

Camosun College

Winter 2012

## CREATIVE WRITING: FICTION I

English 154, D02

Distance Education

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Instructor Jodi Lundgren

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Office Hours Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., Paul 332

Co-requisites: You are taking English 150 or already have your credit in English 150.

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**Texts: Stephen King, *On Writing*. Available at the Camosun bookstore, but any edition is okay. All other readings are online.**

### Course Description

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.

### Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students should:

- Appreciate, at the beginner's level, what it means to write 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.

## Class Format

A typical online class consists of a "how to" lecture, readings, and journal exercises. You will take part in two (2) peer critiques. It is expected you will do all your reading and journal exercises in order to be successful in the course.

## Assignments

Students in this class write four (4) stories. Individual stories range from 1250 to 2,000 words. The course total is approximately 5,000 - 8,000 words (20-32 pages). Detailed instructions accompany each assignment. 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.

## Assignments and Evaluation

First Version	8%
Participation in peer editing	10%
Discussion Postings	12%
Online Journal	10%
Midterm portfolio (2 stories)	30%
Final portfolio (2 stories)	<u>30%</u>
TOTAL	100%

## 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 stories. I will ask to see the *process* of the work, not just the final product. The portfolio consists of critiques from your instructor and peers as well as the final polished story.

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 four (4) stories to receive a grade in this course.**

I expect work to be submitted on time. Discussion postings and first versions of your story must be posted on time to earn the automatic participation mark. Portfolios will be penalized 5% per day for being late and will not be accepted if they are more than one week late. I know life and technology interfere with the best of intentions, so talk to me if you have problems. Just a note – I'm more open to discussions about this if we talk BEFORE the due date.

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

### **Format Requirements for Assignments**

1. Use the MLA format to set up your assignments. In the left-hand corner, please include a title (i.e. Story #1), your name, my name (Jodi Lundgren), English 154, and the date. As well, each finished story should have a thoughtful title. (No separate title pages, please.)
2. All assignments should be written in 12 pt. Font and Times New Roman style. Please double-space your work, and number your pages.