

Fiction Writing
ENGL 3607 002
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Catalog Course Description

Exploration of the creative process within the forms and traditions of fiction. Emphasis on the student's own work.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course, students will be introduced to the art of writing fiction through reading and writing short stories. Students will engage in close readings of selected contemporary short stories by established artists such as John Updike, Ernest Hemingway, Flannery O'Connor, and Joyce Carol Oats. Class discussions of these stories will explore what it means to read as a writer and what the writers that have come before us have to teach us about writing, particularly in regards to specific elements of craft such as point of view, significant detail, plot, and characterization. Students will also practice writing to develop technique through short exercises that will be read and critiqued by peers and the instructor. Each of these exercises will focus on one issue of craft but is designed to serve as a building block for the stories students will write for the second part of the course. In the second part of the course, students will develop their own short stories through drafting, workshop, and revision. Students will learn the skills necessary to be an effective reader and to give constructive feedback to other writers. Students will also develop skills to critique and revise their own work. At the end of the course session, each student will submit a portfolio that includes their revised short stories and a process memo outlining their progress in the course.

TEXT REQUIREMENTS

Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft 9th Edition by Janet Burroway, Elizabeth Stuckey-French, & Ned

Stuckey-French

Best American Short Stories 2016 ed. by Junot Díaz

Optional: *Naming the World* by Bret Anthony Johnston

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Be able to identify basic elements of fiction writing craft and define by definition and example these terms.
- Have practiced reading like a writer and explored what writers before us have to teach us about writing.
- Have practiced writing to develop technique through six short exercises, each focusing on one element of craft that were read and critiqued by peers and the instructor.

- Have written, drafted, and revised a short story.
- Have learned the skills necessary to be an effective reader and to give constructive feedback to other writers.
- Have developed the skills to critique and revise their own work.
- Be able to employ the conventions of Standard Written English and MLA style.