ENGL-205: FICTION WORKSHOP

Effective Term
Fall 2025

CC Approval
03/07/2025

AS Approval
03/13/2025

BOT Approval
03/20/2025

COCI Approval
04/30/2025

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status
Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
English (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code
ENGL - English
Course Number
205

Department
English (ENGL)

Division
Language and Developmental Studies (LADS)

Full Course Title
Fiction Workshop

Short Title
Fiction Workshop

CB03 TOP Code
1507.00 - Creative Writing

CB08 Basic Skills Status
NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code
E - Non-Occupational

Rationale
This course will allow students to advance their study and practice of creative writing through a specific focus on fiction and writing workshops.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description
English 205 focuses on the craft and practice of fiction, including the study of various fictional forms such as short stories, short-short stories (or sudden fiction), and novels, as well as a variety of genres and narrative purposes. In addition to studying strategies and techniques of fiction, students will also focus on author point-of-view and subject position, and the historical and social contexts

of writing. Students will create their own works of fiction, and they will read, discuss, and write extensively about contemporary works which reflect canonical, marginalized, and underrepresented voices. A major focus of the course is practice and participation in creative writing workshops in which students will share their work and provide constructive criticism on the work of their fellow writers. Written critiques of works-in-progress and instruction in the craft and practice of fiction will also be provided by the instructor.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit
No

Repeatability
Not Repeatable

Grading Options
Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit
Yes

Requisites

Prerequisite(s)
Eligibility for ENGL-120 or completion of ENGL-120, ENGL-120B or ENGL-200 with a minimum grade of C or appropriate placement.

Requisite Justification
Requisite Description
Course Not in a Sequence

Subject
ENGL
Course #
120

Level of Scrutiny
Content Review

Upon entering this course, students should be able to:
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Requisite Description
Course Not in a Sequence

Subject
ENGL
Course #
120B

Level of Scrutiny
Content Review

Upon entering this course, students should be able to:
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Requisite Description
Course in a Sequence

Subject
ENGL

Course #
200

Level of Scrutiny
Content Review

Upon entering this course, students should be able to:

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SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?
No

Units
3.00000

Lecture Hours
54

Outside of Class Hours
108

Total Contact Hours
54

Total Student Hours
162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?
Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

	Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:
1.	Write original works of fiction demonstrating competency in literary conventions.
2.	Read and understand authors' use of conventions of fiction.

Course Objectives

	Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:
1.	Demonstrate and develop craft elements of fiction writing including description, dialogue, characterization, point-of-view, plot, setting, and theme.
2.	Identify elements of craft within published fiction such as character, plot, theme, setting, and point-of-view, and how they are developed within fiction.
3.	Choose and formulate various techniques to generate works of fiction.
4.	Identify the historical and social contexts for works of fiction including author subject position.
5.	Understand how to positively contribute to the improvement of other students' work through workshopping.

6.	Complete a variety of short-short stories, short stories, and/or novel excerpts, and revise them based on criticism from class workshops and the instructor.
7.	Understand the basics of publishing their work.

Course Content

The Writing Process
Students will explore and utilize the stages of the writing process by:

- completing a variety of short, informal writing assignments focused on generating material and sources for stories of various length and complexity
- actively revising informal writing exercises into polished stories
- reading and responding to a variety of readings and authors

Elements of Craft
Students will study and practice specific techniques and elements of craft, with a focus on:

- Description
- Dialogue
- Characterization
- Point-of-view
- Plot
- Setting
- Theme
- Imagery
- Narrative form
- Genre

Fiction Workshop
Students will learn the basic elements of creative writing workshop through a focus on:

- Preparing a story for workshop "publication"
- Articulating their own goals for workshop feedback and criticism
- Learning to listen to and hear constructive feedback during a live workshop
- Reading the work of their fellow students creatively, closely, generously, and critically
- Learning how to provide constructive criticism verbally and in writing
- Practicing how to synthesize and integrate constructive criticism into revision of their own work

Contemporary writers
Students will learn about contemporary fiction by:

- closely studying a wide range of fiction writers
- closely studying modern and contemporary narrative techniques

Publication and performance
Students will practice sharing their work by:

- Reading it aloud in workshop or in open microphone formats
- Preparing manuscripts for submission for consideration in literary journals, contests, etc.

