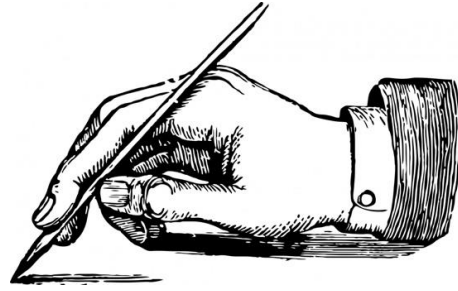# Love Letters

IDH3931: (Un)Common Writes

Instructor: Dr. Jessica-Jean Stonecipher
Email: stonecipher@ufl.edu, Canvas Inbox (preferred)
Office Hours: Thursdays (2:30-4:30) or by appointment.
Class Meeting Time: W 8 (3-3:50)
Location: Little Hall 117

Course Overview

Welcome to (Un)common Writes for Honors, a writing workshop designed to ignite your imagination, hone your writing skills, and foster a community of wordsmiths. Whether you're an aspiring novelist, a poet, or simply someone who loves to play with language, music, or digital endeavors, this course invites you to explore the art of storytelling, experiment with different genres, and find your unique voice.

Students will spend the semester writing about all types of love from platonic to romantic to unrequited. Students will write love letters in various formats and modalities. Including postcards, texts, audio recordings, autoethnographic reflections, and even fiction related to love.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Create original letters, essays, and multimedia.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the vocabulary and techniques to express love in letters.
- Students will identify and develop their individual authorial voice.
- Understand how to provide and receive constructive feedback.

- Participate in a supportive writing community.

Required Materials

- Writing Journal—an easy-to-access area for jotting down ideas, drafts, and reflections (physical or digital).
- Selected readings provided by the instructor (available through Canvas)
- An open mind and curiosity--bring your passion for writing and a willingness to explore!
- Textbook: *The Art of the Personal Letter: A Guide to Connecting through the Written Word* by Margaret Shepherd.

Assessment

Participation	Active engagement in discussions and workshops.	140
Class Presentation	Create a 5–8-minute presentation to share with the class related to one week's theme.	80
Weekly Writing Assignments	Respond to prompts and share work.	120
Peer Critiques	Provide constructive feedback to classmates.	60
Thematic Portfolio & Presentation	Complete 3 final pieces all related to one subject and find a way to share (publicly or anonymously) your love letters.	100
Total		500

Course Schedule

8/28 Course Intro	*Drop/add* *What is Love? Writing exercise in class.*
9/4 Past	Theme: Our Pasts Read for today: Intro & Chapter 1-2. Write for today: Letter to what you have spent time loving so far in your life.
9/11 Future	Theme: The Future Read for today: Ch. 4-5, Ch. 23 Write for today: Love letter to your future self (at the end of the semester/college/this era of your life as you see it).
9/18 Lost Love	Theme: Lost Love Read for today: Ch. 7, Ch. 11-12 Write for today: A letter to a love you have lost.
9/25 Workshop	Read for today: TBD Bring one piece from the last few weeks to workshop today. In class: Sharing, critiquing, and planning for reworking
10/2 Unrequited Love	Theme: Unrequited Love Read for today: Ch. 3-4, Ch. 8

	Write for today: A letter to something/someone who has never returned your love.
10/9 Self-Love	Theme: Self Love Read for today: TBD Write for today: A love letter to yourself.
10/16 Romantic Love	Theme: Romantic Love Read for today: Ch. 10 & Excerpt from Lindy West, The Witches Are Coming (on Canvas) Write for today: A romantic love letter.
10/23 Workshop	Read for today: TBD Bring one piece from the last few weeks to workshop today. In class: Sharing, critiquing, and planning for reworking
10/30 Love & Fear	Theme: Love & Fear Read for today: Write for today: A love letter related to fear(s) or something you fear.
11/6 Fiction	Theme: Fiction Read for today: TBD Write for today: A love letter inspired by fiction.
11/13	Theme: Loving your Family/Community

Family & Community	Read for Today: Ch. 6 & Ch. Write for today: A letter to a family or community member.
11/20 Workshop	Discuss Final Portfolios & Presentations Bring one piece from the last few weeks to workshop today. In class: Sharing, critiquing, and planning for reworking In class: Turning long letters into short letters – the art of the postcard!
11/27	No classes – university holiday – Thanksgiving Break
12/4	Final Presentations

Policies

Attendance Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Since this class only meets once a week, you are expected to attend every class.

The official UF attendance policy outlines reasons for absences that allow students to make up what they missed: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/. Absences listed in the official UF attendance policy can be made up for Participation and Peer Critique points. To do so, students must submit responses to a set of questions representative of the missed day's discussion and complete a peer critique activity.

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting

https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

Artifical Intelligence

The use of artificial intelligence software, like ChatGPT, for class work can be considered academic dishonesty.

You may not use ChatGPT or other AI programs to write for you or to develop images used for coursework.

If you would like to use ChatGPT or other AI programs to help you develop any part of your work, I require you to be **transparent** and **proactive**. That means meeting with me beforehand to discuss what you would like to do, how you will use the technology, and what

the implications of doing so are. Transparency may involve sharing your chatbot discussions with me or conducting the work under my observation.

If you use AI programs to complete any work without being transparent or without discussing it ahead of time, your work may violate the UF Honor Code and be subject to the sanctions and procedures thereof.

If you are unsure whether you are committing academic dishonesty or not, talk to me <u>before</u> submitting work.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/ , 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

The Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/ or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.