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

Advisory: Successful completion of English 1500 and English 1700 with a grade of “C” or better

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

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 Course requires analysis of published and unpublished fiction, study of the theory of fiction, creation of fiction, revision of fiction, preparing a manuscript, and exploring venues for publishing fiction.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*. New York: Vintage International, 2001. Print.
Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*. New York: Vintage, 1994. Print.
Chacon, Daniel. *Hotel Juarez*. Houston: Arte Publico P, 2013. Print.
Chang, Leonard. *Underkill*. New York: Thomas Dunne, 2003. Print.
Cisneros, Sandra. *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*. New York: Random House, 1991. Print.
Diaz, Junot. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. New York: Riverhead, 2008. Print.
Dos Passos, John. *The 42nd Parallel*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1930. Print.
Eggers, Dave. *And You Shall Know Our Velocity*. New York: Simon and Shuster, 2000. Print.
---. *A Hologram for the King*. San Francisco: McSweeney’s, 2012. Print.
Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*. New York: Random House, 1952. Print.
Eugenides, Jeffrey. *Middlesex*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2002. Print.
Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi*. New York: Harcourt, 2001. Print.
McKay, Claude. *Home to Harlem*. Boston: Northeastern University, 1987. Print.
McCourt, Frank. *Angela’s Ashes*. New York: Scribner, 1989. Print.
Morrison, Tomi. *Beloved*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1987. Print.
Nabokov, Vladimir. *Lolita*. New York: G.P. Putnam & Sons, 1958. Print.
Palahniuk, Chuck. *Damned*. New York, Doubleday, 2011. Print.
Roy, Arundhati. *The God of Small Things*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1998. Print.
Setterfield, Diane. *The Thirteenth Tale*. New York: Washington Square, 2007. Print.
Stein, Garth. *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. New York: Harper, 2008. Print.
Steinbeck, John. *East of Eden*. New York: Viking, 1952. Print.
Vonnegut, Kurt. *Bagombo Snuff Box*. New York: Berkeley, 2000. Print.

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 |
| 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

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,

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, in chapbook form