

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: CRWR-254: Advanced Fiction

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: winter 2024

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): lecture

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək'wəḡən and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Dr. Candace Fertile

EMAIL: fertile@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Paul 337

HOURS: MW 9:30-10:30 and 14:00-15:00

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 further develop their skills in writing prose fiction. Students will strengthen their ability to structure scenes, build narratives, create characters, experiment with point of view, develop style and voice, and prepare stories for publication.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C in CRWR 154
- C in CRWR 157

CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not Applicable

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Write fiction that is clear, provocative and well-crafted.
 - a. Create characters that are credible, convincing and consistent.
 - b. Write plots that have continuity and consistency.
 - c. Write dialogue that is related to characterization, action and plot.
 - d. Write compelling description that appeals to all senses.
 - e. Use literary devices (such as point of view, and figures of speech) effectively.
 - f. Conduct appropriate research to give a piece of fiction credibility.

2. Critically analyze stories by professional writers and peers.
 - a. Evaluate the effectiveness of structure, characterization, plot, point of view and style in a range of stories.
 - b. Compare a variety of narrative styles and forms, including micro-fiction.
 - c. Examine and evaluate the structure and limitations of different publication media (literary magazines, on-line magazines, anthologies, newspapers, etc.).

3. Submit a story for publication.
 - a. Identify appropriate magazines for publication of stories.
 - b. Obtain publication guidelines.
 - c. Write a cover letter and a brief biography to accompany manuscript submission.
 - d. Submit a query to a publisher.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Best Canadian Stories 2023 edited by Mark Jarman, Biblioasis (available in the Camosun Bookstore)

8.5 X 11 inch paper to bring to class, plus pen or pencil

Occasional printing from D2L needed

And printing of stories submitted needed

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

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

This schedule may change depending on how quickly we proceed. The course includes lectures, small and large group discussions, in-class writing, and other in-class work. Students must read assigned material before the class in which the material is to be considered. Students will also participate in peer review; in other words, students will share their work with other students for critique. Students will also read aloud on occasion. It's important that you have the material read and bring your book and any required print-outs to class. Note that readings and story due dates are listed below. On any given day we may be discussing techniques and strategies, in conjunction with the stories. The arrangement and timing of readings depend in part on the class, so apart from assignment due dates, please consider the schedule to be **flexible**. I will remind you at the end of each class what to prepare for the next class.

January 8 Introduction to course

January 10 overview of basics and exercise on building a character

January 15 Jackson's "The Lottery" and Poe's "The Cask of Amontillado" (links on D2L, please print)

January 17 Saunders' "My Flamboyant Grandson" (link on D2L, please print)

January 22 Hemingway's "Hills Like White Elephants" (link on D2L, please print)

January 24 Freeman's "Tides"

January 29 peer review (bring hard copy of draft of story to class)

January 31 peer review continues

February 5 STORY DUE and Cayley's "A Death"

February 7 Dobozy's "Palais Royale"

February 12 Heighon's "Instructions for the Drowning"

February 14 TBA

February 19-23 Family Day and Reading Break—no classes

February 26 Huebert's "Oil People"

February 28 peer review (bring hard copy of draft of story to class)

March 5 peer review continues

March 7 STORY DUE and Estima's "Your Hands Are Blessed"

March 12 Bezmogis' "The Test"

March 14 Jones's "How to Fake a Breakdown" and Fontaine's "Neka"

March 19 Adderson's "All Our Auld Acquaintances Are Gone"

March 21 Bydlowska's "Mother" and Scian's "River Crossings"

March 26 El Akkad's "Oddsmaking" and Huynh's "Doi Moi Beans"

March 28 review (bring hard copy of draft of story to class)

April 1 no class Easter

April 3 peer review (bring hard copy of draft of story to class)

April 8 STORY DUE plus cover letter for submission and Heighton's "Everything Turns Away"

April 10 Class reading

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](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
story one	25
story two	25
story three	25
pop quizzes, in-class work, peer review, participation	25
TOTAL	100%

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](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information. <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

Almost anything can be creative, and in this class we explore the creativity of the written word and story. The goal is to practice writing, further develop skills, and have fun. Yes.

Please note that all work handed in for this course must be done for this course. No recycled material is allowed. (For example, you cannot hand in something you did for a previous course.)

Tips for Success

- Attend class on time
- Be prepared
- Read actively
- Be curious and ask questions
- Make a schedule of all assignments' due dates to see how work is spread over the term
- Do not leave work until the last minute—that's a recipe for disaster
- Submit work on time (at the beginning of class on the due date)
- Get any missed material from another student
- Save your work
- If you find yourself overwhelmed and falling behind, please talk to me (or email). I want students to

succeed.

- Remember that everyone needs help sometime. It's a sign of strength to know when to ask for help.

Further Information

- Work must be handed in on time (at the beginning of the class on the due date) unless prior arrangements have been made. Extensions will be granted only at the discretion of the instructor. Late work gets zero. If deadlines are missed, there is no such thing as a late penalty. I do not accept late work.
- No make-up work exists.
- No extra work for extra credit exists.
- If you miss a class and get notes from another student and don't understand them, please come see me. I cannot repeat a class, but I can try to help you.
- Office hours are for students. Just drop by.
- As a courtesy to everyone else in the class, please turn off all devices (cell phones, laptops etc.) unless you have the assigned reading material on a device. In that case, please let me know in advance. Students using devices in class for anything other than classwork will be asked to stop. Repeat offenders will have to leave. If you are registered with CAL and have an accommodation for using devices in class, I should have that information in a letter from CAL.
- Please do not bring hot, smelly, or noisy food to eat in the class. Coffee, tea, and water are all fine (I will almost always have both coffee and water as I love coffee).
- The best way to contact me apart from talking to me in class is to email me. I check email at least once a day and will reply within 24 hours except on weekends. Please put your course (CRWR 254) in the subject line and include your name (first and last) if it's not clear from your email address. Otherwise, I'm likely to delete it. Also make sure the College has your current email address.
- A basic guideline for college courses is that for every hour of class, students have at least two hours of preparation/work. Creative writing courses tend to be labour-intensive because of all the reading and writing, plus many students care a great deal about their work and spend much time on what they are creating.
- I use D2L to post the course outline, assignments, and some readings. The assignments will also be given to you in hard copy. Occasionally I will post supplementary material, which some of you may find useful (basic grammar information, for example). I don't use PowerPoint as I find it too restrictive, so please don't ask me to post my notes. Most of them are in my head.
- Stories are marked holistically, not by a rubric. Evaluating a story is complicated.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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

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 <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	http://camosun.ca/advising
Accessible Learning	http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning
Counselling	http://camosun.ca/counselling
Career Services	http://camosun.ca/coop
Financial Aid and Awards	http://camosun.ca/financialaid
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	http://camosun.ca/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	http://camosun.ca/indigenous
International Student Support	http://camosun.ca/international/
Learning Skills	http://camosun.ca/learningskills
Library	http://camosun.ca/services/library/
Office of Student Support	http://camosun.ca/oss
Ombudsperson	http://camosun.ca/ombuds
Registration	http://camosun.ca/registration
Technology Support	http://camosun.ca/its
Writing Centre	http://camosun.ca/writing-centre

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 Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course

instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/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 <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the "Attendance" section under "Registration Policies and Procedures" (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

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. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

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 or misconduct 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 and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/sexual-violence. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

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 <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

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.