

**SYLLABUS**  
**ENG 390: Special Topics**  
**Section 01, TR 2:00-3:20, BIS BI-LAB**  
**Spring 2009**

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Writing Center: Bishop Library – Lower Level

**CREATING THE LITERARY ARTS MAGAZINE**

In this course we will explore the literature, philosophy and practice of literary magazines. We will discuss such topics as: Editorial Perspectives; Online versus Print Publications; and Defining Your Magazine/Defining Your Audience. After developing a funding, marketing and distribution plan, students will essentially create their own literary arts magazine – from conception to final layout. Prerequisite: ENG 120.

**REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

- Kunakemakorn & Hurliman, eds. *Without Covers: Literary Magazines @ the Digital Edge*. Purdue UP, 2002.
- Council of Literary Magazines and Presses (CLMP). *Literary Press and Magazine Directory 2008/2009*. Soft Skull Press, 2008.
- *Prairie Schooner*, Fall 2008 Issue
- *Kenyon Review*, Fall 2008 Issue
- *Ploughshares*, Fall 2008 Issue, Volume 34, No. 2/3 – Issue #106
- *Georgia Review*, Fall 2008 Issue
- *Mid-American Review*
- *Gettysburg Review*, October 2008 Issue

**COURSE INFORMATION**

***Attendance***

Daily attendance is required for this course. More than two absences will result in your final grade being lowered by one letter. More than four absences is cause for being dropped from the course. Please notify me immediately if you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from coming to class on a regular basis.

***Late Work***

All work must be turned in on time and during class. I will not accept late work unless you have made a personal arrangement with me. If you are unable to turn in an assignment for emergency reasons, please inform me personally and as soon as possible. Please make use of my email if you are unable to contact me by phone. The decision of whether or not I accept late work, regardless of excuse, is solely mine.

***Plagiarism***

Please consult LVC's Student Handbook for policies concerning plagiarism and academic honesty. All policies and penalties for violations stated in these materials apply to our class.

### ***Disabilities Services***

If you have a physical, medical, psychological, or learning disability that is going to impact your attendance or require accommodation, please let me know. In order to ensure that your learning needs are appropriately met, you will need to provide documentation of your disability or medical condition to the Director of Disability Services in Humanities 206-D, 867-6071. The Office of Disability Services will then provide a letter of verification of disability that describes the accommodations needed for this class.

## **THE GRADING SYSTEM**

### ***Letter Grade/Point Scale for English 390***

Your final grade in English 390 will be based on the following point scale. Each assignment will be worth a varied amount of points as is noted below:

Assignment	Points Possible
Print Journal Analysis	15
eZine Analysis	15
Book Review	15
Preface	15
Layout/Design	15
Budget	15
Reading Responses	10

Once all points have been awarded, add the total together and use the following scale to determine your final grade for the course:

100-94 points = A  
90-93 points = A-  
87-89 points = B+  
84-86 points = B

80-83 points = B-  
77-79 points = C+  
74-76 points = C  
70-73 points = C-

67-69 points = D+  
64-66 points = D  
60-63 points = D-  
59 and below = F

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Tuesday, January 20 First day of class
- Tuesday, February 3 eZine Analysis DUE
- Tuesday, March 10 Print Journal Analysis DUE
- Mon-Friday, March 2-6 No Class – Spring Break
- Tuesday, April 7 Author Contracts and Rejection/Acceptance Letters DUE
- Tuesday, April 14 Book Review DUE
- Tuesday, April 21 Budget DUE
- Tue-Tue, April 28-May 5 Presentation of Literary Magazines
- Tuesday, May 5 Galleys of Final Project DUE

### Week 1 THE PAST AND FUTURE OF LITERARY MAGAZINES

Read Diane Greco's essay "Sticky Fingers" online at <http://www.eastgate.com/HypertextNow/archives/Gass.html> and William Gass' "In Defense of the Book" (handout) and respond.

Tuesday, January 20

**Assignment:** Read essays "What Is a Book?," "Out on a Raft, Reading a Book," and "From Mimeograph to HTML: Literary Magazines Online" in *Without Covers* and respond on Blackboard by Thursday.

Thursday, January 22

#### **Blackboard Response #1 DUE**

**Assignment:** Read "The Editor in an Internet Age," "The Left Hand of Capitalism," "When Horses Fly: Parables, Palimpsests and PBQ," "The Same Thing a Little Better," "The Naked Litmag of the Future," "Organizing a Literary Journal as the World Changed: The Formation of Achipelago," "To Have and to Hold." Respond on Blackboard by Tuesday.

### Week 2 LITERARY MAGAZINES ONLINE: EZINES & HYPERTEXT POETRY

Tuesday, January 27

#### **Blackboard Response #2 DUE**

**Assignment:** Begin the eZine Analysis Assignment (located on Blackboard under Assignments) by locating six literary magazines online (these eZines must be different than the ones we've discussed and explored in class). Sign up for a presentation time under the eZine Analysis Presentation thread on the Blackboard Discussion Group – the first presentation will take place on Jan. 29 – there may be no repeats in the eZines presented. eZine Analysis Assignment will be due February 3.

Thursday, January 29

**Assignment:** Continue working on your eZine assignment. Read pp. 5-175 in *Prairie Schooner*. Make a note of poems, stories and essays that you like. Begin to ask yourself the question: why does this appeal to me? Respond to this issue on Blackboard by Tuesday at 2 p.m. Bring both *Prairie Schooner* and *Ploughshares* to class on Tuesday.

