



ART 221 – 3 credits
Creative Writing II

Description

This course is designed with a twofold purpose: First, it will encourage, instruct, and liberate those whom the Lord has called to minister to His Body and His world through the written word. Whether you are impelled to write fiction or nonfiction, poems or college textbooks, the Holy Spirit wants to be your Source and your inspiration. In addition, you will explore the relationship between your Christian faith and the arts in general. You will meditate on what the Scriptures say about the arts, and the place of beauty and pleasure in the life of the believer.

Texts

Write from the Heart by Hal Zina Bennett

The Liberated Imagination by Leland Ryken

Objectives:

- You will establish the discipline of writing for at least ten minutes each day, five days each week.
- You will overcome any self-doubt that prevents you from expressing yourself through writing.
- You will develop more effective ways of releasing your own voice through your writing.
- You will be familiar with the various new publishing opportunities that are available to today's writer.
- You will write something new.
- You will discuss the biblical doctrines and principles that relate to the arts and the attitude of the believer toward the arts.
- You will have an increased ability to integrate human culture with your Christian faith.
- You will more fully value the arts as conveyors of truth and examples of beauty.
- You will look at the doctrine of human creativity and its place as an expression of being created in the image of God.

- You will explore the place of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the work of the artist, both Christian and non-Christian.
- You will investigate the place of beauty and pleasure and the arts in the life of the believer.
- You will examine the relationship between the sacraments and the arts.
- You will explore ways in which artistic integrity can be preserved when art is used for worship and witnessing.
- You will develop standards by which you will recognize whether the production and enjoyment of art are glorifying to God, and by God's grace, everything you do will bring glory to your Lord.

Course Requirements:

1. Carefully read the entire text *Write from the Heart* as assigned. At the end of chapters one through eleven are experiential exercises called "Writing Explorations," which you are to complete. These "are designed to help you find your own creative resources and unique writing voice. In many cases these exercises demand a lot— but they also produce a lot... You'll find that the exercises work cumulatively— that is, each successive exercise builds on the others. In that respect, they are much more than warm-ups or suggested writing themes. They will put you right into the heart of the creative process, demanding that you draw from your deepest resources and calling you to raise your own unique voice." (pp. xxvi, xxvii) These exercises will be submitted to your instructor at the end of the course, either by e-mail or in hard copy.
2. Do the "Daily Meditation Exercise" described on pages xxviii and xxix of *Write from the Heart* at least five days each week throughout the time you are completing this course. This exercise may involve journaling, so you will not be required to submit it to your instructor. You will be asked, however, to affirm that you have been doing it regularly, and submit a

summary of your response to this exercise. In what ways was it helpful to you? In what ways was it a distraction or frustration? Is there anything specific you will take with you as a result of this discipline? This summary should be one or two typewritten pages, and will be due in Lesson Eleven.

- Carefully read the entire text *The Liberated Imagination* as assigned. There are no specific questions or exercises related to this text. Instead, you are to capture the essence of the content of each chapter in whatever format is easiest and most useful to you. You may outline the chapter, or write a summary of it, or simply list the development of thought. Include any specific definitions the author gives. As well as highlighting them in your text, write out in this summary any statements or quotations that particularly strike you.

After you have finished your academic summary of each chapter, quiet yourself before the Lord and ask Him what He wants to say to you from that chapter. In what way does He want you to apply what has been said to your life and your writing? What changes does He want to make in your attitudes and actions? What truth does He want you to take with you? Record what He says to you. (If you are not familiar with this type of journaling, you should take the course REN 103 Communion with God before continuing with any other classes.)

- Write something. You may choose any type of writing that interests you most—essay, short story, poem, drama, fiction, nonfiction—whatever medium you want to use to express yourself. This is a course-long project, not something to toss off during the last week of the class. Begin immediately thinking and praying about what you want to write. Let the content determine the form. Allow your mind and heart to meditate upon the subject, incubating it, nurturing it, until it is ready to be “birthed.” Then reread it, proof it, edit it, and polish it until it is the best expression of your idea that you are able to present.

This will be submitted to your instructor in the final lesson, and will count for one-third of your course grade. If you want or need your instructor’s input on this project at any time during the course, feel free to contact him.

Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, “C” or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least “B” (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a “B”.

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, CLU is training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- “D”
 - Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
 - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- “C”
 - Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
 - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- “B”
 - Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
 - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- “A”
 - Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
 - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.



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Assignment Schedule

Lesson One

Write from the Heart – Preface, Introduction and Chapter One (See Course Requirement #1.)

The Liberated Imagination – Preface and Introduction (See Course Requirement #3.)

Begin praying and thinking about your writing project. (See Course Requirement #4.)

Begin doing your “Daily Meditation Exercise” at least five days a week. (See Course Requirement #2.)

Lesson Two

Write from the Heart – Chapter Two

The Liberated Imagination – Chapter One

Continue praying and thinking about your writing project.

Do your “Daily Meditation Exercise” at least five days this week.

Lesson Three

Write from the Heart – Chapter Three

The Liberated Imagination – Chapter Two

Continue incubating your writing project.

Do your “Daily Meditation Exercise” at least five days this week.

Lesson Four

Write from the Heart – Chapter Four

The Liberated Imagination – Chapter Three

Continue incubating your writing project. You are probably nearly ready to begin writing.

Do your “Daily Meditation Exercise” at least five days this week.

Lesson Five

Write from the Heart – Chapter Five

The Liberated Imagination – Chapter Four

Continue work on your writing project.

Do your “Daily Meditation Exercise” at least five days this week.

Lesson Six

Write from the Heart – Chapter Six

The Liberated Imagination – Chapter Five

Continue to work on your writing project.

Do your “Daily Meditation Exercise” at least five days this week.

Lesson Seven

Write from the Heart – Chapter Seven

The Liberated Imagination – Chapter Six

Continue to work on your writing project.

Do your “Daily Meditation Exercise” at least five days this week.

Lesson Eight

Write from the Heart – Chapter Eight

The Liberated Imagination – Chapter Seven

Continue working on your writing project. You should have a rough draft completed soon.

Do your “Daily Meditation Exercise” at least five days this week.