

Syllabus: Fiction Writing Workshop

Course Description

In Fiction Writing, the focus is on developing the student's fiction writing skills by crafting character-centered stories in a workshop setting. Various writing exercises and readings will be done in and outside class. Students will complete a manuscript of finished work and learn the power of story writing. They will also learn how to both write and evaluate stories from a biblical perspective. Student work may be submitted to various contests and publications with ambitions that the student will have the work published. This course is eligible for dual enrollment credit for junior and senior diploma students. Homework will average about 3 - 4 hours per week.

Course Learning Objectives (CLO)

- Write fiction in a variety of short forms
- Edit and revise their work for effective presentation
- Read and analyze a variety of fiction to develop discernment and critical thinking skills
- Evaluate and assess other students' writing through workshop sessions
- Develop a personal writing style
- Prepare written work for submission to the writing marketplace

Attendance and Participation

Attendance, while not graded in this course, will nevertheless be recorded by the students' teacher, as students are required to attend all scheduled class sessions and actively participate. It is expected that students will view archives of any missed classes as they are responsible for obtaining any notes or assignments when a class must be missed.

Students will receive quarterly grades for Participation. A percentage of the final grade will be attributed to *relevant class participation*, which typically includes raising their hands, commenting regularly via microphone/webcam, and using the chat box to contribute to the academic conversation. A grading rubric, which contains the percentage attributed to Relevant Class Participation for this course, is located on the course page.

Assignments and Assessments

Students have regular reading assignments from handouts and assigned texts that must be completed before the assigned class time to allow for discussion and application. Periodic reading assessments will be given and will impact the Homework Assignments grade. Students will have weekly or biweekly writing assignments to be completed as homework and then discussed openly in class. Over the year, students will write several short stories, flash fiction pieces, and more.

This course has no formal tests. The Midterm and Final will be projects displaying the application of skills learned throughout the previous semester. Course grade is primarily based upon writing projects and homework completed throughout the year.

Evaluation

The final grade is determined on the following basis:

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| • Relevant Class Participation | 20% |
| • Homework | 30% |
| • Writing Projects | 40% |
| • Midterm Exam | 5% |
| • Final Exam | 5% |

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will apply for all assignments and final grades. 100% – 90% = A; 89% - 80% = B; 79% - 70% = C; 69% - 60% = D; 59% - 50% = E; 49% - 40% = F. All grades are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Late Work

If a student fails to submit any assessment by the due date, it is considered “late.”

- Assignments submitted 0-24 hours late will result in a 10 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 24-48 hours late will result in a 20 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 48-72 hours late will result in a 30 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments over 72 hours late will not be accepted and the student will receive a zero.
- Parent may request an extension from their child’s teacher *prior to the due date* or in the case of an emergency.

While we love grace and the opportunity to exercise it, we also desire to instill a sound sense of responsibility in our students, hence these expectations pertaining to late work.

Exam/Test Retakes

Any student may retake a failed assessment (except quizzes), but can score no higher than 70% on the retake. This policy also applies to formal labs in applicable courses. Retakes will be graded as though the student *could* receive a 100%. Assuming the student then scores a grade of 70% or greater on the retake, he will be given a 70%. If the student again fails the assessment, the greater of the two grades (attempts) will be used in the calculation of a final grade.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating on any assignment is considered academic dishonesty. This includes plagiarism in any form. Cheating will be dealt with in the following manner:

- If a student is caught cheating, he will receive a zero on the assignment and will be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the school year.
- If the same student is caught cheating again, he will likely be expelled.
- No refunds will be granted for students who are expelled due to cheating.
- A Disciplinary Action Form will be submitted by the student's teacher for any instance of academic dishonesty.

Textbooks

The books needed for the class can be purchased through Veritas Press. It is extremely important that the student has the correct version/edition of these materials, and that they be ordered timely so as to have no interruption in a student's progress.

Fiction Writing Workshop Course Kit (003548)

- Schaums's Quick Guide to Writing Great Short Stories (305620)
- Who Do You Think You Are? (305598)
- 50 Great Short Stories (490505)
- The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway (021140)
- That Distant Land (405200)
- O'Connor The Complete Stories (340050)

Course Calendar

See Course Assignment Sheet, located on the course page, for class dates, breaks and all assignments and assessments. Class dates and breaks can also be found on the current academic year calendar.