ADEN 109601 CRAFT OF WRITING 4 CREDITS
Woods College of Advancing Studies
Fall 2017 Semester, August 28 - Dec 16, 2017
SATURDAYS 9a.m.-12p.m.

Instructor Name: Ted (T.M.) Murphy
BC E-mail: Murphytf@bc.edu
Phone Number: (508)527-3160
Office: None - Will meet student(s) at McElroy for coffee meetings
Office Hours: Email me or call to make a meeting before or after Saturday class.

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.

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.

Textbooks & Readings (Required)
Each student will receive a copy of *The Red Bandanna* - A life. A choice. A legacy. by Tom Rinaldi. This true story is about Boston College graduate Welles Crowther and will play a major role in some of our writing assignments this semester. I will be referring to it often and how by reading it can play a major role in the most important story you’ll ever write - living life and creating your legacy. There will also be several hand outs and stories and movies I will reference for you to read or view.
Textbooks & Readings (Recommended)
The Running Waves by T.M. Murphy & Seton Murphy. This is recommended but not required to be read before Seton Murphy’s guest lecture.

Canvas
Canvas is the Learning Management System (LMS) at Boston College, designed to help faculty and students share ideas, collaborate on assignments, discuss course readings and materials, submit assignments, and much more - all online. As a Boston College student, you should familiarize yourself with this important tool. For more information and training resources for using Canvas, click here.

In the case of any technical difficulties or concerns, please contact canvas@bc.edu or 617-552-HELP (4357) for immediate assistance.

NOTE: Canvas requires particular computer specifications and wifi access. It is important that you plan accordingly, particularly for courses that have online components.

Course Objectives

1. Students will demonstrate their knowledge and growing awareness across cultural settings and will learn the impact of culture, gender, and age in Craft of writing as demonstrated by weekly writing assignments.

2. Students will learn greater skills and competency as they pursue their weekly writing assignments which are chosen to challenge but also contribute to their evolving consciousness not only of themselves but of their world pertaining to the Craft of writing as demonstrated in their writing.

3. Students will be able to imaginatively inhabit the perspective of others

4. Students will be able to write at an advanced level.

Grading

Attendance, in class writing, and participation 30%
The class meets once a week so every class is vital to a student’s grade. Mr. Murphy keeps track of absences and tardiness. Please communicate to him if something beyond your control has come up.

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 TMMurphywriter@gmail.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 (4-6 page writing assignment) 20%

Final paper (7-10 page writing assignment) 20%
Deadlines and late work - A letter grade is deducted for everyday an assignment is late unless there is a doctor’s note or there has been communication with Mr. Murphy. Communication is key to success in life. Always communicate with Mr. Murphy.

The undergraduate grading system for Woods College is as follows:

A (4.00), A- (3.67)
B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67)
C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (.67)
D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67)
F (.00)

The graduate grading system for Woods College is as follows:

A (4.00), A- (3.67)
B+ (3.33), B (3.00)
B- (2.67), passing but does not count toward degree
C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit
F (.00)

All students can access final grades through Agora after the grading deadline each semester. Students who complete course evaluations can access grades earlier, as they are posted.

Deadlines and Late Work

A letter grade is deducted for every day an assignment is late unless there is a doctor’s note or there has been communication with Mr. Murphy. Communication is key to success in life. Always communicate with Mr. Murphy.

Course Assignments

Many times our in class writing will carry over to out of classroom writing. There will also be journal assignments. The combined writing is approximately 8 hours a week of out-of-classroom work. The schedule is subject to change order wise but not what we do.

Course Schedule

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<th>Date/Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Assignment Details</th>
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| Sept. 2  | Week 1 | The Power of Words                    | 1. Write a brief biography and include two lies. Yes, two lies. The class will figure out what you’re lying about.  
2. There is a myth that Hemingway was challenged to write a story in 6 words or less. I will provide several topics and present the challenge to you. During my introduction I will talk about *The Red Bandanna* and tell you a powerful story about September 11, 2001 in 6 words. |
| Sept. 9  | Week 2 | The Power of Characters In Writing    | I will talk about creating memorable characters in a story using examples of characters from some of my books. We will also talk about some of the real life characters in *The Red Bandanna*.  
1. Write about a character in your life.  
2. Each student will then pick a unique name from a hat and then create a character based on that name. |
| Sept. 16 | Week 3 | The Power of Music                    | 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 Castle*. I will then play several different songs for you to write about.  
We will end the class by playing “For Boston” as good luck to our Eagles as they take on Notre Dame. Lol |
| Sept. 23 | Week 4 | The Power of Suspense Writing         | 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. |

Journal assignment #1 will be due via email on Thursday(s) **DUE ALWAYS ON THURSDAYS BY 5PM UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED.**

Journal #2 will be due via email.

