

English 438: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP: SHORT STORY
Spring Semester, 2009
Prof. Warren J. Doody
M 2:30 - 5:00 GRPS 2: Exam Group 9
Electronic Mail: wdoody@vanguard.edu
Office Hrs.: 10:00 - 1:00 M; 10:00 - 12:00 TTH; or by
appointment.

Texts: INTERPRETER OF MALADIES, Lahiri, Jhumpa

RON CARLSON WRITES A STORY, Carlson, Ron

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course will build on English 350: Creative Writing, specifically with regard to short story writing. Students will develop and apply a critical vocabulary through in-class discussion and critique. Students will create three original short stories by the end of the semester, and, following workshop feedback, these stories are expected to be substantially revised before being turned in.

COURSE PROCEDURE: Although this course is primarily a workshop, some attention will be paid to a review of key fundamentals, as well as the dissection of published works in the first few weeks of the semester. Following this introductory period, the class will move into workshop mode, with students systematically bringing drafts to class for peer review. Students will also present a review of two literary journals or magazines that accept original works for possible publication, and they will then submit a work of their own to a journals or magazine of their choice. Finally, students will participate in a public reading at the end of the semester.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. SHORT STORIES - Each student is expected to create three original short stories by the end of the semester. These stories will vary in their approach: one is open, one is dependent on Ron Carlson's principles, and one is a piece of flash fiction. Each student is expected to revise their three works based on in-class feedback.
2. CRITIQUES - Each student will be responsible for a one page written critique of each story presented in class.

3. SUBMISSION REPORT & SUBMISSION - Each student will be responsible for a ten-minute presentation of two literary journals or magazines that accept original works for possible publication. Each student will then submit a work of their own to two publications of their choice.
4. PUBLIC READING - The course will finish with a public reading in which each student will read their original flash fiction piece.

ATTENDANCE: The absence policy will be that of VU: there are no excused/unexcused absences. Students may miss up to 20% of the class meetings, (3 absences for a course meeting once a week), after which the student is automatically dropped from the course.

PLAGIARISM: Do not attempt to pass off someone else's work as your own. This is an extremely serious offence that will result in an automatic failing grade for the class.

GRADING: Your grade will be determined by the following:

Short story #1	10%
Short story #1 Revision	10%
Short story #2	10%
Short story #2 Revision	10%
Short story #3	10%
Short story #3 Revision	10%
Critiques	10%
Submission Report	10%
Submission	10%
Public Reading	5%
Participation/Attendance	5%

Assignments will drop half a letter grade for each day late. Exceptions will be made for documented emergencies only. Printer and computer breakdowns will not be accepted as an excuse for tardy assignments.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: The following should serve as a map for our journey together rather than a contract.

Week 1: 1/12 - Introduction to course

Week 2: 1/19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - no class

Week 3: 1/26 - Review of short story fundamentals & Lahiri;
Set up rotation.

Week 4: 2/2 - Short story #1 due: workshop;
Critiques due

Week 5: 2/9 - Continue story #1 workshop;
Critiques due

Week 6: 2/16 - President's Holiday - no class

Week 7: 2/23 - Complete story #1 workshop;
Critiques due

Week 8: 3/2 - "Ron Carlson Writes a Story";
Discussion of story #2;
Revisions of story #1 due

Week 9: 3/9 - Short Story #2 due: workshop;
Critiques due;
Revisions of story #1 due

Spring Break: 3/16 - 3/20

Week 10: 3/23 - Continue story #2 workshop;
Critiques due;
Revisions of story # 1 due

Week 11: 3/30 - Complete story #2 workshop;
Critiques due;
Discussion of Flash Fiction

Week 12: 4/6 - Short Story #3/flash fiction due: workshop;
Critiques due;
Revisions of story #2 due

Week 13: 4/13 - Continue story #3/flash fiction workshop;
Critiques due;
Revisions of story #2 due

Week 14: 4/20 - Complete story #3/flash fiction workshop;
Critiques due;
Revisions of story #2 due

Week 15: 4/27 - Individual reports on submission options.

FINAL EXAMINATION: Monday, May 4 @ 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC READING

Due: Revision of story #3.

Due: Submission.