



**School of Arts & Science  
Department of English**

**CRWR 154  
Creative Writing: Fiction 1**

**Fall 2012**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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**Calendar Description:** This course offers students with strong writing ability a chance to explore and develop their skills and possible goals in writing prose fiction. CRWR 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.

*Ω Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for your records.*

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**Instructor Information**

- (a) Instructor: Laurie Elmquist
- (b) Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 p.m. or by appointment
- (c) Location: Paul 332
- (d) Phone: 250-370-3355
- (e) E-mail: [elmquist@camosun.ca](mailto:elmquist@camosun.ca)
- (f) Website: <http://www.sloopenagency.com/sa/laurieelmquist>

**Intended Learning Outcomes**

- 1. 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.

## Required Materials

Stephen King's *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*. All other readings and course material are online.

## Course Hours/Location

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. Location Wilna Thomas 226.

We will be discussing texts and writing in every class, sometimes working on assignments that will be handed in for assessment. It is therefore essential to your grade that you attend and participate in all classes. The course is organized into weekly modules and assignments are due each week by Sunday at midnight.

## Class Format

A typical class consists of a "how to" lecture, discussions, 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.

## Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

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

## Assignments

Students in this class write four (4) stories. Individual stories range from 1500 to 2,500 words. The course total is approximately 8,000 - 10,000 words (30-40 pages). Detailed instructions accompany each assignment. Students' work will be graded on how well they have met the specific requirements of each assignment. Basic skills of grammar, spelling and punctuation must be in place.

You should ALWAYS keep a copy of EVERYTHING you hand in for evaluation. Accidents sometimes happen and work may be misplaced. Please keep copies of *drafts* as well as final stories. I may 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 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. In the left-hand corner, please include a title (i.e. Story #1), your name, my name (Laurie Elmquist), CRWR 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.

**NB: The course is not over until the end of the exam period**

**Grading System**

I look for originality of ideas, clarity of structure, effectiveness of details, clear point of view, compelling characters and a plot that makes me turn the page. Accurate grammar and spelling are, of course, essential to good writing. I also look for your particular developing voice or style.

**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
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<b>I</b>	<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.
<b>IP</b>	<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>
<b>CW</b>	<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.

## 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.