

**CRW2100—FICTION WRITING**  
**Class # 11988 (Sec. 2333) Fall 2018**

**Instructor:** Kevin Mulligan

**Meeting time & Location:** Thurs., 4:05-7:05pm, FLI 0113

**Office hours:** Turlington, room 4317, Thurs., 3-4pm or by appointment

**Course website:** Canvas

**Instructor email:** kevinomulligan@ufl.edu

**Required Texts:**

*How Fiction Works*, James Wood  
Readings on Canvas

**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.

**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 **6 four-page (1,000 words)** critical essays. These must be submitted to Canvas by midnight the night before class. 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 10, and **must be printed-out and submitted the week before its workshop (stories may not be emailed to the class)**. This story will be revised and the **revision is due December 8th**.

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

1. Class Participation (includes workshop comments, in-class writing, etc.) — 250 points
2. Critical Responses — 400 points
3. Story — 150 points
4. Story Revision — 200 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 formatting, grammar, and the depth of the revision, as well as whether or not they make use of comments.

### **Course Policies**

#### **Attendance:**

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

Arriving late twice = one absence.

**Late Assignments:**

Grade is lowered 10 points each day late. Stories not submitted in time must be handed in the next week, and its grade will be dropped 30 points.

**Paper Maintenance Responsibilities:**

Keep duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course. Save all returned, graded work until the semester is over.

**Grade Appeals:**

In 1000- and 2000-level courses, students may appeal a final grade by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, Program Assistant, in the Department office (4008 TUR). Grade appeals may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade.

**Course Evaluations:**

Toward the end of the semester, you will receive email messages asking you to go online and evaluate this course: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx>

**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 23:

Epiphanies

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

### **Week 2** August 30:

Epiphanies II

James Joyce, "Araby"

Anton Chekhov, "The Student"

Edgar Allan Poe, "The Man of the Crowd"

### **Week 3** September 6th

Flannery O'Connor

"Greenleaf"

"A Good Man is Hard to Find"

**Paper one due (Epiphanies)**

### **Week 4** September 13th

Herman Melville, "Bartleby, The Scrivener"

Charles Baxter, "Against Epiphanies" (essay)

### **Week 5** September 20th

Voice

Eudora Welty, "Why I Live at the PO"

Grace Paley, "An Interest in Life"

Padgett Powell, "Mao"

**Paper two due (Bartleby / Against Epiphanies)**

### **Week 6** September 27th

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

Denis Johnson, "Emergency"

### **Week 7** October 4th

Fable

Franz Kafka, "Before the Law"

Raymond Carver, "One More Thing"  
John Cheever, "Reunion"  
**Paper three due (Voice)**

**Week 8** October 11th  
Fable II - Donald Barthelme  
"I Bought a Little City"  
"The School"  
"The Death of Edward Lear"  
Charles Baxter, "The Donald Barthelme Blues" (essay)

**Week 9** October 18th  
Anton Chekhov  
"The Kiss"  
"Rothschild's Fiddle"  
"The Lady with the Little Dog"  
James Wood, *How Fiction Works* (selections)  
Donald Rayfield, *Chekhov: The Evolution of His Art* (selection)  
**Paper four due (Fables)**

**Week 10** October 25th  
Joy Williams  
"Honored Guest"  
"The Visiting Privilege"

**Week 11** November 1  
Jane Bowles, "Everything is Nice"  
James Salter, "Twenty Minutes"  
**Paper five due (Chekhov)**

**Week 12** November 8th  
Mary Gaitskill, "Something Nice"

**Week 13** November 15th  
Alice Munro, "The Bear Came Over the Mountain"

*No Class – November 22nd*

**Week 14** November 29th  
Fragments  
William Gass, "In the Heart of the Heart of the Country"

**Paper six due**

**Revision of workshopped story due: December 8th**