

English 154 - Creative Writing (Prose Fiction) - Winter 2005

Instructor: **Tim Chamberlain**
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Office Hours: Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1 - 2 Wed/Fri 10:30-11:30
Text: Things Feigned or Imagined, by Fred Stenson

Readings and Writing Activities

- Week 1: Fiction or Non-Fiction - the Difference (Chapter One)
Follow directions on page 5 (anecdote as non-fiction, then fiction)
Plus: list your 3 favourite short stories (consult anthology)
- Week 2 The Novel vs. the Short Story (Chapters Two and Three)
Read... "The Dog in the Van", and "Visitation"
- Week 3 Read chapters Four and Five
Follow direction for point #1 on page 46
- Week 4 Read "Half-Past Eight"
Follow directions for points #1 (a,b,c,d), 2, and 4
- Week 5 Read "Stranger Than Fiction"
Read "Point of View Revisited" (Chapter Seven)
Complete points #1 - 5 on page 103
Point #6 (mini-essay) - 500 words
- Week 6 Read "Story Beginnings" (Chapter Eight)
Complete points #1, 2, 3 on page 113
- Week 7 Read "High Point, Ending, Title" (Chapter Nine)
Complete points #1, 2, 3 on page 124
- Week 8 Read Chapter Ten; Read "Positive Images"
- Week 9 Read Chapter Eleven "Humorous Fiction"
Complete points #1-5 (page 161)

Week 10 Read "Self-Editing Your Fiction" (Chapter Twelve)

Week 11 Read "Fine-Tuning"

Weeks 12-14: Workshop sessions on short stories/remaining presentations

There are four ways you will be evaluated in English 154:

- ❑ two short stories. The first one (maximum 1500 words) will be due no later than February 25th. The second story (maximum 2500 words) will be due on the very last day of class.
- ❑ your portfolio. This will be comprised of exercises that will be completed during the course (see Reading/Writings schedule above). It will be your responsibility to keep these materials in chronological order (dated), and I will collect your folders on the last day of class. I will be looking for completeness of this folder, and an honest attempt to "grapple" with these exercises.
- ❑ Presentations: during the course, you will be asked to present material (xeroxed for each class member and distributed a week ahead of time). The minimum length is one page, but it can be longer (remember you will be xeroxing for each class member). You may be showing how you completed a particular exercise from Stenson's text, or you may be showing a work in progress. You will be asked to talk for about 5 minutes on your presentation, and then invite questions from the rest of the class.

Evaluation

Portfolio 30% due last day of class

Presentation 10% times will vary (draw names from hat)

Story One 25% due by February 25

Story Two 35% due last day of class

