ENGLISH 229

Chapbook
"A tree crying out to be covered with leaves."

60 pts.

DUE by 11:59 pm, Mon. May 11th. No exceptions withoout evidence of serious hardship.

About

Throughout this semester, I've encouraged you to see your work as changeable, in-progress, and alive. This is the messy creative phase of generating stories and poems with all of their native energy and struggle. By the end of the term, however, I'd like you to compile this work into a chapbook which is as well-edited, polished, unified, and "finished" as possible. A chapbook is like a regular book, but shorter in length, less expensively produced, and self-published. It has all of the typical features of any book: a cover with title and art; a title page; anacknowledgments page; a table of contents; a body of content; back cover with bio and possible art. Your own collection will be such a book, and a tool for seeing your work in a fresh light.

For the purposes of our class, your book will be electronic, not hardcopy. (Please note, however: you can always take it later to a print-shop on campus or in town and have it printed as a physical book, often very inexpensively.) **.**

Instructions

To make your book, create a Word file, and order the contents like so:

1. Front cover of book (first page of the document):

   a. Make your cover visually appealing. You may optionally provide graphics and visual art, but do not use cheesy, sentimental, or stock images. Any front art should be fresh and interesting and add something unique to your collection. Credit any art you are borrowing in an Acknowledgments page (see below).
   b. Be sure to include a title which is intriguing and informative--no generic, overgeneralized, and unhelpful ones such as "My Journey in Life," "My Creative

Writing," "Stories and Poems," etc. The title of the collection should be as inventive and engaging as anything else in the book.

2. Title page (second page of the document). Include the book's title, your name, the month and year. You can play with this a bit, but you must have, at minimum, the title and your name.
3. Dedication page (optional).
4. Acknowledgments page (if needed or preferred to credit sources or express thanks).
5. Table of contents.
6. Contents: your semester projects and independent work, paginated, and arranged as meaningfully as possible. Do not label the projects. You don't want this to look like an English assignment, but a real book!
7. Back cover (last page of document). Include a brief bio, as well as optional art and other shenanigans.
8. **DO NOT MARK YOUR BOOK WITH REFERENCES TO OUR CLASS. YOU DON'T WANT IT TO LOOK LIKE AN ENGLISH ASSIGNMENT**. Do not put "Project 1" or "Assignment 3" or anything similar in your titles or table of contents. Do not use the word "chapbook" in your book's title. Use a real book title, similar to the ones discussed in class. If you don't know what a collection of poems looks like, if you weren't in class the day I brought in samples, you should go to Amazon and explore around, or come by my office to look at some items.

You will post your finished chapbook in our Pub/Completed Chapbook and Reflective Letter forum.

Audience and Purpose

We're aiming in this class to produce interesting work for any avid reader of quality fiction and poetry. Assume your audience is well-read in both literature and the arts, likes to be surprised by new perspectives and fresh language, and also wants to be moved. (I.e., blow their hair back!) Your audience for these project is not especially interested in formulaic writing of any kind, nor anything intended *primarily* for the commercial mass market. Your purpose is to move and provoke your reader, and to demonstrate what you've learned about writing poetry and fiction.

Chapbook Checklist

Your chapbook <u>contents</u> include:

_____ Fiction Project (20%) (Don't label the story as a project; just give it a real title.)

_____ Poetry Projects (15%) (Again, don't label them as projects.)

_____ Independent Work (20%)

_____ Design, Attractiveness, Appropriate Conventions (5%)

_____ Your chapbook contents have undergone thoughtful and active revision, taking into consideration, as much as possible, feedback from your teacher and classmates, our texts, our various course materials, and information gleaned from your classmates' workshop sessions. Everyone should have had at least one piece workshopped.

_____Your projects and independent material meet the criteria layed out in the assignments for each.

> Note: the final versions of these projects in your book can take liberties with the assignment technicalities. However, you should explain any changes in your Reflective Letter.

_____Your book steers clear of sentimentality, triteness, and commercial formulas (unless you are innovating on a formula).

_____Your book has a great, engaging, original, and non-generic title!

_____Your book's design and formatting are effective, appropriate, and accurate according to the chapbook instructions. Your book avoids cartoonish or floral fonts (unless for ironic effect); they distract from the content of your work and serious publishers hate them.

_____Your writing is carefully edited and proofread for surface errors (mechanical and grammatical, unless motivated).

_____ Your book is posted in the Bb Pub/COMPLETED CHAPBOOKS AND REFLECTIVE LETTERS forum no later than 11:59 pm, Thurs. Dec. 12th.

Grading

I first take your scores for the projects you handed in earlier, and add them to a score for your independent work and your book's design and layout.

49-55 = A
42-48 = B
35-41 = C
28-34= D

A = outstanding. Meets all of the stated criteria and instructions exceptionally well. Excels in inventiveness, originality, and energy, relative to work produced generally in 229. Well-edited and proofed. Publishable with a bit more work.

B = very good. Meets all of the stated criteria and instructions, or meets several of them exceptionally

well, despite a weak performance with others.. May be especially striking in spots, despite noticeable flaws. Very competent, but may lack originality or inventiveness, relative to work produced generally in 229. Good attention to style and mechanics. Clear attention to assignment.

C = fair. Meets some of the stated criteria, or meets all of them only partially. Uninspired but minimally competent; or very inspired but lacking competence in key areas.. May show some inattention to, or misunderstanding of, instructions. Weak proofreading and editing.

D = poor. Meets few of the criteria. May not not heed or understand instructions. May be sloppy, unproofed, unedited, and/or very perfunctory and uninspired.. An ineffective collection, saved by at least minimal attention to at least one aspect of the assignment.

F = unacceptable. Either fails to meet any of the stated criteria, or demonstrates severe oversights or weaknesses in significant areas.

Hey! You're almost there!!