

CRW1101—BEGINNING FICTION WRITING
(Sec. 1650) Fall 2017

Instructor: Kevin Mulligan

Meeting time & Location: Fridays 12:50pm - 3:50pm, Rinker Hall 220

Office hours: Pascal's Fridays 12pm-12:30pm or by appointment

Course website: Canvas

Instructor email: kevinomulligan@ufl.edu

Required Texts:

Jerome Stern, *Making Shapely Fiction*

Course packet

Course Description:

This course will provide a survey of ways of writing fiction. Through the close-reading and discussion of these texts, we will better understand how fiction works. Additionally, by trying our hand at some fiction of our own, as well as workshopping that of our classmates, we will better understand how to make fiction work.

(This is a General Education course providing student learning outcomes listed in the Undergraduate Catalog. For more information, see <http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-education-requirement.aspx#learning>.)

General Education Objectives:

- This course confers General Education credit for Composition (C), and also fulfills 6,000 of the university's 24,000-word writing requirement (WR).
- *Composition courses* provide instruction in the methods and conventions of standard written English (grammar, punctuation, usage), as well as the techniques that produce effective texts. Composition courses are writing intensive. They require multiple drafts submitted to your instructor for feedback before final submission.
- Course content should include multiple forms of effective writing, different writing styles, approaches and formats, and methods to adapt writing to different audiences, purposes and contexts. Students should learn to organize complex arguments in writing using thesis statements, claims and evidence, and to analyze writing for errors in logic.
- The University *Writing Requirement (WR)* ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. To receive Writing Requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course. This means that written assignments must meet minimum word requirements totaling 6000 words.

General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will be expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes in content, communication and critical thinking:

- Content: Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories and methodologies used within the academic discipline.
- Communication: Students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline. Students will participate in class discussions throughout the semester to reflect on assigned readings.
- Critical Thinking: Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems.

Writing Assignments:

Students are required to complete **8 three-page (750 words)** critical essays. These must be printed-out and with you in class the day they are due. There are 11 critical response opportunities. Students are allowed one revision.

Students are required to hand in one story to be workshopped. This story must be no less than 3 pages and no more than 12, and **must be submitted the week before its workshop**. This story will be revised and the **revision is due the last day of class, December 6th**.

Students will also be asked to complete writing exercises in class.

Rubric:

1. Class Participation (includes workshop comments, in-class writing, etc.) — 250 points
2. Critical Responses — 300 points
3. Story — 150 points
4. Story Revision — 300 points

Total — 1,000 points

Critical Responses — these will be graded according to clarity, concision, and use of evidence to support your argument.

Story — these will be graded according to how they utilize the techniques and avoid the mistakes that we will have discussed in the first half of the semester.

Revision — these will be graded according to the depth of the revision, as well as whether or not they make use of comments.

Attendance:

Students are allowed one unexcused absence. Each additional absence will result in 20 points off of your class participation grade. Three absences earn a failing grade.

Statement of Student Disability Services:

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information, see:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Statement on Harassment:

UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment for its students, staff, and faculty. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/sexual/>

Statement on Academic Honesty:

All students must abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Schedule

Week 1 - August 25

Epiphany story ("Aha stories," Stern pp. 40-44)

Ernest Hemmingway, "A Clean, Well-lighted Place"

James Joyce, "Araby"

Week 2 - September 1

Epiphany story II

Clarice Lispector, "The Buffalo"

Grace Paley, "Wants"

Tobias Wolff, "Bullet in the Brain"

Critical Response 1 due

Week 3 - September 8

"Facade" story (Stern pp. 5-7)

Eudora Welty, "Why I Live at the PO"

William Trevor, "A Complicated Nature"

Padgett Powell, "Mao"

Critical Response 2 due

Week 4 - September 15

"Juggling" story (Stern pp. 8-11)

William Trevor, "The Day We Got Drunk on Cake"

Denis Johnson, "Work"

Critical Response 3 due

Week 5 - September 22

Flannery O'Connor

"Greenleaf"

"A Good Man is Hard to Find"

Critical Response 4 due

Week 6 - September 29

Guy de Maupassant, "Boule de Suif"

Critical Response 5 due

First Workshop

No class October 6 - Homecoming

Week 7 - October 13

Fable

Franz Kafka, "Before the Law"

Raymond Carver, "One More Thing"

John Cheever, "Reunion"

Critical Response 6 due

Second Workshop

Week 8 - October 20

Fable II - Donald Barthelme

"I Built a City"

"The School"

"The Death of Edward Lear"

Critical Response 7 due

Third Workshop

Week 9 - October 27

Anton Chekhov

"The Student"

"Rothschild's Fiddle"

"The Lady with the Dog"

Critical Response 8 due

Fourth Workshop

Week 10 - November 3

Joy Williams

"Honored Guest"

"Summer"

"Marabou"

Critical Response 9 due

Fifth Workshop

No class November 10

Week 11 - November 17

Death

Isaac Babel, "Crossing the River Zbrucz"

Franz Kafka, "A Country Doctor"

James Salter, "Twenty Minutes"

Critical Response 10 due

Sixth Workshop

No class November 24 - Thanksgiving

Week 12 - December 1

Fragments

Leonard Michaels, "Eating Out"

Deborah Eisenberg, "Days"

Critical Response 11 due

Seventh Workshop

Revision of workshopped story due: December 6th