



Syllabus

ENG 231 Fiction Writing

General Information

Date March 3rd, 2021

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Department Humanities

Course Prefix ENG

Course Number 231

Course Title Fiction Writing

Course Information

Catalog Description Fiction Writing continues to develop students' skill in the elements of fiction, including structure, character, and plot development. Students will critique and revise their writing in workshop seminars. Students develop critical expertise and technical language to better discuss works-in-progress. Previous experience in fiction is not required, but the student is expected to be proficient in the mechanics of writing.

Credit Hours 3

Lecture Contact Hours 3

Lab Contact Hours 0

Other Contact Hours 0

Grading Scheme Letter

Prerequisites

ENG 101

Co-requisites

None

First Year Experience/Capstone Designation

This course DOES NOT satisfy the outcomes applicable for status as a FYE or Capstone.

SUNY General Education

This course is designated as satisfying a requirement in the following SUNY Gen Ed category

The Arts

FLCC Values

Institutional Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course

Vitality, Inquiry, and Perseverance

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Apply craft elements of fiction to original writing such as plot, characterization, symbolism, setting, theme, dialogue, and narrative point of view.
2. Use generative strategies to craft original fiction to be critiqued by peers and professors.
3. Revise drafts by integrating feedback from classmates and professors received through workshops, conferences, and written comments.
4. Read, explicate, and respond in writing to at least one piece of published fiction in order to analyze craft.

Outline of Topics Covered

Fiction Craft Elements

Point of View: the effect and purpose of narrative perspective

Plot: conflict, climax, resolution, and denouement

Characterization: motivation, dialogue, physical description, and psychology

Dialogue: natural speech, elision, tone

Setting: detail and relationship to theme, characterization, and plot

Theme: the guiding meaning(s) of the story

Symbolism: how specific images and objects reveal the theme, motif, and characterization

Genre: primary focus on contemporary realistic fiction

Explication: to examine specific genres in order to analyze their common strategies and conventions

Reading in the Genre:

Origins and evolution of form and style through history

Examination of contemporary trends within fiction
Analysis of aesthetic choices and craft in established literature
The ways the historical moment informs thematic intent

Workshop Skills:

Identification and discussion of the various aesthetic elements practiced within the genre

Oral presentation of key observations of craft

Discussion of strategies for invention and revision beyond the drafting stage

Ethics: the privacy of people and events to which indirect reference may be made within the fiction; responsibility to the factual truth vs. creative license when complex issues can be compromised by invention, whether or not one's personal opinion or insight leads to defamation or perceived cruelty

Program Affiliation

This course is required as a core program course in the following program(s)

AA Liberal Arts and Sciences - Writing