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. Summer term courses may be accelerated – please check the Ecampus Schedule of Classes for more information.

WR 224
Introduction to Fiction Writing

COURSE CREDIT:
(3) This course combines approximately 90 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 3 credits.

PREREQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES AND ENFORCED PREREQUISITES:
WR 121 [C-] or Placement Test WWRI(1)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Discussion workshop. Student work examined in context of contemporary published work.
(FA) (Bacc Core Course)

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Instructor: Patrick Peters
E-mail: petersp@onid.orst.edu
Virtual Office Hours: To be announced

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

Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information. For accuracy, please check the Ecampus Schedule of Classes to see the most current instructor information. You can search for contact information by name from the OSU Home Page.
LEARNING RESOURCES:

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.

Students can also click the ‘OSU Beaver Store’ link associated with the course information in the Ecampus schedule of classes for course textbook information and ordering.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Course Outcomes
- Develop strategies for writing, and an understanding of the fundamental tools employed by fiction writers, including character, dialogue, and point of view
- Become effective and respectful critics of peer writing
- Learn to think critically about literature, representation, and denoted and connoted meanings in written texts
- Become, through the practice of reading and writing, textually literate citizens

Baccalaureate Core Student Learning Outcomes
Students taking a course in the Baccalaureate Core Skills (Writing II) category will:
1. Apply multiple theories, concepts, and techniques for creating and evaluating written communication.
2. Write effectively for diverse audiences within a specific area or discipline using appropriate standards and conventions.
3. Apply critical thinking to writing and writing process, including revision.

COURSE CONTENT AND POLICIES:
During the first half of the term you will be reading from the book and writing short creative writing exercises. During weeks 6-8 we will be workshopping each other’s short stories in the Discussion Board, 4 stories per week. From week 9 on, we will workshop your final story. Please note that I have combined the grade for the Discussion Board and the workshop posts. As listed below, this work will make up 20% of your grade, so please take it seriously.

Please complete your work on time. Because we rely on each other for 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.
Introduction questionnaire and creating the criteria
The first week of the term you will fill out a questionnaire to give me a little insight into who you are, what writing you’ve done in the past, why you’re taking this course, and so on. You will also be required to participate in a discussion on what criteria is or should be used in judging your (and your classmates’) work. Together, these make up 10% of your grade.

Creative Exercises
As noted in the grading section, you will complete 4 different creative exercises in the first half of the term. These activities will allow you to explore different aspects of short fiction—character, dialogue, and setting, for example—and will also likely help you jump-start your workshop stories. Please note that combined these activities will make up 20% of your grade.

Discussion board for published work
Throughout the term, we will read several professional (published) pieces of fiction and pieces of nonfiction that explain some aspect of short fiction craft. For many of the professional readings, I will post two or three prompts to guide a class conversation in the Discussion Board. You will need to respond (and respond thoughtfully) to one of these prompts.

Please note that when it comes to the Discussion Board, quality counts much, much more than quantity. This means that a thoughtful, interesting, and engaging post that clearly shows you’ve done the reading (and done it well) will be more impressive (and thus, be worth more points) than 2 or 3 superficial posts. Generally speaking, one GOOD initial post and one or two GOOD follow-up posts each week will result in a “B” grade in the Discussion Board. Post your initial responses to my prompts early in the week—by Thursday evening. By Sunday evening, you should have had a conversation or two with your classmates by reading and responding to their posts. Again, the quality of your posts counts much more than the quantity.

Workshops
Many of you will never have participated in a fiction writing workshop but the concept is simple. Two different times during the term each of you will post a story to a discussion board for your classmates (and me) to comment on. Early in the term, in the Discussion Board, you will find Workshop Forums set up for weeks 6-8. Please go there and sign up for a workshop as soon as possible. (First come, first served.) To sign up, just start a new thread with your name in the forum for the week you’re going to be workshopped. Please note that your story will be due 48 hours before the deadline for responses for your week. For example, if you sign up for your story to be workshopped on Tuesday of Week 7 (May 15) your story will need to be posted by midnight on Sunday, May 13. This allows your peers 48 hours to read
and respond to your story; you may want to post even earlier to allow your peers even more time to respond. This is all explained again in the actual Discussion Board, and posted as a reminder in the Week 1 Folder.

