

CRW 3110 – Advanced Seminar in Fiction Writing (Section 2A79, Class #12334), Fall 2021

Instructor Name: Cassie Fancher

Course meeting times & locations: Wednesdays 4:05 PM – 7:05 PM, Matherly 0005

Office Location and Hours: Wednesdays 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM or by appointment, location TBD

Course website: Canvas

Instructor Email: cassiefancher@ufl.edu

*“How can I know what I mean until I see what I say?”
—Anonymous old woman, quoted by E. M. Forster and Flannery O’Connor*

Course Requirements

Writing:

Over the course of the semester, you will be asked to submit two stories for workshop. Each story should be between 1,500-5,000 words, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, in 12-point Times or Times New Roman font. All stories should include your name, a title, and page numbers. You will submit your story on Canvas one week prior to your workshop date. I will then email the story to the class. I strongly encourage printing out classmates’ workshop stories to read as hard copies. You will sign up for workshop times on the first day of class and I will subsequently email you a schedule with the due dates for both of your stories. Turning in your workshop stories on time is essential for passing this course. See the Grading section below for more specific criteria.

Revision:

On the last day of class, you will turn in a revised version of one of the stories you submitted for workshop. See the Grading section below for more specific criteria.

Critiquing:

We will dedicate the majority of our class time to critiquing each other’s work. Most weeks, you will read and respond to two or three of your classmates’ stories. You will receive these stories via email one week before they are to be discussed. You must read each story twice. On the second read, make notes in the margins. Then, write a deeply considered 250-word letter addressed to the author of the story. In the letter, describe what you think is working in the story and why. Ask questions about places where you were confused or felt you needed more information. Point out places where you think scenes, pages, or paragraphs can be cut. It is important that these letters be respectful. It is also important that these letters provide honest, helpful feedback. In critiquing the work of others, think about how you would like your own work to be critiqued. Be sure to consider the story that your classmate is trying to tell, the audience they are writing for, and the voice they are developing. In your comments, respond to the story as it has been written, rather than to the story as you might have written it yourself.

Submit your 250-word letter on Canvas by 4pm on the day of the workshop. After class, I will forward these letters to the workshopped writer in a single email. You should arrive in

class prepared to discuss your classmates' work. See the Grading section below for more specific criteria.

Meetings:

Sometime in the week following your workshop, you will schedule a one-on-one meeting with me to discuss your workshopped story. Scheduling these meetings is your responsibility and you will not receive reminders.

In-Class Exercises:

Sometimes we will do informal, generative in-class writing exercises, which you may or may not be asked to share.

Discussions:

On alternating weeks, we will read and discuss published short stories. Like workshop stories, you should read published stories twice—first for pleasure, second for critical analysis. On the days that we are to discuss published short stories, you should arrive with at least two discussion questions prepared. You will not be asked to submit these discussion questions, but you will be asked to share your questions with the class during discussion. See the Grading section below for more specific criteria.

Required Texts:

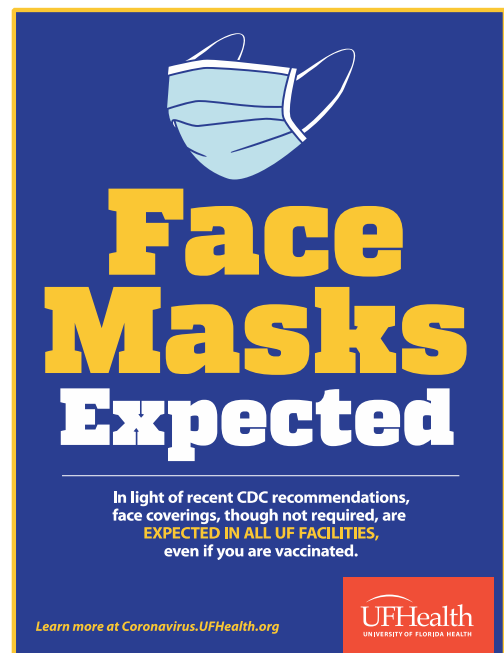
I will email you all of the assigned readings by the end of add/drop period.

Additional Information

COVID-19 Statement:

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an



appointment: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.

- You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing.
 - Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.
 - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
 - If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

In addition to exposure and quarantine, if you as an individual have any COVID-related hardships which may obstruct your performance in this class, please communicate with me as well as making use of all UF resources available to you. We can then assemble a plan to help you complete the class and fulfill all requirements in the way most beneficial for you.

You can find additional COVID resources for college students, including current data, recommended safety precautions, guides to shared housing, and suggestions for coping with stress here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/>

Attendance/Punctuality:

You will be allowed one absence for the semester. Barring extreme circumstances, you will automatically fail the course if you miss more than one class. If you are more than twenty minutes late to class, you will be marked absent. Exemptions from this policy include absences due to university-sponsored events, such as athletics and band, religious holidays, quarantine, illness, or serious family emergencies. You can review the entire university policy here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Academic Honesty and Definition of Plagiarism:

Plagiarism violates the Student Honor Code and requires reporting to the Dean of Students. All students must abide by the Student Honor Code: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>.

