NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus.

WR 224
Introduction to Fiction Writing
Syllabus and Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Instructor: Isabelle Brock
E-mail: isabelle.brock@oregonstate.edu
Office Hours: by appointment or via email

For more information, contact: SCHOOL OF WRITING, LITERATURE AND FILM, MORE 238, 541-737-3244.
Course Information: http://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/wlf/students/courses

Course Catalog Description:
WR 224. INTRODUCTION TO FICTION WRITING (3). Discussion workshop. Student work examined in context of contemporary published work. (FA) (Bacc Core Course) PREREQS: WR 121 [C-] or Placement Test WWRI(1)

Baccalaureate Core Course Attributes:
Core, Skills, WR II
Liberal Arts Fine Arts Core

This course combines approximately 90 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 3 credits.

Weekly Schedule of Assignments

Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Readings may be added or removed.

Week 1
Imagery: Significant Detail, Research
Reading: Chapters 1 and 2 in Writing Fiction

Week 2
Character
Creative Exercise 1 (due Friday)
Reading: Chapter 3 Writing Fiction and “The Habit of Writing” by Andre Dubus (PDF)

Week 3
Character, part 2
Reading: Chapter 4 in Writing Fiction

This course is offered through Oregon State University Extended Campus. For more information, contact:
Web: ecampus.oregonstate.edu  Email: ecampus@oregonstate.edu  Tel: 800-667-1465
Week 3 Workshop: Creative Exercise 1

Week 4
Place
Creative Exercise 2 (due Friday)
Reading: Chapter 5 in Writing Fiction
Week 4 Workshop: Creative Exercise 1

Week 5
Time
Reading: Chapter 6 in Writing Fiction
Week 5 Workshop: Creative Exercise 2

Week 6
Conflict
Creative Exercise 3 (due Friday)
Reading: Chapter 7 in Writing Fiction
Week 6 Workshop: Creative Exercise 2

Week 7
Point of View (POV)
Reading: Chapter 8 in Writing Fiction
Week 7 Workshop: Creative Exercise 3

Week 8
Imagery: Theme and Figures of Speech
Creative Exercise 4 (due Friday)
Reading: TBA
Week 8 Workshop: Creative Exercise 3

Week 9
Smorgasbord
Reading: TBA
Week 9 Workshop: Creative Exercise 4

Week 10
Closing Week
Creative Exercise 5 (due Friday)
Reading: TBA
Week 10 Workshop: Creative Exercise 4
Revised Workshop Creative Exercise Due

Baccalaureate Core Outcomes
WR 224 satisfies the Writing II requirement for Bac Core. In this course, you will:
  • Apply multiple theories, concepts, and techniques for creating and evaluating written communication.
• Write effectively for diverse audiences within a specific area or discipline using appropriate standards and conventions.
• Apply critical thinking to writing and writing process, including revision.

Outcomes
Additionally, in this class you will:
• Consider your own writing process, including free-writing, multiple drafts, and revisions.
• Develop an understanding of the fundamental tools employed by fiction writers, including character, dialogue, point of view, narrative distance, image, and language.
• Examine the characteristics of fiction, and present your own fiction for workshop, using appropriate standards and conventions.
• Become an effective and respectful critic of peer writing, one able to think critically about representation and the denoted and connoted meanings in written texts.
• Interpret guidelines for submitting creative writing, and present work prepared for publishing.

Grading
Creative Exercises (3 total; due Fridays Weeks 2, 3, and 4) 30%
Discussions (4 total; due Thursdays/Sundays Weeks 1, 2, 4 and 5) 20%
Workshop Submission (due Monday of Week 6) 20%
Workshop Participation (due Friday of Week 7) 20%
Revision Portfolio 5%
Final Reflection 5%

Please complete your work on time. Because we rely on each other for insight and feedback, late work inconveniences everybody. Similarly, late posts to a workshop do not help the writer, who may be working on another project or finishing a revision, and who might never even see the late comments. Therefore, late posts will not count for credit toward student grades.

Creative Exercises
As noted in the grading section above, you will complete three different creative exercises throughout the term. These activities will allow you to explore different aspects of short fiction—character, dialogue, and setting, for example. Please note that combined these activities will make up 30% of your grade.

Discussions
Throughout the term, we will read a few professional (published) pieces of fiction and pieces of nonfiction that explain some aspect of short fiction craft. Some of these will be available online, and the others will be part of the readings you do in your textbook. In our discussion board, we’ll discuss certain stories and ideas we encounter. Posting a thoughtful initial post that meets the assignment (addressing the prompt, adhering to word count, etc) by Thursday will result in a “B” score. Supplementing the initial post by two more quality follow-up posts by Sunday will result in an “A” score.

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Resources
Please email me at your own convenience to discuss your work. Those of you who are on campus can also make appointments to see me in my office hours, or visit the excellent OSU Writing Center (at 123 Waldo for those of you who are on campus). The Writing Center’s website is http://cwl.oregonstate.edu/.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities: Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Honesty and Civility
A plagiarized assignment will receive an F and a report will be filed with the Student Conduct and Mediation Program. Two reports at OSU can lead to suspension or expulsion.

Behaviors that are disruptive to learning will not be tolerated and will be referred to the Student Conduct and Mediation Program for disciplinary action. In keeping with federal law, behaviors that create a hostile, offensive, or intimidating environment based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation will be referred to the Affirmative Action Office. http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm

Course evaluation
We encourage you to engage in the course evaluation process each term – online, of course. The evaluation form will be available toward the end of each term, and Ecampus will send you instructions.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:
If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.
  • COURSE DEMO
  • GETTING STARTED

COURSE SITE LOGIN INFORMATION
Information on how to login to your course site can be found HERE.

REFUND POLICY INFORMATION
This course is offered through Oregon State University Extended Campus. For more information, contact:
Web: ecampus.oregonstate.edu    Email: ecampus@oregonstate.edu    Tel: 800-667-1465
Please see the **Ecampus website** for policy information on refunds and late fees.