Your classmates will be working hard to produce fiction, and so it is crucial for you to read carefully and respond respectfully. In order to maintain a safe learning environment for everyone, I reserve the right to delete any workshop letters or Discussion Board posts that I deem disrespectful. (Hopefully I will never need to exercise this right.)

More information about Workshop Protocol will be provided in the coming weeks.

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/. As part of your tuition, all E-Campus students are also enrolled in an on-line tutoring program called Net Tutor. http://www.nettutor.com/

NetTutor is accessed through Canvas for ease of student user authentication. You may find it in the "Communication" area of your Canvas course site.

Honesty and Civility
A plagiarized paper or story 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 appropriate office.

EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:

Grading
Introduction form 5%
Creating the grading criteria 5%
4 Creative Exercises 20%
Discussion Board and Workshop Participation 20%
Workshop Story 1 (3-5 pages) 20%
Workshop Story 2 (3-5 pages) 30%
COURSE SITE LOGIN INFORMATION
Information on how to login to your course site can be found HERE.

STATEMENT REGARDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Oregon State University is committed to student success; however, we do not require students to use accommodations nor will we provide them unless they are requested by the student. The student, as a legal adult, is responsible to request appropriate accommodations. The student must take the lead in applying to Disability Access Services (DAS) and submit requests for accommodations each term through DAS Online. OSU students apply to DAS and request accommodations at our Getting Started with DAS page.

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.

Additionally, Canvas, the learning management system through which this course is offered, provides a vendor statement certifying how the platform is accessible to students with disabilities.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND STUDENT CONDUCT (OSU POLICY)
Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Intentional acts of academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism may be penalized by imposing an “F” grade in the course.

Student conduct is governed by the universities policies, as explained in the Office of the Dean of Student Life: Student Conduct and Community Standards. In an academic community, students and faculty, and staff each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment, whether online or in the classroom. Students, faculty, and staff have the responsibility to treat each other with understanding, dignity, and respect.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g. on discussion boards, email postings, etc.) in compliance with the university’s regulations regarding civility. Students will be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded to themselves. Disrespectful behavior (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors are unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Student Conduct and Community Standards.

For more info on these topics please see:

Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct
Student Conduct and Community Standards - Offenses
Policy On Disruptive Behavior

PLAGIARISM
You are expected to submit your own work in all your assignments, postings to the discussion board, and other communications, and to clearly give credit to the work of others when you use it. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F.”

Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct
Avoiding Academic Dishonesty

Turnitin Plagiarism Prevention
Your instructor may ask you to submit one or more of your writings to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention service. Your assignment content will be checked for potential plagiarism against Internet sources, academic journal articles, and the papers of other OSU students, for common or borrowed content. Turnitin generates a report that highlights any potentially unoriginal text in your paper. The report may be submitted directly to your instructor or your instructor may elect to have you submit initial drafts through Turnitin and you will receive the report allowing you the opportunity to make adjustments and ensure that all source material has been properly cited.

Papers you submit through Turnitin for this or any class will be added to the OSU Turnitin database and may be checked against other OSU paper submissions. You will retain all rights to your written work. For further information on Turnitin please click HERE.

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

TUTORING
For information about possible tutoring for this course, please visit our Ecampus NetTutor page. Other resources include:

Writing Center
Online Writing Lab
STUDENT EVALUATION OF TEACHING

The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available in week 9 and close at the end of finals week. Students will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. Students will log in to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted. Course evaluation results are very important and are used to help improve courses and the learning experience of future students. Results from questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and unit heads/supervisors. Unless a comment is “signed,” which will associate a name with a comment, student comments on the open-ended questions are anonymous and forwarded to each instructor. “Signed” comments are forwarded to the unit head/supervisor.

REFUND POLICY INFORMATION

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