

E 325 • Creative Writing: Fiction

Instructor: Casares, O.
Unique #: 83055
Semester: Summer 1, 2010
Cross-lists: n/a

Areas: IV
Flags: Flag Name(s)
Restrictions: n/a
Computer Instruction: N

Prerequisites: Nine semester hours of coursework in English or rhetoric and writing.

Description: In this beginning fiction workshop, we will use three basic steps to develop your creative writing abilities. The first step is for you to learn how to read like a writer, being aware not only of the content, but also the mechanics behind a story—character development, narrative structure, point of view, plot, etc. Learning to identify these elements will help you understand how to make use of them in your own work. You will read at least one assigned story (either from the textbook or one of the handouts I will distribute) for most of our class meetings. For the early part of the course, you will also read various sections of the textbook dealing with the craft of fiction. You should come to class prepared for a short pop quiz over many these reading assignments. The second step is for you to learn how to critique stories within a workshop setting. By critically examining someone else's writing you will discover the strengths and weaknesses in your own stories. The idea is to develop your editing skills so that you can then further develop your own writing, in and out of this class. The final step is for you to actually write stories that apply the skills we have discussed. After each critique of your work, you should have several ideas on how to improve the original draft. Since this is a workshop, your participation in the class discussion is critical to your final grade.

Texts: *Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft* (7th Edition), Janet Burroway and Elizabeth Stuckey-French, Pearson/Longman
Various Handouts
Reference: *The Elements of Style* (4th Edition), Strunk & White

Requirements & Grading: 2 short stories (35% and 35%); class participation/quizzes/peer reviews (30%).
Grades will be based on an A-F system, including pluses and minuses.

Schedule:

6/3: Intro
6/4: Character Development; Burroway; "Who's Irish?"; "Fiesta, 1980"
6/7: Character Development; Burroway; "Everything that Rises Must Converge"; Character Sketches due
6/8: Plot/Conflict; Burroway; "This Is What it Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona"; "A Worn Path"
6/9: Plot/Conflict; "Who Is It Who Can Tell Me Who I Am?"; "Night Women"
6/10: Plot/Conflict; "The Use of Force"; Plot Sketches due
6/11: Scene/Summary; Burroway; "First Day"; "Hills Like White Elephants"
6/14: Character/Plot; Burroway; "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"; "How to Become a Writer"
6/15: Early Draft of 1st Story
6/16: Draft review and revision
6/17: Final Draft of 1st Story due
6/18: Workshop; "Tell Them Not to Kill Me!"
6/21: Workshop; "Never Marry a Mexican"
6/22: Workshop
6/23: Individual Conferences
6/24: "A Serious Talk"; TBA
6/25: "The Swimmer"
6/28: "The Things They Carried"; "Love in L.A."
6/29: "Winky"; "Orientation"
6/30: Early Draft of 2nd Story
7/1: Draft review and revision
7/2: Final Draft of 2nd Story due
7/5: Workshop; "Heijera"
7/6: Individual Conferences
7/7: Workshop
7/8: Workshop; "Bullet in the Brain"
No Final Exam

Policies:

Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Academic Integrity: Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. For additional information on Academic Integrity, see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint.php>

Documented Disability Statement: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>

Religious Holy Days: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Syllabus: The instructor may amend this syllabus depending on the number of students in the workshop and needs of the class.

Instructors: Oscar Casares
Office: Parlin 222
Office hours: MTW 1-2pm