



**School of Arts & Science
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

**ENGL 154-002
Creative Writing: Fiction
2006F**

COURSE OUTLINE

The Approved Course Description is available on the web @ _____

Ω Please note: this outline will be electronically stored for five (5) years only.
It is strongly recommended students keep this outline for your records.

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Laurie Elmquist		
(b)	Office Hours:	Tues and Thurs. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm.		
(c)	Location:	Paul Building Rm. 332		
(d)	Phone:	370-3355	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	elmquist@camosun.bc.ca		
(f)	Website:			

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(No changes are to be made to this section, unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through EDCO for approval.)

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

1. Analyse, at a beginner's level, the process of writing fiction.
2. Practice the writing process appropriate to fiction.
3. Produce plots, settings, characters and appropriately nuanced language with effective use of figures of speech.
4. Compose a journal for the purpose of experiencing the effectiveness of journal keeping.
5. Practice appropriate research for giving fiction credibility.
6. Identify the various resources available for writers.
7. Prepare a story for submission for publication.

3. Required Materials

(a)	Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Craft in Fiction: Things Feigned or Imagined</i> by Fred Stenson • English 154 Course Pack (to be purchased at the book store) <p>The course pack includes information about homework assignments; helpful articles about writing; and stories or samples of fiction that will be used in class to illustrate specific concepts. It is expected you will do all your reading <i>before</i> class and will bring your course pack and text to every class in order to facilitate study.</p> <p><i>The Craft of Fiction</i> by Fred Stenson is a useful guide for writing, and provides an in-depth look at the basic elements of writing fiction.</p>
(b)	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An 8 ½ x 11 Hilroy notebook, 140 pages, three-hole punched. It will clip easily into your binder along with your course pack, and will serve as your writing journal. • 3-ring binder

4. Course Content and Schedule

(Can include: class hours, lab hours, out of class requirements and/or dates for quizzes, exams, lectures, labs, seminars, practicums, etc.)

Fall Schedule (2006)

Creative Writing: Fiction

Date	Readings ¹ , Assignments, Discussion Topics
Week One Tues. Sept. 5	Introduction to the course: English 154 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student introductions • Someone to Read Your Drafts • Freewriting and clustering. Composting first drafts.
Thurs. Sept. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewpoint • Read “Go Back” by Karen Joy Fowler (handout). We’ll talk about its structure • Read “Shitty First Drafts” by Anne Lamott (course pack). • Freewriting Assignment “Seed #1”: Childhood
Week Two Tues. Sept. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critique Groups • What Starts a Story? • Where Do Stories Come From? • “Getting Started” from <i>A Passion for Narrative</i> by Jack Hodgins (in course pack).
Thurs. Sept. 14	Turning Life Experience to Fiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Up the Clyde on a Bike” by Patricia Rose Young (course pack) • <i>Chapt 1: Fiction or Nonfiction? (pages 1-5)</i> • Turning Life Experience into Fiction
Week Three Tues. Sept. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critiquing the First Draft • Seed #2: Friend • Read “Everybody Knows Jesus...” by James Marshall • <i>Chapt 2 A Matter of Length (pages 7-10)</i> • Read <i>Chapt. 3 More To It (pages 11-13)</i>
Thurs. Sept. 21	Plot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Suspense in a Story

¹ All readings must be done *ahead* of class. Please come to class ready to discuss them.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Plot” by Anne Lamott (course pack) • <i>The Dog in the Van</i> (pages 15-25) • Chapt. 4 <i>Traditional Story Structure</i> (33-36) • Chapt. 5 <i>Under the Golden Arc</i> (37-46)
Week Four Tues. Sept. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author Reading <p>Due: First Draft of Story #1: Childhood Please bring <u>four</u> copies of your story for critique. Hand in one unmarked copy to me.</p>
Thurs. Sept. 28	<p>Due: Author Reading (One-page Article)</p> <p>Character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character Questionnaire • “Feathers” by Raymond Carver (course pack) • Seed #3: Room of One’s Own
Week Five Tues. Oct. 3	<p>Developing Characters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Your Characters, Major Characters, Character Questionnaires, Story Questions • <i>Half-Past Eight</i> by Edna Alford (47-61) • Chapt. 6 <i>How Characters Drive Story</i> (63-78)
Thurs. Oct. 5	<p>Due: First Draft of Story #2: Friend</p> <p>Please bring <u>four</u> copies of your story for critique. Hand in one unmarked copy to me.</p>
Week Six Tues. Oct. 10	<p>Dialogue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read “What is Dialogue?” (course pack) • Read “Traplins” by Eden Robinson ○ Film: The Plain Man’s Guide to Play-Making
Thurs. Oct. 12	<p>Due: First Draft of Story #3: A Room of One’s Own Please bring <u>four</u> copies of your story for critique. Hand in one unmarked copy to me.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critiquing the Short Story
Week Seven Tues. Oct. 17	<p>Story Openings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine Tuning • Read Chapt. 8 <i>Story Beginnings</i> (105-113)
Thurs. Oct. 19	<p>Structure-Creating Multiple Scenes Read <i>Types of Prose in Fiction</i> by Jack Hodgins (course pack)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss: Developing Scenes/Narrative Summary • Read “The Flats Road” by Alice Munro (course pack) • Seed #4a: Creating a multi-scene story
Week Eight Tues. Oct. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author Reading <p>Due: First Portfolio: 3 finished stories</p>