Week 3 LITERARY MAGAZINES: THE TRADITIONAL MODEL

Tuesday, February 3 **eZine Analysis Due – Blackboard #3 DUE**

**Assignment:** Begin the Print Journal Analysis assignment by beginning your analysis of *Prairie Schooner*. Read the *Ploughshares* magazine pp. 8-74. Make note of poems, stories and essays that you like. Begin to ask yourself the question: why does this appeal to me?

Thursday, February 5

**Assignment:** Finish reading *Ploughshares* (pp 75-186). Continue to make note of short stories and essays that appeal to you. Continue to consider what elements of these pieces attract you. Respond to this issue on Blackboard by Tuesday at 2 p.m.. Bring both *Ploughshares* and *The Georgia Review* to our next class.

Week 4

Tuesday, February 10 **Blackboard #4 DUE**

**Assignment:** Read *The Georgia Review* pp. 460-524. Continue to note work that appeals to you. By now you should be developing a strong sense of the criteria required for “you,” as editor, to select work.

Thursday, February 12

**Assignment:** Finish reading *The Georgia Review* (pp 533-602). Continue to note work that appeals to you. Respond to this issue on Blackboard by Tuesday at 2 p.m. Bring both *The Georgia Review* and *Mid-American Review* to our next class.

Week 5

Tuesday, February 17 **Blackboard #5 DUE**

**Assignment:** Read the *Mid-American Review* pp. 1-64. Note what work appeals to you.

Thursday, February 19

**Assignment:** Finish reading *MAR* (pp 65-163). Respond to this issue on Blackboard by Tuesday at 2 p.m. Bring *MAR* to our next class.

Week 6

Tuesday, February 24 **Blackboard #6 DUE**

**Assignment:** Read pp. 23-81 in *The Kenyon Review*. Bring *The Kenyon Review* and *The Gettysburg Review* to our next class.

Thursday, February 26

**Assignment:** Finish reading *The Kenyon Review* (pp 83-187) and read *The Gettysburg Review* (pp 341-494). Complete the Print Journal Analysis Assignment – due Tuesday March 10. No Blackboard responses for these last two literary journals. Bring *The Kenyon Review*, *The Gettysburg Review* and the CLMP Directory to class on March 10. Have a great break!

Week 7                    SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Week 8                    THE ART OF THE LITERARY REVIEW

Tuesday, March 10                    **Print Journal Analysis Assignment DUE**

**Assignment:** Spend some time online with *The Atlantic's* Index of Literary Interviews (<http://www.theatlantic.com/a/literary-interviews.mhtml>). Select a favorite poet or fiction writer from one of the six print journals we've reviewed. After doing some preliminary research on this writer's life and work, write several interview questions. Contact your writer and request an email interview (in which you email the questions and the writer responds via email) or a telephone interview. Interviews will be due with your final project – start now.

Thursday, March 12

**Assignment:** Read the reviews published in the six print journals for our course. Respond on Blackboard by Tuesday at 2 p.m. Begin reading your review copy. Final written reviews will be due April 14. All reviews are to be submitted for publication.

Week 9                    LEGAL ISSUES IN PUBLISHING

Tuesday, March 17                    **Blackboard Response #7 DUE**

**Assignment:** Begin drafting your author contract – due Tuesday, April 7.

Thursday, March 19

**Assignment:** Begin drafting your acceptance, rejection and submit again letters – due Tuesday, April 7.

Week 10                    BUDGETING AND FUNDING: HOW DO WE PAY FOR THIS?

Tuesday, March 24

**Assignment:** Begin creating your budget – you will need quotes from printers and distributors and any other expenses you anticipate. Start working on this now – due April 21.

Thursday, March 26

**Assignment:** Bring all six literary journals to class on Tuesday.

Week 11                    ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

Tuesday, March 31

**Assignment:** Begin to conceptualize your design for your own magazine – begin thinking of titles, fonts, page design, etc.

Thursday, April 2

**Assignment:** Continue to think about your magazine's design – see you Saturday!

Saturday, April 4                    **NYC Bus Trip**

Week 12 INDESIGN: LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Tuesday, April 7 **Author Contracts & Rejection/Acceptance Letters DUE**

*Assignment:* Continue working on projects due.

Thursday, April 9

*Assignment:* Continue working on projects due.

Week 13 MAGAZINE LAYOUT

Tuesday, April 14 **Book Review DUE**

*Assignment:* Continue working on layout.

Thursday, April 16

*Assignment:* Continue working on layout – printed galleys due Tuesday, May 5.

Week 14 INTRODUCTIONS & PREFACES: EXPLAINING YOUR CHOICES

Tuesday, April 21 **Budget DUE**

*Assignment:* Review the introductions in the literary magazines assigned for our class. Begin writing the preface to your collection – due with the final project. Respond on Blackboard by Thursday.

Thursday, April 23 **Blackboard #10 DUE**

*Assignment:* Prepare for your presentation – final galleys due May 5.

Week 15 PRESENTATION OF LITERARY MAGAZINES

Tuesday, April 28

*In Class Activities:* Presentations

Thursday, April 30

*In Class Activities:* Presentations

Week 16

Tuesday, May 5 **FINAL GALLEYS DUE**

*In Class Activities:* Presentations