

**CREATIVE WRITING: FICTION 2**  
**English 254 Winter 2010**

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Instructor                 Bronwen Welch  
Office                     Paul 326  
Office Hours             Monday and Wednesday 1:00 - 2:30 (or by appointment)  
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Class Hours              Tuesday and Thursdays 1:00 - 2:20

Prerequisites:           English 154  
Pre/Co-requisite:       English 160, 164, or 165

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**Texts:**                 **Required Texts:**

- *Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft 7<sup>th</sup> edition* by Jane Burroway and Elizabeth Stuckey-French
- English 254 Course Pack (to be purchased at the book store)

**Recommended**

- An 8 ½ x 11 Hilroy notebook, **80 pages**, three-hole punched. It will clip easily into your binder along with your coursepack, and will serve as your **writing journal**.
- 3-ring binder

**Course Description**

This course offers students a chance to further explore and develop their skills and possible goals in writing prose fiction. English 254 focuses on developing the student's ability to structure stories, create characters, experiment with point of view, develop style and voice, and prepare stories for publication. Students in this class write five (5) stories. Individual stories range from 1000 to 3,000 words (course total of approximately 11,000-12,500 words or 45-50 pages). For detailed instructions see the page in your course pack entitled "Writing Portfolio."

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. **Write** stories that are clear, provocative and well-crafted.
  1. Create characters that are credible, convincing and consistent.
  2. Write plots that have continuity and consistency.
  3. Write dialogue that is related to characterization, action and plot.
  4. Write compelling description that appeals to all senses.
  5. Use perspective and point of view effectively.
  6. Use figures of speech effectively.
  
2. **Critically analyze** stories by professional writers and peers.
  1. Evaluate the effectiveness of structure, characterization, plot, point of view and style in a range of stories.
  2. Compare a variety of narrative styles and forms, including micro-fiction.
  3. Conduct appropriate research to give a piece of fiction credibility.
  4. Examine and evaluate the structure and limitations of different publication media (literary magazines, on-line magazines, anthologies, newspapers, etc.).
  
3. **Submit** a story submission for publication.
  1. Identify appropriate magazines and the stories they publish.
  2. Obtain publication guidelines via print or Internet.
  3. Write a cover letter and a brief biography.
  4. Submit a query for a manuscript to a publisher.

**Class Format**

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 about "what

happened." Some of the classes will be based on a discussion of student work. You will take part in a number of peer critiques.

### Course Pack/Texts

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 bring your course pack to every class in order to facilitate study.

In *Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft 7<sup>th</sup> edition*, Janet Burroway and Elizabeth Stuckey-French are writing to a serious and committed audience. This course will be highly dependent upon the text as it includes theory, examples in the form of short stories, and suggestions for practice.

### Assignments and Evaluation

First drafts and class reading	20%
Participation in peer editing	20%
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.

### Grading System:

A+	= 90-100%	B-	= 70-72%
A	= 85-89%	C+	= 65-69%
A-	= 80-84%	C	= 60-64%
B+	= 77-79%	D	= 50-59%
B	= 73-76%	F	= Below 50%

### 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 essays. I will ask to see the *process* of the work, not just the final product. Portfolios include in-class writing, as well as earlier drafts and critique from your instructor and peers.
- 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 assignments are late, they will not receive a grade, but must still be handed in.**
- Extensions are never granted for activities or assignments that have participation marks attached to them. Participation means arriving to class on time, participating for the entire class, and handing in the assignment on time.
- **Extensions will be granted only at the discretion of the instructor. If an extension is granted, assignments are still penalized 5% per day including weekends up to a maximum of five days. After five days, the assignment will not be accepted.**
- 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. In the left-hand corner, please include your name, my name (Laurie Elmquist), English 254, and the date. As well, each finished story should have a thoughtful title. (No separate title pages, please.) Centre the title.
2. 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.