

English 4603-001: FICTION WORKSHOP

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Office hours TBA

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Catalogue Description

ENGL 4603 - Fiction Workshop

Nature of short story and longer forms of fiction, critical approaches to fiction, and practical experience in writing and revising text. May be repeated for maximum of 6 hours credit with permission of instructor.

PREREQUISITE: ENGL 3607.

3.000 Credit Hours

3.000 Lecture hours

Extended Course Description

Students write and submit stories for class discussion. The role of these discussions is to aid the writer in the development and improvement of the work during the revision process. Examples of published fiction will be examined and discussed with attention to the techniques and materials used in fiction writing.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to write a short story using the techniques of realistic fiction.
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of a critical vocabulary when discussing published stories and classmates' stories, and in written critiques.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to accept constructive criticism and to revise in accordance with editorial suggestions.

Requirements

A previous fiction writing course, and/or permission from the instructor, is necessary to enroll. Students already enrolled in the creative writing program do not need a permit.

Required: a minimum of 18 pages of original fiction, edited, not first draft -- two stories, minimum 9 pages each. Stories should be complete, not in-progress, unless you are writing a novel. Short exercises may be assigned. Written critiques of other students' work are required.

Students are responsible for supplying paper copies of their stories to all members of the class, at least one week in advance of the discussion. Bring enough for each member of the class, plus 2 for the instructor (1 to be returned to you, 1 for the file). On paper, on time, not via email.

Plus/minus grading may be used. Final grade depends on:

Original stories 60% .All work must be new, not submitted in any other class or project, either past or current. Realism, either contemporary or historical, is your goal. Quality counts. Standard English is required; exceptions for dialogue.

Participation 30% Contributions to class discussions and written comments on classmates' work. Provide specific remarks on how the elements of fiction are represented in a story, with particular attention to characterization, use of subject matter, conflict, plot, dialogue, setting, scene, narration, tone, and point of view. Critiques of classmates' stories should be at least a half page double-spaced.

Quiz average 10%

Discussions of Work

"Honest criticism is hard to take, particularly from a relative, a friend, an acquaintance, or a stranger." -- Franklin Jones

After a discussion of your work, take time to consider what was said. There will be suggestions that you can employ in revision or in future work. Always thank your classmates. The better a writer you become, the more you'll be able to receive feedback with equanimity.

Required Texts. You are expected to secure access to these books by the time assignments are made.

TBA

Recommended

The Elements of Style, by Strunk & White

Attendance policy

Missing more than 2 sessions will result in a grade no higher than C. These are not allotted absences. You will be marked excused if you are ill and notify the instructor.

If a student is unprepared for class and makes less than a B in participation, grade will be no higher than C, regardless of quality of written work. Late work will be penalized.

Three tardies = one absence.

Note: Check your memphis.edu email account throughout the semester. Important course information might be posted to these accounts.

[Accommodations will be made for documented special needs.](#)

Student Disability Services 678-2880

110 Wilder Tower

<http://saweb.memphis.edu/sds/g-iff.htm>

Student Health Center 678-2287

<http://saweb.memphis.edu/health/>

Counseling Center 678-2068
211 Wilder Tower
<http://www.memphis.edu/cpcc/>

Schedule (subject to change) TBA

On your due dates, bring enough hard copies for all members of the class, plus one for me, plus a copy for your file. Your story will be discussed at the next class meeting or thereafter.

Important: Unless you give the class at least a week to read your story, you may forfeit your chance to have it discussed.

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