



**School of Arts & Science  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

**ENGL 154- 01  
Creative Writing: Fiction  
FALL 2007**

**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:	Tim Chamberlain		
(b)	Office Hours:	Monday 12 to 2/Friday 10:30 to 12:30		
(c)	Location:	Paul 220		
(d)	Phone:	370-3422	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	chambet@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      Things Feigned or Imagined: the Craft in Fiction      Stenson coursepack
- (b) Other      Canadian Short Stories      eds. Brown & Bennett

**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.)*

**Week 1** Student introductions  
Course outline (distribute and discuss)  
Distribute critique sheets  
Where do stories come from (discuss)  
Format for assignments (discuss)

**“Fiction or Non-Fiction” (Stenson coursepack – Chapter 1)**

**“Bread” (Can. Short Stories – 435)**

---

**Week 2** A Question of Length (discussion)  
Anecdotes vs. Crafted Stories (discussion)  
Analysis of **“Bread”**  
Writing Contests: a word of caution (discussion)  
**“Novel versus Short Story” (coursepack Chapter 2 and Chapter 3)**

**Assignment #1 – Microfiction (max. 500 words) Due next class**

**– Make one copy for everyone in the class (including me).**

---

**Week 3** **Hand in Assignment #1 (also distribute peer review copies of story)**

Critique Sheet (handout – explanation – trial run with one story)

**“Antigone” (Can. Short Stories 106)**  
**“Death by Landscape” (Can. Short Stories 269)**

Watch video-recording of Atwood’s “Death by Landscape”  
Analyze differences between text and film.  
Examine Watson’s “Antigone” (discuss her use of Greek mythology).

---

**Week 4** **Peer Review - Assignment #1 – Microfiction (attendance taken)**

**“Point of View Revisited” (coursepack – Chapter 7)**

**“The Dog in the Van” and “Visitation” (coursepack 15-32)**  
**“Tradition Story Structure” and “Under the Golden Arc” (Stenson coursepack - Chapters 4 and 5)**

---

**Week 5** **Peer Review – Assignment #1 – Microfiction (attendance taken)**

Video – “The Hero’s Journey” Bill Moyers interviews Joseph Campbell

The Power of Myth / Various Traditions (class discussion)  
Fairytale, Archetypes and Morality  
Personal Myths (class discussion)

Workshop:

Write down as many of your own family stories as possible (they may or may not involve you directly).

Take one of these stories and try to figure out what myth, fairy tale, or fable it most closely resembles. Think about plot themes, archetypal characters, morality, and symbols; find correspondence between the family story and your chosen myth, fairy tale or fable.

**Assignment #2 -- Write your family story within the conventions of your chosen myth, fable or fairy tale. Keep in mind that most myths are written in the third person omniscient point of view. This will help you look at the story in a more objective fashion, and will also help you concentrate on plot and action, rather than reflection.**

**Due Week 7**

---

**Week 6**      **How Character Drives Story**      (coursepack Chapter 6)  
**Story Beginnings**      (coursepack Chapter 8)

“A Field of Wheat”      (*Can. Short Stories 97*)  
“Lazy Bones”      (*Can. Short Stories 51*)  
“Half-Past Eight”      (coursepack 47-61)

Workshop Story (assignment #2)

---

**Week 7**      **Collect Assignment #2 Personal Myths**

**Assignment #3 (The Found Story) assigned and explained.**

**Week 8**      **Peer Review Assignment #2– Personal Myths (attendance taken)**

**High Point, Ending, Title (coursepack chapter 9)**

“Rigmarole”      (*Can. Short Stories 77*)  
“The Lonely Goatherd”      (*Can. Short Stories 428*)

---

**Week 9**      **Peer Review Assignment #2 – Personal Myths (attendance taken)**

## Humorous Fiction – chapter 11, coursepack

“Positive Images” by Fred Stenson.

“Some Grist for Mervyn’s Mill” (*Can. Short Stories* 171)

---

Week 10 “Self-Editing Your Fiction” - coursepack Chapter 12

“The Wednesday Circle” (*Can. Short Stories* 285)

“My Heart is Broken” (*Can. Short Stories* 130)

---

Week 11 “Fine Tuning” – coursepack Chapter 13

---

Week 12 “Writing Fiction as a Profession” – coursepack Chapter 14

- preparing a manuscript for submission
  - Writing the covering letter
  - Possible markets for your stories
- 

Week 13 Author Reading – Keith Harrison (assignment based on talk)

---

Week 14 Final Story (#3) – Hand in

Author Reading assignment (hand in)

### 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(Should be linked directly to learning outcomes.)

(a) Assignments:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Microfiction Story (500 word maximum)     | 15% |
| 2. Personal Myth (1500 word maximum)         | 20% |
| 3. The Found Story (2000 word maximum)       | 25% |
| 4. Author Reading assignment (500 word max.) | 20% |

(b) Peer Review sessions (4 @ 5% each) 20%

Note: late assignments not accepted without doctor’s note.

5% penalty for missed peer review sessions (unless doctor’s note provided).

### 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
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	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 E-1.5 at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca) for 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, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 <sup>rd</sup> course attempt or at the point of course completion.)
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.

## 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](http://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.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED