

Master Course Syllabus

Course Discipline and Number: ENGL 212

Year: 2023-2024

Course Title: Fiction Writing

Credit Hours: 3

Attendance Policy: *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

Services for Students with Disabilities: *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

Course Description:

Creative Writing Course: This is an introduction to fiction writing with a focus on short, literary fiction. You will read and analyze the work of master short story writers while working on your own stories. Topics of discussion include character, plot, theme, setting, style, tone, structure, conflict, point of view, simile, metaphor, symbol, dialog, beginnings, endings, and imagery. During the workshops, you will read and critique the work of your classmates. ENGL 200 fulfills the SUNY General Education requirement in the Arts. Prior completion or concurrent enrollment ENGL 100 if required by placement testing; RDNG 116 if required by placement testing. 3 Cr. (3 Lec.) Spring semester.

Course Context/Audience

Open to Creative Writing majors and any student interested in fiction writing.

Basic Skills/Entry Level Expectations

Writing	WC	College level writing skills are required. See course pre & co-requisites.
Math	M0	Course requires very little or no math.
Reading	R4	Before taking this course students must satisfactorily complete RDNG 116 or have assessment indicating no reading course was required.

Course Goals

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and discuss the elements of fiction in published short stories.
2. Write an original short story with introductory-level control of point of the elements of fiction, including characterization, point of view, and plot.
3. Apply the criticism of fellow writers and the instructor during revisions.

Course Objectives/Topics

Objective/Topic	% Course
Analyze and discuss the elements of fiction in professional work	10-20%
Analyze and provide feedback to fellow writers in workshops	20-30%
Accept feedback from fellow writers and incorporate into revisions	10-30%
In-class creative writing from prompts	10-30%

General Education Goals - Critical Thinking & Social/Global Awareness

CRITICAL THINKING OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<p>Students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ develop meaningful questions to address problems or issues.➤ gather, interpret, and evaluate relevant sources of information.➤ reach informed conclusions and solutions.➤ consider analytically the viewpoints of self and others.	<p>The craft of writing and reading requires practitioners to both develop and answer questions in order to address issues of plot, character, setting and tone.</p> <p>Stories must be grounded in concrete detail of the physical world, historical truths, accurate or believable characters and dialogue all of which require students to gather, interpret and evaluate relevant sources of information to create effective fictional worlds.</p> <p>Writers create a sense of wholeness and completion in a story by making sure all the parts fit; conclusions and solutions must be derived from the components of the story set up by the author.</p> <p>Readers consider the various viewpoints of characters and authors (both published and classmates) as an integral part of understanding the story. Students also strengthen their ability to consider other viewpoints through regular workshop participation, which requires careful listening and speaking.</p>

SOCIAL/GLOBAL AWARENESS OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<p>➤ Students will begin to understand how their lives are shaped by the complex world in which they live.</p> <p>➤ Students will understand that their actions have social, economic and environmental consequences.</p>	<p>Literature is a means of understanding the world we live in and its subject matter whether naturalistic or not, is more often than not -- real life, and an important aim of literature (short fiction) is to discover both the obvious and deeper processes at work in the complex worlds in which we all live.</p> <p>Participating in a workshop format course draws attention to the ways our actions: our presence, what we say and how we communicate have social consequences. Economic and environmental consequences may or may not be supported depending on the student's specific interests.</p>

Instructional Methods

Workshop and discussion.

Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
Attendance	10%
Quality of submitted short stories (3)	40%
Quality of revisions to short stories (3)	40%
Positive contributions to class discussions	10%

Text(s)

The Art of Fiction: Notes on Craft for Young Writers by John Gardener

Best American Short Stories 2015, T.C. Boyle, ed.

Bibliography

The Art of Fiction: Notes on Craft for Young Writers by John Gardener

Best American Short Stories series

Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life by Annie Lamont

Norton Anthology of Short Fiction, Richard Bausch, R.V.Cassill, eds.

Other Learning Resources

Audiovisual None specified
Electronic None specified
Other None specified

LIBRARY SERVICES REVIEW FORM

Course Name: Fiction Writing

Course Developer: Darlene Gold

The course description calls for students to “read and analyze the work of master short story writers.”

In addition to any anthologies that students may be expected to acquire for themselves, and in addition to stories on the Internet in the public domain, the Library currently has more than 1,000 different collections of short stories, in print and electronic formats, for students to explore.

Additionally, Library databases such as the Literary Reference Center and Artemis Literary Sources contain the full text of both classic and new short stories as well as the content of numerous literary magazines.

The Library also owns many books about short stories, about short story writers, and about the craft of short story writing. The above-mentioned databases are also a rich source for author interviews, defining literary terms, and contextual background essays, for example.

Assuming no significant changes in either the Library’s budget, staffing, or the course expectations, the Library could readily support this course.

Librarian’s Signature and Date:

Susanna Van Sant
January 11, 2016