

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 16 pages of original fiction, edited, not first drafts—two stories, minimum 8 pages each. Stories should be complete. 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. 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 substantive and at least half a page, double spaced. You are expected to read all the stories and be ready to discuss them, but you may skip 6 of the written critiques.

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 have the books by the time assignments are made.

TBA – an anthology of short fiction, and/or a craft book

Handouts

Recommended:

The Elements of Style, by Strunk & White

Attendance Policy: You are allowed 3 absences for any reason. Missing 4 sessions will result in an F for the course. If you are tardy 3x for 10 minutes or more, that is an absence. Failure to bring texts to class is an absence. Taking a break during class is absence. Texting in class counts as absence. If you are unprepared, you will be asked to leave and will not receive credit for that day's attendance. If you are absent, instead of asking me what was covered, arrange with a classmate to get the notes and assignments for the time you missed.

If you are absent when a quiz is given, your grade for the quiz will be 0. There will not be any make-up quizzes. However, I generally drop the lowest quiz grade.

If you are 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.

Plagiarism Policy: Any plagiarism will result in an F for the course.

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

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.

Plagiarism Policy: Any plagiarism will result in an F for the course.

Accommodations will be made for documented special needs.

Student Disability Services 901- 678-2880

110 Wilder Tower

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

Student Health Center 901-678-2287

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

Counseling Center 901-678-2068

211 Wilder Tower

<http://www.memphis.edu/cpcc/>

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