of great importance when there is a publication to be created; therefore, we will practice meeting deadlines with our own work as well. Posts, reading assignments, written assignments, papers, etc. are typically due on **prior to the next class session** unless otherwise instructed. It is in your best interest to complete assignments early in the week, especially if responding to your instructor and peers.

**Absences:** The class will adhere to the Reedley College catalog attendance policy which states: *Students are expected to attend all sessions of classes for which they are enrolled. Excessive absence will jeopardize a student's satisfactory progress in a class. Students may be dropped from a class if they fail to attend the first class session of the semester. As a guide, during the semester up to the final drop date, any student who misses more than two weeks of class meetings may be dropped.* This applies to the online classroom environment as well.

**Accommodations:** Please inform me of any special circumstances you might have. If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including alternate media requests, please notify me immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your needs.

**Use of Student Work:** Given the nature of this course, your written work (e.g., a forward, organizational language, advertisement, design) may be used in the creation of the printed and digital journal. Credit for significant and substantial work will be given.

**Grading:** You will be graded on a point system scale. These points will vary on the assignment and weight of the assignment. Grades are available on Canvas. If extra credit is available (such as attending readings or showings), points will be placed in the Participation portion of the final grade. Extra credit points may only increase an already passing grade and may not be used to pass the class.

Grade percentages are as follows:

- Weekly Reading and Writing Assignments grade=50%
  - Reading and responding to published works, studying craft
  - Reading and responding to student submissions
  - Letters and organizational writing and editing
- Design and Production=40%
  - Computer design and publishing
  - Printed design and publishing
- Participation=10%
  - Minor discussion forums and activities

Additional assignments may be added at any time.

100% - 90% = A, 89% - 80% = B, 79% - 70% = C, 69% - 60% = D, 59%-50% = F

**All policies, assignments, and weight of graded assignments are subject to change and may be modified at any time to create a positive learning environment.**

**Course Outline Objectives:** Throughout the weeks of the course students will be practicing and building upon the following skills:

- Recognize and edit for effective prose style
- Make decisions regarding structure (the development of narrative and idea) on the basis of thematic purpose
- Understand the nuances of language
- Identify visual publishing styles
- Create strong communication skills between editor-writer and designer-reader.
- Read/examine professional models from the standpoint of technique
- Respond (offer constructive criticism and praise) with sensitivity to others' literary efforts

**Course Student Learning Outcomes:** By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Solicit and read a variety of literary and artistic submissions, using acquired critical language in responding fairly, intelligently, and professionally in the acceptance or rejection of works.
- Work cooperatively and communicate effectively with peers and contributors to edit and publish a small literary publication, using critical thinking and problem solving to address technical and strategic issues, and possibilities, in publishing.
- Participate in the publication cycle, engaging in the mechanics of keyboarding, design, layout, and proofreading for digital and printed publication.

## ENGLISH 15J SCHEDULE

**This overview does NOT include all assignments. All assignments and due dates subject to change. Updates will be on Canvas.**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Week 0  | Syllabus and introductions  |
| Week 4  | Journal search; review critique, and vision                         |
| Week 5  | Aspects of Craft: Using Poetic, Fictional, and Narrative Techniques |
| Week 6  | CNF overview, reading, and evaluation                               |
| Week 7  | Poetry overview, reading, and evaluation                            |
| Week 8  | Fiction overview, reading, and evaluation                           |
| Week 9  | Art overview, reading, and evaluation                               |
| Week 10 | Methods of literary publication; Publication design                 |
| Week 11 | Publication design  |
| Week 12 | Submission deadline; Acceptance/rejection decisions                 |
| Week 13 | Editing manuscripts   |
| Week 14 | Digital and printed design  |
| Week 15 | KRR print deadline  |
| Week 16 | Letters and planning  |
| Week 17 | Release   |
| Week 18 | Final   |