

CRW 1101 - Beginning Fiction Writing (Section 1649, Class #12272), Fall 2021

Instructor Name: Ara Hagopian

Course meeting times & locations: Fridays, periods 6-8 (12:50- 3:50 PM), Room TBD

Office Location and Hours: Fridays 11:50-12:50, 3:50-4:50 PM, other times available by appointment

Course website: Canvas

Instructor Email: ahagopian@ufl.edu

Course Description:

This is an intro-level course in fiction writing. The primary goal of this course is to get you familiar with the “workshop” class structure, which is how writing classes are generally organized in higher education. The first half of the semester will be readings and exercises designed to prepare us for workshopping each other’s stories, which we’ll do in the second half of the semester.

This is supposed to be a fun class. Above all, try and be creative. We get so few opportunities to be creative in our lives- don’t waste this one.

COVID Statement:

- 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. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.

- o 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.

- o Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.

- If you 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.

- o 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.

- o 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.

I am aware of the fact that COVID-19 continues to impact our daily lives. Thus, if you are experiencing any hardships because of the virus, please contact me as soon as possible so that we may make any necessary arrangements contingent on your circumstances.

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.
- Course content includes 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.

Course Policies:

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

1. *Attendance:* Come to class. If there's a reason why you can't come, please tell me. Barring extenuating circumstances, your grade will be lowered if you're absent more than twice.
2. *Tardiness:* Don't be tardy.
3. *Participation:* Please Participate
4. *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/about/title-ix-rights/>
5. *Paper Format & Submission:* Primarily through email.
6. *Late Papers/Assignments:* I'm willing to be flexible, but you must contact me for an extension. Workshop makes it very hard to be flexible, however, so try to plan ahead for that.
7. *Paper Maintenance Responsibilities.* Keep duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course. Save all returned, graded work until the semester is over.

8. *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 (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.>
Plagiarism as defined by the UF 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.>
9. 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 your instructor early in the semester.
10. *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/>
11. For information on UF Grading policies, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>
12. *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). Please contact Ms. Blount at cblount@ufl.edu Grade appeals may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade.
13. *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://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>

Grading:

Individual assignments will not have letter grades on them (I want you to focus more the feedback). In general, the breakdown of the course grading is as follows:

50% workshop, 30% pre-workshop activities, 10% passion presentation, 10% participation

An “A” comes to class, completes all assignments, participates, and puts effort into his/her writing. The thing I’m looking for most is improvement throughout the semester.

A “B” is a little less consistent with his/her effort, doesn’t listen to feedback or improve his/her writing.

A “C” really just didn’t care about the class. I hope I won’t have to give anyone a C.

Required Texts:

Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin

Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)

Week 1: Syllabus, icebreakers, six-word stories, *The School* by Barthelme and *The Perfect Gerbil*

Week 2: Free write exercises, *A Good Man is Hard to Find* by O'Connor, *In a Grove* by Akutagawa, *Reunion* by John Cheever

Week 3: First half of Baldwin discussion, out-loud reading, discussion of editing

Week 4: Second half of Baldwin discussion, out-loud reading, journals

Week 5: Mini poetry unit, Emily Dickinson and Gjertrud Schnackenburg et. al, Mix-and-match sentence activity

Week 6: Getting ready for workshop, First half of the semester review

Week 7: Workshop

Week 8: Workshop

Week 9: Workshop

Week 10: Workshop

Week 11: Workshop

Week 12: Workshop

Week 13: Designated workshop overflow, End-of-Semester party