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	In-class writing exercises.
Critique	Detailed comments from the instructor on all stories submitted for assignments and workshops.
Discussion	Students are expected to read and discuss the assigned work.
Individualized Instruction	Students will have at least one individual conference with the instructor.
Lecture	Weekly lectures on craft elements.
Visiting Lecturers	When possible, visiting authors will be invited to provide lectures on their work and/or specific elements of craft.

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
Chat Rooms

Discussion Boards
E-mail Communication
Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
Discussions
Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Quizzes	Students will read and analyze a variety of fiction, including short-short stories, short stories, and novel excerpts. Students will be quizzed in a variety of ways on this reading, including informal response assignments at the start of discussion, and more formal quizzes focused on identifying and analyzing specific craft elements in the readings.
Projects	Students will choose a contemporary fiction writer whose life and work they will analyze with a focus on the author's mastery of a specific element or elements of fiction.
Portfolios	Students will create a final portfolio of 3-4 of their revised stories and write a 1000 word reflection essay describing their development and growth as a fiction writer over the course of the semester.
Oral Presentations	Students will research and analyze innovative uses of a specific form and/or craft element in specific works and/or by specific authors, e.g. Toni Morrison's use of folklore and myth, or Alice Munro's manipulation of paragraph structure. Students will present their findings as a presentation to the rest of the workshop.
Class Participation	Students are expected to write each day, and to come to class prepared and ready to discuss the assigned reading. Students are expected to write each day, and to come to class prepared and ready to discuss the assigned reading.
Homework	Homework can include class reading, reading response, daily journals, daily writing exercises, critical response to the work of other students, and other assignments.

Assignments

Reading Assignments

Every week students are assigned a chapter focused on a specific element of craft and 2-3 stories featuring that element. Students are also required to read and respond to their peers' work as part of our weekly workshop practice.

Assignment #1:
Read Chap. 8 Serious Daring, "Description and Setting" and the short story "Royal Beatings" by Alice Munro. Analyze the ways in which Munro uses the description of the house, the kitchen, and the bathroom to characterize the family.

Assignment #2:
Read "Saint Marie" by Louise Erdrich and analyze the ways in which Erdrich uses elements of fairytale and myth to characterize Sister Leopolda, Marie, and the reservation.

Writing Assignments

Each week, students will be asked to write 2-3 writing exercises. Students will revise one of these exercises into a more formal story assignment each week. At the end of the semester, students will further revise their stories for a final portfolio that will showcase their best work. Students will also write a reflective essay about their final portfolio in which they reflect on their development in specific elements of craft.

Assignment #1: "The Brief History of the Dead" by Kevin Brockmeier also serves as the opening chapter to his novel of the same title. The story/chapter opens with a description of a city of the dead, and the various crossings people make in their journey from life to death, from their lives on Earth to their lives in the city.

Magical cities occupy a unique place in literature. They serve as metaphors, spiritual philosophies, sociological commentary, utopian desire, and dystopian warning. They are a chance to imagine for ourselves what the afterlife could be: heaven, hell, or even existence

on other planets, in other realms or dimensions. The magical city fascinates because of its centrality to our social structure, to how we organize ourselves into civilized groups. Perhaps the most famous book about cities is Invisible Cities by Italo Calvino.

For this assignment, you should describe your own fantastical city. Whether you choose a whole city, a block, a neighborhood, is up to you. Focus on the nature of your city: what kind of city is it? where is it? how does one find or arrive in this city?

Assignment #2:
Recall the worst person you?ve ever met (a back-stabbing friend; a malicious boss; a playground bully). Or make someone up.
Assign one redeeming quality to this character (i.e. courtesy, sympathy, a fondness for animals).
Then write a passage with this person in action. Goal? To create a fully dimensional villain.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type
Open Educational Resource (OER)

Author
Sybil Priebe

Title
Write or Left: An OER Textbook for Creative Writing Courses

Publisher
2020

Material Type
Textbook

Author
Burroway, Janet

Title
Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft

Edition/Version
10th

Publisher
UChicago Press

Year
2019

Material Type
Textbook

Author
Charters, Ann

Title
The Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction

Edition/Version
10th

Publisher
Bedford/St. Martin's

Year
2018

Course Codes (Admin Only)

ASSIST Update
No

CB00 State ID
CCC000652211

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status
N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status
Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status
N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category
Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status
Not Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass
Yes

Only Pass/No Pass
No