

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*4720	Course Title: Writing Fiction	Date of Offering: FALL 2017
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Course Professor: Lawrence Hill	Course Format: Creative Writing Workshop
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This advanced workshop will involve writing fiction, sharing one's own writing and commenting constructively on the writing of other students. The workshop will emphasize the regular practice of writing (including in-class exercises), assessing one's own work and that of peers, condensing the first draft and other elements of revision. Assigned readings will form the basis of conversations about and experimentation with the key elements of a writer's tool kit such as: imagination, research, constructing scenes and plot, narrative techniques, dialogue, voice, point of view, use of detail, revision and self-editing. The workshop will also explore practical matters of concern to writers: how to give an effective public reading, considering future study and mentorship at the graduate level and outside the university environment; literary readings and events; creative writing contests; how to approach literary magazines, editors and agents; what a book contract looks like; how professional writers earn a living; and how to assist with the publicity and promotion of a book; and how to give a media interview. A professional in the Canadian publishing industry will visit the class.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Writing Exercise 1 (750 - 1,000 words): 10 %
Writing Exercise 2 (1,000 - 1,500 words): 10 %
Short Story 1 (2,500 – 3,000 words) : 20 %
Short Story 2 (3,500 – 4,000 words): 20 %
Revision Story 1: 10 %
Peer Evaluation: 15 %
Workshop Participation: 15 %

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Writing by Student Peers

Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft, Editors: J. Burroway, E. Stuckey-French, N. Stuckey-French

(Longman, 9th edition, 2014)

The Best American Short Stories 2015, Editor: T.C. Boyle (Mariner Books, 2015)

The Journey Prize 28, Editors: K. Cayley, B. Francis, M. Thein (McLelland & Stewart, 2016)

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):

List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: