

# COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: CRWR-154-Introduction to Fiction

CLASS SECTION: 002

TERM: 2025W

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In Person

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

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## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Kari Jones

EMAIL: jonesk@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Paul 328

HOURS: Tuesday and Wednesday 1-3

*As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.*

## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

In this course, students develop their skills in writing prose fiction, especially short stories. Students examine elements such as characterization, plot, dialogue, setting, point of view, openings and endings, and theme in the development of original stories. Students will prepare to share their work with an audience.

### PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

C+ in English 12

C in Camosun Alternative

### CO-REQUISITE(S):

### EQUIVALENCIES:

### COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

Write stories that are well-crafted.

Develop a writing process that involves generating, drafting, workshopping, revising and editing.

Create plots, settings, characters, and themes using appropriate points of view and nuanced language.

Compose a journal that informs the storywriter's process and finished work.

Read and analyze diverse published stories to identify crafting techniques.

Incorporate authentic detail to give fiction credibility.

Identify and use various resources (such as submission guidelines) available for writers in preparing work for publication.

Present their work in a professional manner.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

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All class readings will be handed out in class.

Please make sure to bring materials to write with. (Computer, tablet, or pen and paper.)

### COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

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The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Week		Topics	Readings	Assignments Due
1	Jan 6	Introductions		
	Jan 8	Intro to Fiction		
2	Jan 13	The Writing Process	<i>Shitty First Drafts</i> by Anne Lamott	
	Jan 15	Writing in scenes:	<i>indinawemaaganidog/all of my relatives</i> by Leanne Simpson	
3	Jan 20	Writing in scenes:		Journal #1 (Writing A Scene)
	Jan 22	Paying Attention to Language	<i>The Place Of Four Winds</i> by Gabriel Mara	
4	Jan 27	Paying Attention to Language		Journal #2 (Being Gorgeous )
	Jan 29	Workshop #1		
5	Feb 3	Dialogue	<i>A Cat In The Rain</i> Earnest Hemingway	Story #1 (Due Sunday night on D2L)
	Feb 5	Dialogue		
6	Feb 10	Character	Sticks by George Saunders	Journal #3 (Identifying Character)
	Feb 12	Character	"How To Build A Person" in <i>The Truth About Fiction:</i> by Steven Schoen	
7	Feb 17-21	Reading Break		
8	Feb 24	Workshop #2		Story #2 Due Sunday night on D2L
	Feb 26	Forward Moving Stories	<i>A House On The Plains</i> by E.L. Doctorow	
9	Marc h 3	Plot	<i>Nawabdin Electrician</i> by Daniyal Mueenuddin <a href="https://www.newyorker.com/podcast/fiction">https://www.newyorker.com/podcast/fiction</a>	Journal #4 (Enhancing Plot)
	Marc h 5	Plot		
10	Marc h 10	Voice	<i>The Haunting of Hajji Hotak</i> by Jamil Jan Kochai	Journal #5 (Creating Strong Voices)
	Marc h 12	Voice		
11	Marc h 17	Revising and Editing		Journal #6 (Using a new POV)
	Marc h 19	Revising and Editing		
12	Marc h 24	Enhancing Sentences		Story #3 Due Sunday night on D2L

	Marc h 26	Enhancing Sentences		
13	Marc h 31	Enhancing Sentences		Journal #7 (Exploring Genre)
	April 2	Enhancing Sentences		
14	April 7	Celebration and Readings		Journal #8 (Revised earlier story)
	April 9	Celebration and Readings		

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams). <https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

## EVALUATION OF LEARNING

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DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Journals x 6	30%
Short Stories x 3	60%
Peer Edits x 2	10%
<p>If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the <a href="#">Grade Review and Appeals</a> policy for more information.</p> <p><a href="https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf">https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf</a></p>	
	<b>TOTAL</b> 100%

## COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

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**Short Stories:** You will write 3 short stories over the term. This is what you signed up for, right? I will read and give detailed feedback on each of the stories if they are handed in on time.

Journals:

**There are six journals:** Each journal is based on one aspect of writing, so they are designed to help you explore different parts of the writers' tool box. In the past, students have used the journals as a starting point for stories they wrote both for the class and after the class is completed.

**Workshops:** Twice in the term you are going to workshop a piece of your writing. Workshopping your writing is an important step in the writing process. It's a way to get other eyes on your story and get feedback from a reader before you complete your writing. This term you will workshop two pieces of no more than 1000 words. That could be a section of one of your short stories, or something from one of your journals.

### How Instructor Feedback Works:

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Assuming that you hand your in work on time, I will read and provide detailed feedback on each of your three stories. I will do the same for your journals. Twice in the term, you can revise and resubmit an assignment within 10 days to the SAME drop box for a revised grade. Unfortunately I won't be able to give you any more feedback. (That's a workload issue, people. I am teaching 4 writing classes this term).

### Assignment Guidelines

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- For all of your assignments for this class, please keep the following in mind  
Unless otherwise noted (for example Short Story #1) in terms of genre and audience, it's wide open. As long as you are writing prose and using the conventions of fiction (dialogue, scene, etc), you can write realism, fantasy, mystery, etc. and you can write for adults or young adults or even middle grade kids.
- Please do NOT write extreme violence (NO rape scenes) or graphic sexual content.
- Please do NOT write erotica.
- Please do NOT use the names of your classmates in your stories.
- Please write on topics that are of interest to others, not just yourself. (I have read far too many drunken party stories over the years, for example).
- Please remember that we are writing fiction, so whatever you write should be a fictional account. You may write in 1st or 3rd person unless otherwise noted.
- I am always looking for fresh ideas, characters and expressions. Try to avoid clichés of thought, character and language.
- People, PLEASE get control of your grammar. A few grammatical errors sprinkled here or there are forgivable--we all make mistakes--but not understanding grammar is a different story. While it is true that grammar is a convention, and it is also true that fiction writers manipulate grammar to fit their needs, you need to have a deep understanding of grammar and how and why it works before you can manipulate it effectively. If that is you--then by all means, play around. If you are uncertain, then stick to the standards.
- While we're on the topic, please keep control of your tenses. It doesn't matter if you write in the past tense or the present, but choose one and stick to it. Having tense shifting around is very confusing.
- Please follow the formatting guidelines we discuss in class.

This course is a safe, inclusive, non-judgmental and respectful space. We draw on the work of Daniel Heath Justice, who encourages us to tell stories of complexity, hope and possibility, not stories of deficiency. This is a place of healing and of learning. This holds true for people of all races, genders, and abilities.

Complete all assignments by the deadlines. The assignments for this class are designed for you to practice the skills we are learning this term. For that reason, it is important to follow the guidelines of the assignments as closely as possible, and to give yourself enough time to work on each assignment. There are several services at Camosun College that are designed to help you succeed in your coursework, including your assignments. To give your self the best chance of succeeding in your classes, take advantage of these services:

1. The Writing Centre: for appointments of up to 30 minutes for help with assignments

2. The English Help Centre: for support in organizing yourself to write your assignments
3. WriteAway: on-line access to a librarian for help with research
4. The Student Learning Success Guides : for help with general student issues such as how to prepare for assignments and exams.

If you cannot complete the assignment on the due date, you have 1 week grace period to get it in. If you hand your paper in after the official due date, I will read it but not comment on it. After a week, I will no longer accept the assignment, unless we have made alternate arrangements. If you have questions either about the assignment or about my comments on your assignment, please come to my office hours or arrange a time to come and see me. My office is Paul 328.

If you are registered with CAL and one of your commendations is extra time, please note that you still need to negotiate that extra time with your instructors.

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the Grade Review and Appeals policy for more information.  
<https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf>

Because the goal of this class is to enhance students' ability to read and write prose, all forms of generative artificial intelligence (ChatGPT, Quillbot, etc...) are counter to your own learning and self-interest in our context. For this reason, the use of GenAI tools is prohibited for all assignments. Please note: we may decide to play about with a GenAI tool in class. That is not to be understood as permission to use it in your marked assignments

## SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

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### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

### SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

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Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit [camosun.ca/services](https://camosun.ca/services).

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising</a>
Accessible Learning	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning</a>
Counselling	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre">camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre</a>

Support Service	Website
Career Services	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services">camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services</a>
Financial Aid and Awards	<a href="https://camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards">camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards</a>
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres</a>
Indigenous Student Support	<a href="https://camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services">camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services</a>
International Student Support	<a href="https://camosun.ca/international">camosun.ca/international</a>
Learning Skills	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills</a>
Library	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/library">camosun.ca/services/library</a>
Office of Student Support	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/office-student-support">camosun.ca/services/office-student-support</a>
Ombudsperson	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson">camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson</a>
Registration	<a href="https://camosun.ca/registration-records/registration">camosun.ca/registration-records/registration</a>
Technology Support	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/its">camosun.ca/services/its</a>
Writing Centre	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills</a>

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

## COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

### Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>  
Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to

contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines:

<https://camosun.ca/cal>

### Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

### Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

### Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

### Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

### Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

### Sexual Violence

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and [camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education](https://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education).

To contact the Office of Student Support: [oss@camosun.ca](mailto:oss@camosun.ca) or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841



### Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

### Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

**Changes to this Syllabus:** Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.

