



School of Arts & Science  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

ENGL 154-01  
Creative Writing: Fiction  
Fall 2008

## 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:	M/W 1:30 to 3:30		
(c)	Location:	Paul 220		
(d)	Phone:	250-370-3422	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:

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

### 3. Required Materials

(a) Texts      Writer's Gym: Exercises and Training Tips for Writers      Eliza Clark

### 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.)

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Week 1	Readings:	<b>Coupland, Moody, Atwood</b> (pages 1-10) Workshop topics: Dialogue Writing Contests  Video: Death by Landscape
Week 2	Readings:	<b>Anderson-Dargatz, Boyle, Carlson</b> (pages 11-30) Workshop topics: Using the senses Unifying the narrative  Video: "Cathedral" "Are These Actual Miles"
Week 3	Readings:	<b>Pyper, Livesey, Redhill</b> (pages 31- 41) Workshop topics: Literary journals Point of view
Week 4	Readings:	<b>Heighton, House Uppal</b> (pages 42-61) Workshop topics: Point of View (continued) Re-enacting vs. reporting (telling)  <b>Peer Critiques</b>
Week 5	Readings:	<b>Litt, Pullinger, Gowan</b> (pages 62- 69) Workshop topics: Characterization The uses of memory  <b>Peer Critiques</b>
Week 6	Readings:	<b>Ruth, Almond</b> (pages 70- 85) Workshop topics: Characterization (continued) Editing your manuscript
Week 7	Readings:	<b>Hayward, Sileika</b> (86-97) Workshop topics: Effective Beginnings Close revision
Week 8	Readings:	<b>Hollingshead Ohlin</b> (98-113) Workshop topics: the Flashback Metonymy Subtext  <b>Peer Critiques</b>
Week 9	Readings:	<b>McDermid, Woodrow</b> (114-125) Workshop topics: the role of Research in Writing  <b>Peer Critiques</b>
Week 10	Readings:	<b>Itani, Bush</b> (126-135) Workshop topics: Interior/Exterior landscapes

Week 11	<b>Peer Critiques</b>
Week 12	<b>Peer Critiques</b>
Week 13	<b>Peer Critiques</b> Workshop topic: Preparing Manuscripts for Submissions
Week 14	<b>Peer Critiques</b> Workshop topic: Query/Covering letters

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

*(Should be linked directly to learning outcomes.)*

(a) Assignments – choose an assortment to equal 70% (see note below).

1. The Ticking Clock (see pages 18-30)	500 - 1000 words	10%
2. Re-enacting/Re-creating (see pages 42-47)	500 words	5%
3. What's Your Myth (see pages 52-56)	1500 words	20%
4. Yesterday's News (see pages 57-61)	500 words	5%
5. Every Picture Tells a Story (see pages 86-91)	500 words	5%
6. The Found Story (see pages 120-122)	1500 words	20%
7. The Flashback (see pages 98-102)	500 words	5%
8. Metonymy (see pages 103-108)	500 words	5%
9. What's Left Unsaid (see pages 109-113)	500 words	5%
10. The Instant Story (see pages 123-125)	1500 words	20%
11. Deconstructing Beds (see pages 156-159)	300 to 500 words	5%

**NOTE:** Each piece of writing must, when handed in, also include

- (a) a brief analysis (yours) of how peer input (workshops and critiques) strengthened your writing. This analysis (one paragraph) should be specific, rather than loose and general. Assignments lacking this material will be penalized.
- (b) For the above (a) to make sense, you must include earlier drafts (at least one) of your finished piece of writing.

Please label drafts to avoid confusion (ie. first draft, second draft, etc.)

## Participation Grade

Workshops and critiquing sessions are essential elements of this course. If you are not present to workshop and critique your own writing (and the writing of your peers) everyone loses.

At the beginning of the course, the class will be split into three or four equal groups. During the term, the composition of these groups will be shuffled.

Participation sheets will be randomly circulated during six (6) workshop or critiquing sessions. Your participation (attendance) will be duly noted on each of these random sheets, and will be worth 5% of your final grade. **(6 X 5% = 30%)**

If you are absent when a sheet is distributed, you lose 5% of your final grade. Sheets will not necessarily be distributed at the beginning of a workshop or critique session.

If you have a medical excuse for being absent, please bring a doctor's note, and I will design an alternate assignment so you will not be penalized.

**Writing (finished version, drafts plus your analysis) = 70% of final grade.**

**Participation (6 random sessions verified by attendance) = 30% of final grade.**

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

*(Should be linked directly to learning outcomes.)*

(a) Assignments        70%

(b) Participation        30%

## 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. <i>(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.)</i>
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