

CRW 1101 – Beginning Fiction Writing (Section 1650, Class 12762), Fall 2019

Instructor Name: Jackson Armstrong

Course meeting times & locations: Thursday; Period 9-11 (4:05PM – 7:05PM); MAT 0006

Office Location and Hours: Turlington 4413 - Monday and Thursday 2:30-3:30

Course website: Canvas

Instructor Email: armstrongp@ufl.edu

Course Description:

This course will provide a survey of ways of writing fiction. We will read and write, creatively and analytically, and workshop one another's work in order to better understand how fiction happens.

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.

Required Texts:

Readings available on Canvas

Recommended Texts:

On Writing by Stephen King (not required--a suggestion to own, as a person who writes)

Assignments:

Class participation: 20% (200 points)

In-class discussion of all readings is required. You will read Canvas readings at least once before class, and you will read the workshop stories of your peers at least twice before their workshops. You will write responses to your peers' work and will provide a written letter including comments and thoughts on the work—its strengths and weaknesses and the ways it might be improved.

Your completion of workshop stories and critical response assignments also counts toward class participation.

Critical responses: 60% (600 points)

Critical responses are between 500-600 words each. This is a firm word count. By the end of the semester, your accrued critical responses will account for 6,000 words of critical analyses, as required by UF. Structure and content to be strived for within these responses will be remarked upon in class. These responses will serve as a basis for your in-class discussion (viz, you may plan what you'd like to say aloud), will show you've read the material—but will not contain summary or synopsis—and will demonstrate engagement and analytical practice or ability.

Two of the critical response assignments listed will vary in their format/content from the others and will effectively be different assignments, but will keep the word count, to stay at 6,000 (12*500).

Critical responses will be uploaded to Canvas. Please upload only .doc, .docx or .pdf files.

Workshop stories: 20% (200 points)

For this course you will also write one (1) short story and perform upon it one (1) revision. When your story is due, it is due, and you must be present for its workshopping. You will know your workshop date far ahead of schedule. As part of this assignment, your workshop submission **must be submitted as a hard copy**. Be sure to make enough copies for your peers and instructor. The story is due one week ahead of your actual workshop date, so that the class may take the time to read the story and make comments and write your letters. This is to say: your workshop submission is due one week from the date of your workshop, and not on the date of your workshop itself.

For the revision, you will use the feedback you find useful from your peers and your instructor, and truly revise your work with those comments and thoughts in mind. A revision in this instance is not just correcting typos or moving paragraphs around, but involves changing the story in some significant way.

Your revision submission will be uploaded to Canvas.

Revisions are due before December 5th!

Course Policies:

You must complete all assignments to receive credit for this course.

Attendance: You are required to come to class. You are allowed one unexcused absence of any kind. Excused absences must be properly excused, via the proper means. If you know your excused absences ahead of time—such as university events—you must tell me when you know, not after the fact. Three instances of tardiness = one unexcused absence. **You cannot miss your workshop day. Three unexcused absences is automatic failure.**

UF's policy on Sexual Harassment: The University of Florida is committed to providing a safe educational, working, and residential environment that is free from sexual harassment or misconduct directed towards any and all members of the community:

<https://titleix.ufl.edu/policy-statement/>

Paper Format & Submission: hardcopy submissions (workshop stories); enough copies for all members of the workshop; MLA format—that is: double spaced; 12 point font (Times New Roman, Calibri, Cambria, or default font of word processor program); pages numbered in the upper-right corner; an MLA header and a title for your submission—critical responses may be titled “Critical Response 1” and so forth, but workshop stories may not be titled “Workshop Story.”

Late Papers/Assignments: Critical responses for a class missed can be emailed to me up to one week after the said missed class period (this does not apply to classes not missed); workshop stories cannot be missed.

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

Academic Honesty and Definition of Plagiarism: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: 'On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.'" The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

Student Honor Code: A Student must not represent as the Student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- a. Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
- b. Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
- c. Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
- d. Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author.

Students with disabilities who are requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/), which will provide appropriate documentation to give your instructor early in the semester.

Students who are in distress or who are in need of counseling or urgent help: please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to you. UF's Counseling and Wellness Center offers additional support: 352-392-1575, or contact them online: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

For information on UF Grading policies, see:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

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. Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations. Toward the end of the semester, you will receive email messages requesting that you do this online: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx>

Technology policy: This is complicated and merits discussion at the start of the semester.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Class	Read/Do for next week
1	22 Aug	Introduction Syllabus Workshop procedure	For 29 Aug: Read: "Marabou" by Joy Williams "Bridge" by Daniel J O'Malley Do CR (critical response) 1
2	29	Discussion / in-class assignments	For 5 Sept: Read: "What We Talk About When We Talk About Love" by Raymond Carver Take a look at, and do a quick read of, "Beginners (edited)" by Carver (edits by Gordon Lish) Do CR 2
3	5 Sept	Discussion / in-class assignments	For 12 Sept: Read: "Malibu" by Ottessa Moshfegh "Dead Dog" by Sarah Edwards Do CR 3
4	12	Discussion / in-class assignments	For 19 Sept: Read: "The Size of Things" by Samanta Schweblin "Pee on Water" by Rachel B Glaser

			Do CR 4
5	19	Discussion / in-class assignments	For 26 Sept: Read: "The Other Place" by Mary Gaitskill "Lawns" by Mona Simpson Do CR 5
6	26	Discussion / in-class assignments Workshop 1	For 3 Oct: Read: "The Bears" by Sarah Shun-Lien Bynum "Most Die Young" by Camille Bordas Do CR 6
7	3 Oct	Discussion / in-class assignments Workshop 2	For 10 Oct: Read: "Notes from the Fog" by Ben Marcus "The Hanging of the Schoolmarm" by Robert Coover Do CR 7
8	10	Discussion / in-class assignments Workshop 3	For 17 Oct: Read: "Why Don't You Dance?" by Raymond Carver "The Bog Girl" by Karen Russell Do CR 8
9	17	Discussion / in-class assignments Workshop 4	For 24 Oct: Read: "Bettering Myself" by Ottessa Moshfegh "Puppy, with Child" by Daniel J O'Malley Do CR 9

10	24	Discussion / in-class assignments Workshop 5	For 31 Oct: Read: "Iconographic Conventions of Pre- and Early Renaissance: Italian Representations of the Flagellation of Christ" by Rachel B Glaser "No Place for Good People" by Ottessa Moshfegh Do CR 10
11	31	Discussion / in-class assignments Workshop 6	For 7 Nov: Read: "The Retreat" by Joy Williams "Ava Wrestles the Alligator" by Karen Russell Do CR 11
12	7 Nov	Discussion / in-class assignments Workshop 7	For 14 Nov: Read: "Territory" by David Leavitt "Mouthful of Birds" by Samanta Schweblin Do CR 12
13	14	Discussion / in-class assignments Workshop 8	For 28 Nov: Read: "Wagner in the Desert" by Greg Jackson "The Swimmer" by John Cheever
14	21	Thanksgiving	N/A
15	28	Discussion / in-class assignments Revisions (due before December 5th)	N/A
16	5 Dec	N/A	N/A

Rubric of Evaluation for Critical Responses:

A: Contains extended analysis of the texts and develops original, sophisticated ideas, and is well-written.

B: Contains extended analysis of the texts and develops original, sophisticated ideas.

C: Contains some analysis of the texts and develops some original ideas about them.

D: Contains minimal analysis of the texts.

E: Lacks analysis of the text, and therefore fails to demonstrate reading and/or comprehension.

This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor at any point in time.