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Semester effective: Spring 2020

English (ENGL) 1750 Creative Writing: Fiction (3) CSU

Advisory: Successful completion of English 1500 and English 1700 with a grade of ‘C’ or better

Hours and Unit Calculations:

48 hours lecture. 96 Outside of Class Hours. (144 Total Learning Hours) 3 Units

Catalog Description: This course is a creative writing workshop dedicated to the creation of short stories and novels. Course requires analysis of published and unpublished fiction, study of the theory of fiction, creation of fiction, revision of fiction, preparing a manuscript, and exploring venues for publishing fiction.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Texts: Students will read two collections of fiction from the following list:

Abe, Kobo. *The Boxman: A Novel*. Vintage International, 2001.
Bauer, Shane. *American Prison*. Penguin, 2018.
Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*. Vintage, 1994.
Chang, Leonard. *Underkill*. Thomas Dunne, 2003.
Cisneros, Sandra. *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*. Random House, 1991.
Diaz, Junot. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. Riverhead, 2008.
Edugyan, Esi. *Washington Black*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2018.
Eggers, Dave. *And You Shall Know Our Velocity*. Simon and Shuster, 2000.
Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*. Random House, 1952.
Eugenides, Jeffrey. *Middlesex*. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2002.
Halliday, Lisa. *Asymmetry*. Simon & Schuster, 2018.
Makkai, Rebecca. *The Great Believers*. Viking, 2018.
Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi*. Harcourt, 2001.
McKay, Claude. *Home to Harlem*. Northeastern University, 1987.
McCourt, Frank. *Angela’s Ashes*. Scribner, 1989.
Nabokov, Vladimir. *Lolita*. G.P. Putnam & Sons, 1958.
Orange, Tommy. *There There*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2018.
Roy, Arundhati. *The God of Small Things*. Harper Perennial, 1998.
Setterfield, Diane. *The Thirteenth Tale*. Washington Square, 2007.
Slimani, Leila. *Nanny*. Penguin, 2018.
Stein, Garth. *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. Harper, 2008.
Steinbeck, John. *East of Eden*. Viking, 1952.
Vonnegut, Kurt. *Bagombo Snuff Box*. Berkeley, 2000.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Create original fiction,
2. Use elements of fiction including conflict, characterization, suspense, narration, description, and dialog,
3. Perform formal analysis of fiction,
4. Interpret content of fiction,
5. Relate fiction to its cultural context,
6. Criticize fiction,
7. Synthesize criticism of one's own fiction,
8. Revise fiction,
9. Prepare a manuscript of fiction,
10. Research places of publication for fiction, and
11. Be part of a community of writers.

Course Scope and Content:

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| Unit I | Theory of Fiction |
| | A. Narrative arc |
| | B. Conflict |
| | C. Suspense |
| | D. Plot |
| | E. Subplot |
| | F. Pacing |
| | G. Flashback/Flashforward |
| | H. Backstory |
| | I. Characterization |
| | J. Foils |
| | K. Symbolism |
| | L. Deus ex machina |
| | M. Point of view |
| | N. Shifting point of view |
| | O. Description |
| | P. Dialog |
| | Q. Action |
| | R. Voice |
| | S. Theme & motif |
| Unit II | Elements of Craft |
| | A. Style |
| | B. Parallelism |
| | C. Diction |
| | D. Figurative language |
| | E. Alliteration, consonance, assonance |
| Unit III | Writing Process |
| | A. Sources of composition |
| | B. Drafting |
| | C. Revision |

D. Editing

Unit IV

Criticism

- A. Interpretation of content
- B. Analysis of form
- C. Evaluation of aesthetics
- D. Relationship between text and audience
- E. Text in cultural context
- F. Synthesizing criticism for revision

Unit V

Publication

- A. Researching publication venues
- B. The literary magazine
- C. Small press manuscript contests
- D. Self-publishing
- E. Cover letter
- F. Query letter
- G. Manuscript format
- H. Simultaneous submission policies
- I. Literary agents
- J. Online submissions managers

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Completing required reading,
2. Analyzing and imitating published fiction writers,
3. Writing stories,
4. Writing critiques of classmates' submissions,
5. Preparing a manuscript,
6. Observing or participating in an activity related to course content, and
7. Researching venues for publication.

Methods of Instruction:

1. Class meeting will involve brief lecture, discussion and extended group critique,
2. Student selected examples of published works will be discussed for the purpose of demonstrating techniques and establishing standards of evaluation,
3. Student writings will be submitted and distributed the week before submission,
4. Frequent revision will be required.
5. Assignments concerning the theory of fiction will be given, and the experiences of professional writers will be considered,
6. Frequent student-instructor conferences via an online discussion group will be conducted
7. Guided exploration of literary magazines, websites, and other possible venues for students to submit their work for publication

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Substantial writing assignments, including:
 - a. Weekly submissions,
 - b. Imitation and analysis of published authors,
 - c. Presentation on selected readings,
 - d. Written and verbal critique of classmates submissions, and
 - e. Submission for publication assignment, delineating a publication's submission policy and including a cover letter and prospective submission by the student.
2. A final project, including:
 - a. A ten page collection of individual work, demonstrating revision, in chapbook form

Supplemental Data:

TOP Code:	150700: Creative Writing
SAM Priority Code:	E: Non-Occupational
Distance Education:	Online; Offline
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable(funds not used)
Program Status:	1: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable, Credit Course
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Course is not a basic skills course
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Is not part of a cooperative work experience education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	NO
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	NO

Taft College General Education:	LHUM: Local GE Humanities
Disciplines	English