

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: 4720 02	Course Title: Creative Writing: Prose/Poetry Workshop	Date of Offering: F'20 Tuesday 11:30-2:20
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Course Instructor: Shyam Selvadurai	Course Format: Online
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This advanced workshop will focus on writing fiction, specifically the short story or the opening chapters plus the outline of a novel. Students will share their own writing and comment constructively on the writing of other students. Assigned texts will look at key elements of craft in a detailed and complex way. We will study the theory of creative writing but also look at how that theory is practiced by two writers in the novel and short story form. During workshoping student work, we will look at how these elements of craft are employed by students being workshoped and how they could be employed even more effectively in the rewrite to produce more polished drafts. Students will be expected to produce a portfolio of at least 7,000 words.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Assignment # 1 (10 % of grade)

Exercise: 500-1000 words on the beginning of your short story or novel

Assignment # 2 (20% of grade)

Short Story or opening chapter +outline of novel 2,000 – 3,000 words

Assignment # 3 (20% of grade)

Short Story or subsequent chapters of novel 2,500 – 3,000 words

Assignment # 4 (20 % of grade)

Revise Assignment # 1 OR # 2 (or a combination with approval of the instructor). 2,000-3,000 words

Assignment (10 % of grade)

Offer lead comments on other student's short stories a few times.

Participation (20 % of grade)

Texts and/or Resources Required

Paradise by Toni Morrison

Unaccustomed Earth by Jhumpa Lahiri

How Fiction Works by James Wood.

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

Synchronous: We will meet for 60-80 minutes each Tuesday at 11:30 am to workshop student work and discuss readings.

Asynchronous: Prior to the synchronous meeting, students will do some preliminary discussion of the student work and assigned readings that will be discussed at the upcoming synchronous meeting. They will do this in online forums that will run for 48 hours. There will be some taped lectures posted for listening.

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.