

CRW 1101, Fall 2015, Section 1649, TUR 2350, W 9-11

Beginning Fiction Writing

Instructor: Elliot Reed: elliott.w.reed@ufl.edu; Office Location & Hours:

Goals of this class:

- You will leave this course writing better than you did upon entry.
- You will leave this course reading better than you did upon entry.
- You will leave this course with an understanding of the wide variety of styles, forms, modes, methods, tricks, traps, and tropes available to the short-story writer.
- You will leave this course with some semblance of an appreciation for the historical progression of the short story as a fictional form.

Course Policies and Requirements:

Required Texts:

1. *Making Shapely Fiction* by Jerome Stern (Norton)
2. *The Art of the Story: An International Anthology of Contemporary Short Stories* edited by Daniel Halpern (Penguin)

I will furnish other texts as PDFs or handouts as needed.

Recommended Reinforcements:

Should you find you need practice in grammar or academic argumentative style, use:

1. Purdue's Online Writing Lab: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>
2. Strunk & White's *Elements of Style* handbook

General Requirements:

- This class involves some public speaking. You will be called on to read your writing.
- This class involves copious reading.
- This class involves copious writing.
 - Around 40 pages of critical writing
 - i. Part formal academic, part slightly-less-formal
 - Around 20 pages of creative writing
 - i. Part formal, part free-form
- This class involves a portfolio.

Specific Requirements Through Week Seven:

By the start of each class period, you are expected to have completed the following tasks:

1. Read one or more short stories
2. Compose a two-page critical response based on the reading
3. Compose a two-page attempt at narrative writing inspired by the reading

During each class period, you will be held accountable for your work in the following ways:

1. You will be asked to **read aloud** what you've written for class that day
2. You will be asked to complete a **quiz** based on the reading
3. You will be asked to **turn in paper copies** of the writing you did for the day

Specific Requirements, Weeks 7-14:

For each class period, you will have completed the following tasks:

1. Read four short stories written by your peers
2. Compose four one-page letters of constructive criticism in response to each of the stories written by your peers
3. Read one or more short stories, not written by your peers, assigned by me

During each class period, you will be held accountable for your work in the following ways:

1. Discuss the story I've assigned, or be quizzed on its content, if I've assigned one
2. Constructively and maturely discuss the works created by your peers

Classroom policies and procedures:

- No cell phones or laptops. If you use them, you will be asked to leave the class and you will be marked absent.
- Attendance is required.
 - For each unexcused absence in excess of two, 5% will be deducted from the your final grade.
 - A few absences due to illness or family crisis will be excused if documented to the instructor's satisfaction. Even documented absences will not be excused if many or prolonged. Students participating in a university-sponsored event (athletics, theater, music, field trip) will be excused if there is documentation from an appropriate authority. Students excused from an absence are not excused from the work assigned for a class session; the work must still be submitted on-time, usually, in the case of illness, electronically.
- Late papers are not accepted.
- There are certain topics which you will not write about in this class. I will apprise you of these forbidden topics on day one.
- Assignments must be typed and printed or hand-written in legible (black or blue) pen or #2 pencil. However you choose to compose them, you must bring your assignments to class and have them on my desk within 5 minutes of the start of class time in order to receive any credit.

TENTATIVE GRADING BREAKDOWN - 1000 POINTS TOTAL

Evaluated Item (# of item x worth of points)	Total Points
Reading quizzes (10x10 pts)	100
Metacognitive (1 x 50 pts)	50
Two-page critical response papers (6 x 25 pts)	150
Two-page narrative experimentation papers (6 x 25 pts)	150
Two to four-page short stories (2 x 100 pts)	200
One-page critical response letters (30 x 10 pts)	300
Revision of own short story (1 x 50 pts)	50
Total Points	1000

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Date	Assignments Due	Reading Assignments Made
8/26		J. Barth: <i>Lost in the Funhouse</i> Mary Robison: <i>Yours</i> Stern: TBA
9/2	2 pg. critical response, 2 pg. narrative attempt	Lydia Davis: <i>The House Behind</i> Victor Pelevin: <i>The Life & Adventures of Shed #XII</i> Stern: TBA
9/9	2 pg. critical response, 2 pg. narrative attempt	Banana Yoshimoto: <i>Helix</i> Jennifer Egan: <i>Black Box</i> Stern: TBA
9/16	2 pg. critical response, 2 pg. narrative attempt	Margaret Atwood: Stern: TBA
9/23	2 pg. critical response, 2 pg. narrative attempt	Anthology: TBA Stern: TBA
9/30	2 pg. critical response, 2 pg. narrative attempt	Anthology: TBA Stern: TBA
10/7	2 pg. critical response, 2 pg. narrative attempt, 4 pg story (4x)	4x4pg Stories Anthology: TBA Stern: TBA
10/14	4 pg story (4x), 4 pages of critical response	4x4pg Stories Anthology: TBA Stern: TBA
10/21	4 pg story (4x), 4 pages of critical response	4x4pg Stories Anthology: TBA Stern: TBA

10/28	4 pg story (4x), 4 pages of critical response	4x4pg Stories Anthology: TBA Stern: TBA
11/4	4 pg story (4x), 4 pages of critical response	4x4pg Stories Anthology: TBA Stern: TBA
11/11	4 pg story (4x), 4 pages of critical response	4x4pg Stories Anthology: TBA Stern: TBA
11/18	4 pg story (4x), 4 pages of critical response	4x4pg Stories Anthology: TBA Stern: TBA
12/2	4 pg story (4x), 4 pages of critical response	4x4pg Stories Anthology: TBA Stern: TBA
12/9	4 pg story (4x), 4 pages of critical response	

Also, note the following:

- This is a General Education course providing student learning outcomes listed in the Undergraduate Catalog.
- This course can satisfy the UF General Education requirement for Composition or Humanities. For more information, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-education-requirement.asp>
- This course can provide 6000 words toward fulfillment of the UF requirement for writing. For more information, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/gordon.aspx>
- 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/>
- 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/>
- 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>
- Students may appeal a final grade by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, Program Assistant. Appealed grades may result in a higher, lower, or unchanged grade.