Student Disability Services:

Students with disabilities who are requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>), which will provide appropriate documentation to give me early in the semester. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or participating, I also encourage you to let me know as soon as possible. Your success in this class is important to me and I would like to work together to make sure that all students have their learning needs met in this course.

UF Grading Policies:

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

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>

Grade Appeals:

In 3000- and 4000-level courses, students may appeal a final grade by filling out a form available from Dr. Kenneth Kidd, the department’s undergraduate advisor. Grade appeals may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade.

UF Writing Studio:

The University of Florida Writing Center is an excellent resource for improving reading comprehension and writing skills. For more information, see: <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

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: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/about/title-ix-rights/>

Course Schedule

(subject to change—I will let you know of any changes at least two weeks in advance)

| Week | Date | Read/View for Class |
|-------------|-------------|--|
| 1 | 8.25 | Syllabus & Introductions |
| 2 | 9.1 | Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Donald Barthelme, “The School”• George Saunders, “The Perfect Gerbil” Workshop: |

| | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 3 | 9.8 | Workshop: |
| 4 | 9.15 | Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leo Tolstoy, “The Death of Ivan Ilych” Workshop: |
| 5 | 9.22 | Workshop: |
| 6 | 9.29 | Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raymond Carver, “Bicycles, Muscles, Cigarettes” • Jenny Zhang, “We Love You Crispina” Workshop: |
| 7 | 10.6 | Workshop: |
| 8 | 10.13 | Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesley Nneka Arimah, “Who Will Greet You at Home” • Tobias Wolff, “Bullet in the Brain” • Chinelo Okparanta, “On Ohaeto Street” Workshop: |
| 9 | 10.20 | Workshop: |
| 10 | 10.27 | Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lorrie Moore, “People Like That Are the Only People Here: Canonical Babbling in Peed Onk” Workshop: |
| 11 | 11.3 | Workshop: |
| 12 | 11.10 | Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denis Johnson, “The Starlight on Idaho” • Yiyun Li, “All Will Be Well” Workshop: |
| 13 | 11.17 | Workshop: |
| 14 | 11.24 | NO CLASS—HOLIDAY |
| 15 | 12.1 | Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmen Maria Machado, “Real Women Have Bodies” • Danielle Evans, “Someone Ought to Tell Her There’s Nowhere to Go” • Alejandro Zambra, translated by Megan McDowell, “Reading Comprehension: Text No. 1” |
| 16 | 12.8 | Last Day—Revisions Due |

Grading Scale:

A: 94-100; A-: 90-93
B+: 87-89; B: 84-86; B-: 80-83
C+: 77-79; C: 73-76; C-: 70-72
D+: 67-69; D: 63-66; D-: 60-62
E: 0-59

Grading:

There are three components to your final grade: writing, revision, and participation.

- Writing (30%): The writing component of your grade refers to the two stories that you will submit over the course of the workshop. For each workshop session, I will provide line edits and feedback letters. These comments are intended to help you improve your work but should not be interpreted as feedback related to your grade. Your grade will reflect the timeliness of your submission, adherence to formatting guidelines, and a clear demonstration of effort. I expect story submissions to be highly polished first drafts, meaning that there is still work to be done on the story but that the writer has already taken the story as far as they can on their own.
- Revision (30%): At the end of the semester, you will submit a revision of one of the stories that you submitted during the semester. To succeed in your revision, you do **not** need to follow all of the feedback that you received in workshop, either from your classmates or from me. Your grade will reflect a serious reconsideration of your story and willingness to take thoughtful risks. I am looking to see serious creative changes in your work, above and beyond minor word changes or deleting a paragraph or two. The depth of your revision will be primarily demonstrated on the page but will also be demonstrated in your post-workshop one-on-one meetings with me and your ability to discuss your own ideas for your work.
- Participation (40%): Participation in this course includes both your written and oral contributions to discussions and workshops. In response to each of your classmates' stories, you will submit a minimum 250-word feedback letter. Grades for feedback letters will reflect timely submission, appropriate minimum length, depth of thought, and considerate tone. Unsubstantiated opinions (I like/don't like, I relate/don't relate) will result in a lower grade, as will any instances of disrespectful feedback. Your letters should always contain a balance of praise and critique. We will spend the first day of class discussing appropriate feedback and establishing classroom norms. Your overall participation grade will also reflect your oral participation in workshop. I expect everyone to comment on every story. Finally, your participation grade will reflect our in-class discussions of published stories. Again, I expect every student to comment on every story. Comments should reflect a deep engagement with the text and a willingness to critique, praise, question, and debate. I will ask you to show up to each discussion of published short stories with two prepared discussion questions for the class and I may call on you to share these questions at any time.