Journal #3 will be due via email.

Journal #4
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 30</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>The Power of Animals in Writing</td>
<td>1. I will share stories about the pets in my life and what they meant to me. You will then write about the pet(s) in your life. If a student has never had a pet there is an assignment for that as well. 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 <em>Saving Santa’s Seals</em>. 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. 2. You will then pick from a hat two, random animals and then create a story using them.</td>
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<td>Journal #5</td>
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<td>October 7</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>The Power of Dialogue</td>
<td>Nothing moves a story better than good dialogue. We will talk about the importance of creating authentic dialogue. I will then pass out a writing prompt where you will write a story centered on dialogue.</td>
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<td>TAKE HOME MID-TERM</td>
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<td>October 14</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>The Power of Turning Truth into Fiction</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>Journal #6</td>
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<td>October 21</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>The Power of Objects in Writing</td>
<td>I will talk about how a simple object can inspire great stories. I will talk about objects in my own life and the stories they tell. We will also talk about Welles Crowther and all of the stories that have resulted from the one object he carried with him during his life. 1. You will write about an object in your life and tell us its story. 2. I will then put out random objects and you will pick one and write a story about it.</td>
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<td>October 28</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>The Power of Ghost Stories</td>
<td>We will talk about those stories that made us shiver by a crackling campfire. What makes those stories work? I will pass out a few of my story starters and you will write one of your own.</td>
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<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>The Power of Humor in Writing</td>
<td>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 paper.</td>
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<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>The Power of Using Writing As Therapy</td>
<td>Guest Speaker - Former Craft of Writing student &amp; Co-Author of The Running Waves will talk about how writing saved him from a dark place, and how important it is to write when you have lost a loved one.</td>
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<td>Nov. 18</td>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>The Power of Family &amp; Friends Stories</td>
<td>We don’t have to write about Mars or faraway lands where unicorns roam. Some of the best stories are told around the kitchen table or on the long ride to that annoying cousin’s house. I will share a mixture of poignant and funny family and friend stories that I’m outlining for an upcoming book. You will then write one of your favorite family or friend stories.</td>
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<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>The Power of a Writing Team</td>
<td>You guys now know your strengths as writers. I will put you in teams and give you writing prompts to see how well you can work together creating a co-authored story/situation. It is not as easy as you think!</td>
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<td>Dec. 9</td>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>The Power of Tribute Writing</td>
<td><em>The Red Bandanna</em> is the ultimate tribute piece. Now it’s your turn. Who has been there in your life? Have you really ever thanked them? I will share the story of the man who taught this class for 28 years and his legacy - something the grows each semester. You will then have your chance to thank someone by writing a tribute essay. Not required but suggested - get a picture of that person and frame it with your essay. Present it to that person or if they have passed to their loved one. When you see their reaction you will have truly learned the power of writing.</td>
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<td>Dec. 16</td>
<td>Week 15</td>
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<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
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<td>Don’t ever stop writing!</td>
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Written Work
Woods College students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed and submitted in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA or CLA style per your instructor’s requirements. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. For writing support, please contact the Connors Family Learning Center.

Attendance
Attending class is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. When circumstances prevent a student from attending class, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor before the class meets. Students who miss class are still expected to complete all assignments and meet all deadlines. Many instructors grade for participation; if you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Makeup work may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. Attendance is a major key to succeeding in the Craft of Writing. Life does happen though. Please communicate with Mr. Murphy if something serious has come up.

Consistent with BC’s commitment to creating a learning environment that is respectful of persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing their academic status. Students are responsible for reviewing course syllabi as soon as possible, and for communicating with the instructor promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. Students are responsible for completing all class requirements for days missed due to conflicts with religious holidays.

Accommodation and Accessibility
Boston College is committed to providing accommodations to students, faculty, staff and visitors with disabilities. Specific documentation from the appropriate office is required for students seeking accommodation in Woods College courses. Advanced notice and formal registration with the appropriate office is required to facilitate this process. There are two separate offices at BC that coordinate services for students with disabilities:

- The Connors Family Learning Center (CFLC) coordinates services for students with LD and ADHD.
- The Disabilities Services Office (DSO) coordinates services for all other disabilities.

Find out more about BC’s commitment to accessibility at www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility.
Scholarship and Academic Integrity
Students in Woods College courses must produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to cite references is plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on exams or assignments, or submitting the same material or substantially similar material 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. Please see the Boston College policy on academic integrity for more information.