

**Course Title:** Introduction to Creative Writing  
**Instructor:** Scott A. Johnson  
**E-Mail:** sjohnson@waynesburg.edu  
**Class Time:** 2:30-3:45, HANNA 103

**Course Overview:**

This course will serve as a primer and, as the title implies, an introduction to the process of creative writing. Students will read a few selections, followed by writing and reviewing short stories or poems written by other students. In this workshop environment, students will begin to develop into writers, and to express themselves through writing.

**Required Reading:**

The professor will provide a few selections of both short stories and poetry. The students will not be required to purchase text books.

**Course Assignments:**

Students may choose one of two tracks: Poetry or Short Story Fiction. Those who choose poetry will be required to turn in and workshop five (5) poems over the course of the semester. Short fiction students will be required to turn in and workshop two (2) stories of no less than 2500 words and no more than 6000 words.

Extra credit will be offered on a weekly challenge basis. More on this later.

**Policies:**

- **Attendance** - Students will comply with university standards in attendance. Missed coursework shall be the responsibility of the student. In a course such as this one, attendance is especially important. Students may miss a total of three classes per semester, so long as missed work is made up within a reasonable amount of time. The student's grade will drop one letter for each subsequent absence.
- **Tardiness** - Please make every effort to be on time for class. Failure to do so is disruptive not only to the professor, but to the other students who have made such an effort. Two instances of tardiness will be the equivalent of a full absence.
- **Discussion** - All students will be expected to participate in all discussions and critiques. Failure to do so constitutes failure of the objectives of the course.
- **Disruption** - MP3 players, radios, cellphones, and other such distractions are not allowed in the classroom once class has begun. Idle chatter and disrespectful behavior toward the instructor or other students is also not permitted in the classroom.
- **Late Work** - Due to the nature of this course, late work will not be accepted.
- **Respect** - Respect your fellow students. Snarking will not be tolerated, nor will disrespectful behavior. Criticism is welcome and desired. Check your ego at the door.

**Grading:**

Grades will be determined by quality of work, improvement, and comments toward other students.

Extra credit will be offered in a challenge-style assignment each week. There will be no other opportunities for extra credit.

**About Your Instructor:**

Scott A. Johnson's Publications:

**Books (Fiction)**

*Cane River: A Ghost Story* (forthcoming, Augusta, Harbor House Books, 2008)

*The Journal of Edwin Gray* (chapbook), Naked Snake Press, 2007

*Deadlands*, Augusta, Harbor House Books, 2005

*An American Haunting*, Augusta, Harbor House Books, 2004

**Books (Non-Fiction/Folklore)**

*Cold Spots: The Ghosts of San Antonio* (forthcoming, Pennsylvania, Schiffer Press)

*The Mayor's Guide: The Stately Ghosts of Austin* (forthcoming, Augusta, Harbor House Books)

*The Mayor's Guide: The Stately Ghosts of Augusta*, Augusta, Harbor House Books, 2005

**Short Stories**

"The Dinner Party" - *Until Someone Loses an Eye*, MA: Bradford House Publishing, 2008

"One Night in New Orleans" - *Horror Authors United Magazine*, January 2008

"Coffin Liquor" - *FearZone* (Video-Podcast), Forthcoming

"Rats" - *Dreadtime Stories* (Podcast), Forthcoming

"Of Moss and Bullfrogs" - *Dreadtime Stories* (Podcast), 2007

"Harimoto" - *History is Dead*, NY: Permuted Press, 2007

"Second House from the End of the Block" -, *Haunted Encounters: Living in a Haunted House*, Dallas, TX: Atriad Press, 2007.

"The Girl Next Door" - *All Hallows* (Canada), Fall, 2006

"A Little House in the Woods" - *The Corpse Magazine*, July 2004

"Jock Itch" - *Alien Skin Magazine*, October 2003

"The Drowning Pool" - *Alien Skin Magazine*, July 2003

"Chained to the Pel" - *Persona Literary Journal*, 2002

"Mimes" - *The Rectangle Literary Journal*, 2002

### **Articles**

"King's Tavern." *Weird Hauntings II*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2008.