Thurs. Oct. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapt. 9 <i>High Points, Titles, Endings</i> (115-124). • Revealing your Character's Emotions and Thoughts
Week Nine Tues. Oct. 31	<p>Structure: One-Scene Story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read "Visitation" by Rachel Wyatt (text 26-32) • Seed #4b: Creating a one-scene story
Thurs. Nov. 2	<p>Structure: Fragments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapt. 12 <i>Self-Editing Your Fiction</i> (163-177) • Read "Sisters" by Jon Burton (course pack) • Seed #4c: Creating a fragmented story
Week Ten Tues. Nov. 7	<p>Point of View</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read "Stranger Than Fiction" by Diane Schoemperlen • Read Chapt. 7 <i>Point of View Revisited</i> (93-103) • Read "Point of View" by Jack Hodgins (course pack)
Thurs. Nov. 9	<p>Due: First Draft of Story #4: Structure Please bring <u>four</u> copies of your story for critique. Hand in one unmarked copy to me.</p>
Week Eleven Tues. Nov. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapt. 13 <i>Fine Tuning</i> (179-185) • Read Chapt. 10 Mood and Rhythm (125-135) • Read "Ralph the Duck" by Frederick Busch (course pack) • Seed #5: Person at Work
Thurs. Nov. 16	<p>Setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read "The Boat" by Alistair MacLeod (course pack) • Discuss: Setting • Seed #6: Setting
Week Twelve Tues. Nov. 21	<p>Due: First Draft of Story #5: Person at Work Please bring <u>four</u> copies of your story for critique. Hand in one unmarked copy to me.</p>
Thurs. Nov. 23	<p>Publishing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapt. 14 <i>Writing Fiction as a Profession</i> (187-206) • Preparing a manuscript for submission • Writing the cover letter • Possible markets for your stories
4. Week Thirteen Tues. Nov. 28	<p>Due: First Draft of Story #6: Setting Please bring <u>four</u> copies of your story for critique. Hand in one unmarked copy to me.</p>
Thurs. Nov. 30	<p>Humorous Fiction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapt. 11 <i>Humorous Fiction</i> (149-161)
Week Fourteen Tues. Dec. 5	<p>Hand in your 2nd portfolio: three finished stories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Reading

Thurs. Dec.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Reading
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5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(Should be linked directly to learning outcomes.)

First drafts and class reading	15%
Participation in peer editing	15%
Author readings	10%
Midterm portfolio of short stories	30%
Final portfolio of short stories	<u>30%</u>
	100%

Detailed instructions accompany each assignment and are available in your course pack. Your work will be graded on how well you have met the specific requirements of each assignment. Basic skills of grammar, spelling and punctuation must be in place.

6. Grading System

(No changes are to be made to this section, unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through EDCO for approval.)

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
95-100	A+		9
90-94	A		8
85-89	A-		7
80-84	B+		6
75-79	B		5
70-74	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy at camosun.ca or information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.

CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.
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7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

This course offers students with strong writing ability a chance to explore and develop their skills and possible goals in writing prose fiction. English 154 is a creative writing course that focuses on the craft of writing short stories. Students will study such elements as characterization, plot, dialogue, setting, point of view, openings and endings, and theme.

A typical class consists of a brief lecture, several writing samples (or a complete story) to illustrate a specific writing principle, an in-class exercise to try out the principle, and discussion. Some of the classes will be based on a discussion of student work. You will take part in a number of peer critiques.

Students' Responsibilities

Everyone learns differently. It is up to you to take an active part in the class and to make sure you are getting the nurturing, encouragement, criticism, evaluation, and information that you need. Please do not hesitate to email or phone if you have any questions.

- Please keep copies of *drafts* as well as final stories. I will ask to see the *process* of the work, not just the final product.
- You should ALWAYS keep a copy of EVERYTHING you hand in for evaluation. Accidents sometimes happen and work may be misplaced.
- **You must complete all assignments to receive a grade in this course. If your homework assignments are late, they will not receive a grade, but must still be handed in.**

- Plagiarism will result in an automatic F grade for the work involved. See Section 1, “Academic Misconduct,” in the Camosun College Calendar.

Attendance

Your attendance and participation are required. If you miss too many classes you will be asked to withdraw from the course. Assignments will not be accepted from students who miss more than 25% of classes (7 classes).

Format Requirements for Assignments

1. All homework must be typed.
2. In the left-hand corner, please include a title (i.e. Dialogue Assignment), your name, my name (Laurie Elmquist), English 154, and the date. As well, each finished story should have a thoughtful title. (No separate title pages, please.)
3. All assignments should be written in 12 pt. Font and Times New Roman style. Be sure your printer produces type at least as dark as the type on this page. Please double-space your work, and number your pages.

