



Thursday, January 12, 2012

General Education and I-Series Course Submission and Review

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ENGL272 Writing Fiction: A Beginning Workshop

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General Information

Title	Writing Fiction: A Beginning Workshop
Course Number	ENGL272
College	ARHU - Arts and Humanities
Department	English
Submitted By	Thomas Colborn Moser Jr

CORE Information

CORE Fundamental Studies	No
CORE Distributive/Advanced Studies	No
CORE Diversity	No

General Education Information

Fundamental Studies	None
Distributive Studies	Scholarship in Practice

Diversity None

Course Questions

General Questions

Please give a brief description of the course:

Devoted to the fundamentals of fiction writing, this course will focus on student work while emphasizing the critical reading of appropriate literary models, both historical and contemporary that demonstrate exemplary technique. In-class workshop critiques, exercises, written comments, and individual conferences are part of a creative process in writing successful fiction. Craftsmanship (story structure, point of view, character development, voice, tense, figurative language, dramatic setting, dialog) and the ethics of writing fiction are presented as defining aspects of good work. Continual reference is made to modeling, drafting, and revising, in connection to critical reading. How and what do we learn from failed attempts? How do we break down the process into steps that we can take towards writing successful fiction?

Please list any pre- or co-requisites for this course:

None

If there are pre- or co-requisites, please justify them with respect to their appropriateness for a General Education course:

N/A

Please list any restrictions (e.g. majors only) placed on this course:

None

What is the approximate course size (students/academic year)?

120

Please describe how student learning will be assessed (i.e. exams, homework, papers, group projects, etc.):

Class Participation: 20% Exercises, WH&N Reactions: 20% Author Project: 15% Submissions, Workshop Letters: 20% Final Portfolio: 25%

Comments on the course that you feel may be useful for the review process. Also, if this is an existing course that you are planning on making changes to via VPAC (i.e. changing the title), please list those proposed

changes here:

This is a significantly revised version of our long-standing Creative Writing Workshop ENGL296: "Beginning Fiction Workshop," which we hope will satisfy the letter and the spirit of the new General Education Scholarship in Practice category and better serve the needs of our new Creative Writing minor.

Scholarship in Practice**Describe the body of scholarship that will be put into practice:**

The study of the methods used in the composition of stories.

Describe how this body of scholarship will be applied:

Through the composition of original stories.

Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are phrased as "*At the completion of this course, students will be able to...*". Answers are expected to demonstrate how the course will (1) give students the ability to meet the learning objective and (2) determine that students were successful in meeting the learning objective.

Learning outcomes in **this color** are **REQUIRED**

Scholarship in Practice

Courses in Scholarship in Practice teach students how to assess and apply a body of knowledge to a creative, scholarly, or practical purpose. The resulting application should reflect an understanding of how underlying core disciplines can be brought to bear on the subject. It should go beyond the traditional survey and interpretation that culminate in, for example, a final research paper or activity often used in courses that are designed to be introductions to a specific topic or area of study.

While Scholarship in Practice courses will be evaluated for appropriateness through the learning outcomes listed below, essentially every college on this campus has relevance to this area of Distributive Studies. Examples include (but are not limited to) the following: courses in Business that focus on the design of productive systems and enterprises, drawing upon knowledge from economics, psychology, mathematics, and other disciplines; courses in Engineering that require students to design environments, technologies, and systems by applying knowledge from the natural sciences and mathematics; courses in Education, Journalism and Architecture that provide students with an opportunity to engage in well defined professional

practices; courses in Studio Art, Music Performance, Dance, etc., that introduce students to creative skills and performance arts; applied proficiency in a foreign language; extensive research experiences; and internships.

Must address **at least 4** of the following Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be able to...

...demonstrate an ability to select, critically evaluate, and apply relevant areas of scholarship.

In the ENGL 272 workshop, students practice selecting, evaluating, and applying foundational aesthetic and critical concepts relevant to creating writing. In addition to ongoing in-class workshop participation, for which students are graded, students also formally critique each other's creative work in written response to every draft submitted to the workshop; these comments are read selectively by the instructor to insure adequate and appropriate student participation. Students also write formally about exemplary creative works presented to them for study. Emphasis is placed on the practice of selecting, evaluating, and applying what they learn through intensive critical reading to the drafting and revision of their own creative work.

...articulate the processes required to bring about a successful outcome from planning, modeling, and preparing, to critiquing, revising and perfecting.

In the ENGL 272 workshop, students practice planning, modeling, and preparing their creative drafts to critiquing, revising, and perfecting them. This is the heart and soul of the creative writing workshop, and defines 98% of the work therein. The final grade for the workshop is determined by the instructor's evaluation of how well students demonstrate an ability to model exemplary works, in the planning of their own creative drafts; of their ability to critique constructively each others work as preparation for revising their own; of their ability to revise their creative drafts towards an idea of perfecting them.

...demonstrate an ability to critique existing applications of scholarship, in order to learn from past successes and failures.

Learning from past successes and failures is the heart & soul of the creative writing workshop, and defines 98% of the work therein. Such successes and failures belong not only to students, but also to the great writers they study. An ability to apprehend strengths and weaknesses in their own work is sharpened by their practice reading critically the work of published authors, many of them belonging to the canon of literary masterpieces. Being able to revise in response to critical reading of their own creative drafts as well as exemplary works is the foundation of any creative writing workshop. Assessment of such learning is evident in the creative drafts themselves, which constitutes the primary material for evaluation.

...demonstrate an ability to collaborate in order to bring about a successful outcome.

Collaborating in order to bring about successful outcomes is the heart & soul of the creative writing workshop, and defines 98% of the work therein. The creative workshop is an institutional setting for externalizing the creative process. Participation in the workshop is graded, and it demands collaborative critical work. The objective of such collaboration is the revising of creative drafts towards more perfect states. Collaboration often takes the form of small group exercises in composition, lead and monitored by the instructor.

...recognize how an application of scholarship affects or is affected by political, social, cultural, economic or ethical dimensions.

...produce an original analysis, project, creative work, performance or other scholarly work that reflects a body of knowledge relevant to the course.

Producing new creative work is the heart and soul of the creative writing workshop, and defines 98% of the work therein. The success of any creative writing workshop is measured by the degree to which students have improved in the writing of their creative drafts. Students study, evaluate, critique, model, plan, practice, and revise new creative work. That is THE work of the creative writing workshop. Much of the final grade depends on how well students have demonstrated their ability to carry out this work.

...effectively communicate the application of scholarship through ancillary material (written, oral, visual and/or all modes combined).

Course Syllabus

View the course syllabus [here](#).

Note: Your browser may download the syllabus, in which case you will have to open it in a separate program, i.e. Adobe Acrobat or Micro\$oft Word, in order to view it.

Another Note: Some people are uploading Word .docx files (newer Word format). If your computer doesn't have a fairly recent version of Word installed (2007 or later), your computer won't know what to do with a .docx file and may try to open it as a "zip" file. You will have to either upgrade your version of Word, or install Micro\$oft's Compatibility Pack to allow earlier versions of Word to open the file.

Review and Sign-Off : Completed!

Submission Log

Departmental Review

College Review

Faculty Board: Scholarship in Practice