"Robert the Doll." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"The Stone Lion Inn." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"Stone's Public House." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"The 17-Hundred-90 Inn." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"The Bullock Hotel." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"Dead President's Pub & Restaurant." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"Southern Vermont College." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"Camarillo State Institution." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"Old Wyoming State Penitentiary." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"Cold Spots Reviews IR-Thermometers!" July 15, 2006, Dread Central,  
<<http://www.dreadcentral.com/index.php?name=Sections&req=viewarticle&articleid=63&page=1>>.

"Cold Spots Special Report: What Really Happened to Emily Rose?" July 4, 2006, Dread Central, <<http://www.dreadcentral.com/index.php?name=Sections&req=viewarticle&artid=65&page=1>>.

"Cold Spots Reviews EMF Meters!" August 1, 2006, Dread Central, <<http://www.dreadcentral.com/index.php?name=Sections&req=viewarticle&artid=61&page=1>>.

"Fairytales: The Original Horror." *The Wicked Karnival*, Vol 1. Issue 5. pp 21-23, 2005.

"Witchcraft: Respect for the Old Faith." *The Wicked Karnival*, Vol 1. Issue 5. pp 27-28, 2005.

"Zombies: The Familiar Face of Fear." *The Wicked Karnival*, Vol 1. Issue 6. pp 25-26, 2005.

### **Cold Spots**

Online article series about real haunted places in North America. Written for Dread Central.

<<http://www.dreadcentral.com/index.php?name=Sections&req=listarticles&secid=2>>

- Lake Jackson
- Robert
- The Bunnyman Bridge
- Hammock House
- The Sloss Furnaces
- Inn Distress
- Cheesman Park
- MARDI-GRAVe
- The Pittsburgh Playhouse
- Resurrection Mary
- The Ladd School
- Franklin Castle
- Starvation Heights
- King's Tavern
- The Jerome Grand Hotel
- KiMo Theater
- Lafayette Cemetery
- The Old Jesse Lee Home for Children
- The Goldfield Hotel
- Forepaugh's Restaurant
- Camarillo State Mental Hospital
- The Castle and Gauche
- Surratt House
- Lake Compounce Amusement Park
- Nashotah House and Seminary
- Stone's Public House
- Old Wyoming State Penitentiary
- The Chelsea Hotel
- McCune Mansion
- The Sage Hill Bed and Breakfast
- Little Big Horn
- The Henry Ford Estate/Henry Ford Museum
- The Isles of Shoals
- Southern Vermont College
- The Brig
- Dead Presidents Pub and Restaurant

- The Bullock Hotel
- The Willard Library
- West Virginia State Penitentiary
- Stones River Battlefield
- Waverly Hills Sanatorium
- The Stone Lion Inn
- The Lemp Mansion
- The Mathias Ham House
- The Crescent Hotel
- Ringwood Manor
- The Hollenberg Station
- The Night Marchers
- The Argo Hotel
- The Opera House
- Ghosts of The White House
- Bailey's Light
- The Whaley House
- Race Rock Lighthouse
- The Lost Dutchman Mine
- The Ghosts of Gettysburg
- Sprague Mansion
- The Marlboro Psychiatric Hospital
- The St. James Hotel
- The Harvard Exit Theater
- Tillamook Lighthouse
- The Flamingo Hotel

**Conference Presentations/Guest Lectures**

"So you want to be a horror writer." Zombiefest, Monroeville, PA, October 2007.

Writers Workshop: Instructor. Armadillocon. Austin, TX, August 2006.

"Speculative Fiction in Academia." Apollocon. Houston, TX, September 2005.

"1001 Uses for Duct-Tape in Speculative Fiction." Apollocon. Houston, TX, September 2005.

"Small Press Fiction." Apollocon. Houston, TX, September 2005.

"Texas Ghost Stories." Apollocon. Houston, TX, September 2005.

Writers Workshop: Instructor. Armadillocon. Austin, TX, August 2005.

"Paranormal Romance." Armadillocon. Austin, TX, August 2005.

"Austin Ghost Stories." Armadillocon. Austin, TX, August 2005.

"Speculative Fiction in Academia." Armadillocon. Austin, TX, August 2005.