ADEN 109601 Craft of Writing 4 credits FALL 2015

Instructor: Ted Murphy, A.B. Boston College, Author of nine books (under the name T.M. Murphy) and co-founder of Cape Cod Pulse online magazine.

Email: Ted@CapeCodPulse.com
Office: None – Will meet at McElroy for coffee meetings.
Officer Hours: Will meet with students before or after the Saturday class.
Email or call to make an appointment. I will always make time for my students.
Telephone: (508) 527-3160
Additional Contact: CAPECODWRITER.COM & THERUNNINGWAVES.COM & THESTORYSTARTERS.COM
Schedule: Saturdays 9:00-12:00
Room: STOKES 111S

Boston College Mission Statement

Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.
CRAFT OF WRITING Course Description

Craft of Writing is an introductory course addressing frequent problems in writing. Students write short weekly papers that encourage the development of individual strategy and style. Class essays, as well as creative prose works, provide models. Course is an elective or alternative for Introductory College Writing.

Course Objectives

• For the student to learn to use the right side of his/her brain, and to be able to express themselves on paper in a creative manner.

• For the student to find his/her unique writing voice and to use it during this class and going forward in life.

• For the student to gain the confidence and skill to communicate his/her ideas, points, and feelings with the written word.

• For the student to know his/her audience and to learn to communicate to that audience through writing stories and/or essays.

• For the student to gain the ability to write a finished story and have confidence to submit it for publication if they choose.

*All of these skills will help the student succeed in their chosen career path and will be used long after this class had ended.

OUTSIDE CLASS TIME
1-4 hours of writing a week depending on the assignment.

GRADING

Attendance, in class writing, and participation 30%

Journal (1 creative writing exercise a week and/or writing research assignment) 30%
(This will be due on Weds. to Mr. Murphy’s email address Ted@CapeCodPulse.com
Mr. Murphy will then begin a back and forth dialogue on the assignment via email to the student. This provides the student one on one time with Mr. Murphy for his feedback. It also fulfills the extra 50 minutes a week that has been added to all 4 credits classes).

Mid Term Paper (3-6 page writing assignment) 20%

Final paper (4-7 page writing assignment) 20%

WCAS Grading System
The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (.00), failure; I (.00), incomplete; F (.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (.00), official withdrawal from course. The graduate grading system is A (4.00), A- (3.67), Excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), good; B- (2.67) and C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit; F (.00), failure.

Grade Reports. All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known, the Student Learning and Support Center in the O’Neill Library Computer Center will issue a new one. The SLSC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.

TEXT – There will be handouts, articles, etc. on writing, but since this is a writing class the focus be about what you write not what you read.

“Writers write!” Professor James F, Murphy, Jr. of Craft of Writing for 28 years.

Important Policies
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html

Written Work
Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructors decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html].

Scholarship and Academic Integrity
It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.

Disability Statement
Classroom accommodations will be provided for qualified students with documented disabilities. Students are invited to contact the Connors Family Learning Center office about accommodations for this course. Telephone appointments are available to students as needed. Appointments can be made by calling, 617-552-8903. You may also make an appointment in person. For further information, you can locate the disability resources on the web at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html.

Attendance
Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate's notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. Furthermore, many instructors give points for participation in class. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Additional assignments, penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

CRAFT OF WRITING SCHEDULE – SATURDAYS 9:00-12:00
*This is subject to change of when we do assignments but not what we do.

Sept. 5th THE POWER OF WORDS
Introduction.
1. Write a brief biography but include two lies.
Yes, two lies. The class will try to figure out what you’re lying about.
2. Hemingway was challenged to write a short story in 6 words or less. He succeeded.
I will provide several topics and present the challenge to you. You will learn that every word is important!

Journal assignment – Every week I will give you a 20-40 minute journal assignment. I will tell you the assignment at the end of class. The goal of these assignments is to have you use the right side of your brain – observe life.
Sept. 12  THE POWER OF CHARACTERS IN A STORY
I will talk about creating memorable characters in a story using
characters from some of my books as an example. Each student will
then pick a unique name from a hat and then create a character based
on that name.

Sept. 19  THE POWER OF MUSIC IN A STORY
Hearing a certain song can have the power of a time machine
transporting a person directly back to a moment in his/her life. We all
have meaningful songs that remind us of an event or our past. I will
talk about a few of those kinds of songs from my life. I will then discuss
and play a song that inspired me to write a scene in my book The
Secrets Of Cain’s Castle. I will then play several different songs for you
to write about.

Sept. 26  THE POWER OF SUSPENSE IN A STORY
I will talk about what I have learned that has helped me write great
suspense (wow, that sounds cocky! Haha). I will read an example from
my book The Secrets of Code Z. Each student will then receive
the beginning of a suspenseful scene, and it will be their mission to
finish it.

Oct. 3   THE POWER OF ANIMAL STORIES
When I was asked by my seven-year-old nephew, “You write for big
kids. Why don’t you write a book for little kids like me?”
I took up the challenge and wrote Saving Santa’s Seals. I will be using
that book as example as I discuss that behind every great animal story
a greater lesson or symbolic story is being told.

You will then pick from a hat two, random animals and then create a
story using them.
For example – What would you write if you picked a firefly and a
shark?
This will also teach you to always write for your audience. In this
case, the audience you’re writing for is children.

Oct. 10   THE POWER OF DIALOGUE
Nothing moves a story better than great dialogue. We will talk
about the importance of creating dialogue that is authentic.

Oct. 17   THE POWER OF TURNING TRUTH INTO FICTION
The greatest gift a creative writer can receive is a true story. I will give
you several true stories I have found over the years. You will pick one and turn it into a fictional story.

Oct. 24  THE POWER OF GHOST STORIES
We will talk about those stories that made us shiver by the crackling campfire. What makes those stories work? You will then write one of your own.

Oct. 31  THE POWER OF HUMOR
Having a good sense of humor and knowing your audience are two important qualities that will serve a person well in life. This is also true when it comes to writing. We’ll go over what works and what doesn’t and get the humor out of you and onto the paper.

Nov. 7  THE POWER OF OBJECTS IN A STORY
I will talk about how a simple object can inspire great stories. I will put out random objects and you will pick one and write a short story about it.

Nov. 14  THE POWER OF USING WRITING AS THERAPY
Guest speaker - Former Craft of Writing student and Co-Author of The Running Waves Seton Murphy will talk about the importance of writing when losing a loved one or friend.

Nov. 21  THE POWER OF THE OPINION PIECE
Since co-creating and running Cape Cod Pulse online magazine I’ve learned the power of putting my words online – good and bad. Do you have an opinion and want to share it in an online publication? Let’s make that happen.

Nov. 28  THANKSGIVING BREAK

Dec.  5  THE POWER OF FAMILY STORIES
We don’t have to always have to write about Mars or faraway lands where unicorns roam. Some of the best stories are told around the kitchen table or on that long ride to that annoying cousins’ house. I will share a mixture of poignant and funny family stories that I am outlining for a book about growing up. You will then write one of your favorite family or friend stories.
THE POWER OF TRIBUTE
Who has been there in your life? Have you ever really thanked them? In this class, you will have your chance to thank someone by writing a tribute essay. Not required but suggested is to get a picture of the person and frame it with your essay and give it to that person. When you see their reaction you will have truly learned the power of writing!

TAKE HOME FINAL WILL BE HANDED OUT. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT IT DURING FINAL CLASS ON DECEMBER 19th

**If you are a student with a documented learning disability seeking reasonable accommodations in this course, please contact the Connors Family Learning Center (617-552-8093); regarding all other types of disabilities, please contact the Disability Services Office (617-552-3470).