



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

**CRWR 254
Creative Writing: Fiction 2**

Fall 2012

COURSE OUTLINE

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

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

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
- (f) Website: <http://www.sloopenagency.com/sa/laurieelmquist>

Intended Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students should

Write stories that are clear, provocative and well-crafted.

- Create characters that are credible, convincing and consistent.
- Write plots that have continuity and consistency.
- Write dialogue that is related to characterization, action and plot.
- Write compelling description that appeals to all senses.
- Use perspective and point of view effectively.
- Use figures of speech effectively.

Critically analyze stories by professional writers and peers.

- Evaluate the effectiveness of structure, characterization, plot, point of view in a range of stories.
- Compare a variety of narrative styles and forms, including micro-fiction.

- Conduct appropriate research to give a piece of fiction credibility.
- Examine and evaluate the structure and limitations of different publication media (literary magazines, on-line magazines, anthologies, newspapers, etc.).

Submit a story submission for publication.

- Identify appropriate magazines and the stories they publish.
- Obtain publication guidelines via print or Internet.
- Write a cover letter and a brief biography.
- Submit a query for a manuscript to a publisher.

Required Materials

Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft 8th edition, Janet Burroway, Elizabeth Stuckey-French and Ned Stuckey-French. All other readings and course material are online.

Course Hours/Location

This course is entirely online but is not self-paced. The course is organized into weekly modules and assignments are due each week by Sunday at midnight.

Class Format

A typical online class consists of a "how to" lecture, readings, and journal exercises. Students 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)

Assignments and Evaluation

Journal Exercises	10%
Participation in peer editing	12%
Discussions	10%
First Versions	8%
Midterm portfolio of short stories	30%
Final portfolio of short 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 must complete all stories to receive a grade in this course. If your stories are late, they won't receive completion marks (2 marks), but they must still be handed in for your instructors or peers to critique. All stories must undergo critique and be revised before they are submitted to the midterm/final portfolio.

Extensions will be granted only at the discretion of the instructor. If an extension is granted, assignments are 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.

Format Requirements for Assignments

In the left-hand corner, please include your name, my name (Laurie Elmquist), CRWR 254, and the date. As well, each finished story should have a thoughtful title. (No separate title pages, please.) Centre the title.

All assignments should be written in 12 pt. Font and Times New Roman style. Please double-space your work, and number your pages.

Formatting is very important to me. It is the way I ensure that everyone submits work of the same length. As you may have noticed, I don't go by word count. I only use a page count. As well, you should always present your work to your peers and instructor in a professional manner, as you would submit it to a magazine for publication.

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	1

		used as a prerequisite.	
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** 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 3rd 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.

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.

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.

