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 (Ecampus)

Syllabus – Course Information

Instructor: John Larison
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Office: 306 Moreland Hall
Office Hours: By apt.

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

NOTE: For textbook accuracy, please always check the textbook list at the OSU Bookstore website. Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information.

Course Catalog Description:

Course 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

WR 224 is a Writing II course that seeks to unveil the mysteries of writing literary fiction. We’ll read both craft advice and short stories as we learn the concepts and practices behind vibrant and compelling stories. Students will be expected to “workshop” the short stories of their peers, as well as write two short stories of their own.

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

Course Outcomes:

Baccalaureate Outcomes for Writing II Courses:
- 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.

Additional Outcomes for WR 224:
- Identify and produce writing that “shows” verses writing that “tells.”
- Produce writing that creates verisimilitude.
- Develop an understanding of the art form that is compelling fiction.

Assignments:

**Blog Entries (10%)**: (Click “Tools” then “Blogs” then “Blog Entries”) During the course of the term, each student is expected to write five blog entries. Each entry will be in response to that week’s selected prompt from the text. Each blog entry must be posted by Sunday of that week, or will be docked for tardiness. The weekly prompts are included on the Course Schedule. To earn full credit, write a creative entry that shows authentic intellectual engagement with the prompt—and shows evidence of a complete writing process that includes a substantial revision step. (Click “Tools”, then “Blogs”, then click your name.)

**Discussion (8%)**: (Click “Discussion Board” then “Class Discussion”) Some weeks, the Instructor will post questions on a story assigned from our text (see schedule to see which story is assigned). During the week, each student is expected to submit answers to the questions the Instructor posed, as well as respond to at least two other students’ posts.

**Workshop (12%)**: (Click “Discussion Board” then your workshop forum). During the second half of the term, students will be divided into workshop groups. Each student will submit a story to the workshop group, and the group members will read that story then write a “workshop letter” that addresses the story’s strengths and weaknesses.

**Letters (12%)**: Workshop letters will be 300-500 words long and adhere to the following format:

A) Offer a candid reaction to the story. (You might consider asking yourself if you were compelled as you read. Why or why not? Were you moved? Why or why not?)

B) Pin-point at least two specific places where characters did or said something that you didn’t believe—places maybe where that character did or said something that was “out of character.” Include quotations and page numbers, and explain why you felt the way you did.

C) Pin-point at least one place where the story uses “telling” when it should use “showing.” Explain why you think “showing” is necessary in this place.

C) Locate at least one other feature of the story that you feel could be improved. Include quotations and page numbers, and offer a precise and careful articulation of why you felt the way you did.

D) End by articulating what you see as being this story’s most intriguing feature. Provide a specific example of this feature, and offer any suggestions you might have for making the most of this feature.

**Important**: Students are not required to write workshop letters in response to any story that is submitted more than 24 hours late to the workshop forum.
**Fiction Writing (70%)**: Each student will write two short stories during the class. These must be original stories, written within the timeframe of the course.

- **Short Story 1 (35%)**: 600 to 2000 words. Can be on any topic and use any point of view. Short Story 1 is due during Week 3 (see schedule), and the instructor will respond with comments via email within a week. Late stories will be docked; see Class Policies below. Short Story 1 will be graded based on the assessment rubric provided on the Assignments page. (Click “Assignments,” then “Short Story 1”, and submit the story using the link. *Short Story 1 must be uploaded in a .doc, .docx, or .pdf file.*)

- **Short Story 2 (35%)**: The final assignment for the class. 600 to 2500 words. Can be on any topic and use any point of view. Short Story 2 will be submitted first to your workshop group; this draft must be a complete draft—no half-stories. After the workshop process, you’ll complete revisions on the story, and then submit it as the final for the course. If Short Story 2 is submitted late to the instructor, it will not be accepted. Short Story 2 will be graded based on the assessment rubric provided on the Assignments page.

**Class Policies:**

Students are responsible for the materials, syllabus changes, and information presented during class. Assignments are due by 11:59 PM on the day specified on the Course Schedule, unless otherwise stated. *Late assignments will be docked one letter for every 24 hour period—except for Short Story 2, which will not be accepted at all if it is late.* Late assignments will receive no instructor comments. (Exceptions may be granted due to illness, etc, at the instructor’s discretion.)

Stories submitted for this class must have been written during this class; stories submitted in another course are ineligible for grading in this section of WR 224.

Of course, cheating, in any form, is not tolerated at Oregon State University. Any plagiarism—intentional or accidental—may result in an F in the class and a written report filed with the Dean’s office for further disciplinary action.

Plan to refer to the syllabus, schedule, and weekly folder by Wednesday of each week.

**Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities:**

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and OSU’s office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Students with accommodations approved through SSD 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 SSD should contact SSD immediately at 737-4098.

**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
Please see the Ecampus website for policy information on refunds and late fees.