

	<p>School of Arts & Science ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CRWR 154--002 Fiction Writing 1 Mon & Wed. 11:30 a.m.-12:50 p.m. Fisher 216 Fall 2013</p>
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*“Read, read, read. And write every day. Never compare yourself to anyone but yourself.
The question you ask of yourself each evening is: Did I write, did I spend time?
Show up for work every day, like any good citizen.” --Richard Bausch*

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, especially short stories. Students study such elements as characterization, plot, dialogue, setting, point of view, openings and endings, and theme. *Formerly known as ENGL 154. Note: Students should not take this course if they already have credit for the previously offered ENGL 154.*

Ω *Please note: the College electronically stores this outline for five (5) years only.
It is **strongly recommended** you keep a copy of this outline with your academic records.
You will need this outline for any future application/s for transfer credit/s to other colleges/universities.*

Course Description

Writing for its own sake, developmental exercises, craft-focused readings, and in-class story workshopping are at the heart of this course. To develop as a creative writer involves 1) tapping your creativity and 2) learning technique. These projects involve practice, in both senses. When you practice writing, you perform exercises, acquire skills, and build towards a larger goal, such as creating a successful short story. When you make writing your practice, you write as a daily habit that forms an end in itself. Such process-oriented writing prevents writer's block by releasing a verbal flow and by strengthening your relationship to the page. Both kinds of practice thus form crucial components of this class. A willingness to engage in them is primary; a close second is active participation in discussions and in-class assignments.

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Jodi Lundgren		
(b)	Office Hours:	Monday and Wednesday 3-4 p.m. And by appointment		
(c)	Location:	Paul 326		
(d)	Phone:	250.370.3342		
(e)	Email:	lundgrenj@camosun.ca		

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(No changes are to be made to these Intended Learning Outcomes as approved by the Education Council of Camosun College.)

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

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

3. Required Materials

- Schoen, Steven. *The Truth About Fiction*.
- Course Pack entitled *Creative Writing 154, Fall 2013, Instructor: Jodi Lundgren*
- A good dictionary and thesaurus.
- You'll need to access D2L (Desire to Learn) and to check it regularly. Get started at <https://online.camosun.ca> Under "Preferences" and "Email," arrange for your D2L email to forward to the email address that you check most often. (Otherwise, you may miss stuff!)
- \$15 or so set aside to make copies of your work for distributing in class.
- A 8 1/2 X 11 notebook or binder for the morning pages—bring this to each class for spot checks.
- Make sure you have access to a stapler for when you hand in your assignments.

4. Class Operation

Each week, we will discuss a section from Schoen's *The Truth About Fiction* together with stories from the course pack, generally focusing on one aspect of storytelling. We will sometimes do spontaneous in-class exercises, often in groups. By the following Monday at midnight, 4 designated "early birds" will post stories on Camosun's D2L website. (You will sign up for your turn in advance.)

Before class on Wednesday, all students will read the student writings and write a typed, 1-page response to **one** of the pieces. As well, all students will themselves complete the assignment. (You may skip TWO of these weekly exercises--except Assignment 4--so that you have completed FOUR short exercises by October 30. If you choose to complete more than four, I will count only your 4 highest marks.) In class on Wednesday, we will workshop the student writings. *You may not skip any of the peer critiques.* I will collect the written responses at the end of the session (so bring two copies: one for me, and one for the writer).

A note on workshopping:

We will operate on the assumption that it is most useful first to identify what is working well in a piece of writing. To pinpoint where a text excels—where it is distinctive, fresh, engaging or compelling—helps the writer to build on inherent strengths rather than striving to meet externally imposed ideals. In revision, the writer can aim to raise less realized parts of the writing to the level already attained in the strongest passages. This method encourages the development of the student's own voice and channels readers' critical energies in productive directions. In this class, you will learn a lot about collegiality—giving feedback and helping each other become better readers and more imaginative writers. As a side-benefit, you may well find that your tastes as a reader of fiction expand.

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

1. Morning pages	10%
2. 4 Writing Exercises (+ 1 revision)	25%
3. 2 proposals: final story and future story	10%
4. Written peer critiques + participation	15%
5. Mini-presentation (5 min.)	5%
6. Participation in class reading	5%
7. Final story (draft + revision) (12 pages, but no more than 20)	30%

Detailed descriptions of the assignments are available on D2L.

Grading creative writing is, to say the least, very subjective and very difficult. Therefore, I privilege effort over achievement, so be warned: the less-talented hard worker will do better in my class than the semi-enthused genius. I certainly don't do this privately as a reader, but I do as a creative writing instructor giving grades.

In addition, of the 6 short writing assignments, only 4 are mandatory. If you choose to do all 6 assignments, I will drop the lowest 2 grades. This is another way that effort pays off.

Finally, to allow you to improve your grade as well as to practice the essential skill of revision, you'll revise **one** short assignment of your choice with a short explanation of the changes you've made.

Don't skip the revision, or you'll lose 5% from your "Writing Exercises" grade.

Peer critiques can never be skipped in fairness to your classmates.

6. Grading System
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 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. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.)
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.

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 the College web site in the Policy Section.

8. Additional Requirements and Policies

Format: Out-of-class assignments must be **stapled, typed** and **double-spaced** using a **standard 12 point font**. Use **one-inch margins** all around. **Number** the pages, and use your last name as a header on each page. In the top left hand corner of the assignment, provide the following (each item on a separate line, double spaced): your name, my name, the course name and number, and date. For the title, use "Assignment 1" (or 2, 3, etc.), followed by your own interesting and relevant title. **I cannot accept papers by email unless otherwise stated.**

Participation: A significant portion of your grade for this class is based on **participation and peer critiques**. Note that the time we spend in class doing exercises, discussing readings, and workshopping your assignments is as important to your education as the time you spend alone working on your writing. Regular attendance is therefore vital. In-class work depends on interaction with your fellow students in the classroom and cannot be made up. Each missed class activity will thus have a detrimental effect on your participation grade.

*It is our shared responsibility to develop and maintain a positive learning environment for everyone. As a fellow learner, you are asked to respect the learning needs of your classmates and assist your instructor in achieving this critical goal.

Lateness: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Because your classmates' participation grades depend in part on their peer reviews of your work, it is doubly crucial to submit your drafts on time. **Once** during the semester, you may hand in an out-of-class assignment up to three days late with no excuse. After this cut off point, you will forfeit the assignment. No further late assignments will be accepted. **However, there is no such thing as a late early-bird submission:** anyone who misses an early bird deadline forfeits the assignment. In the event that illness or emergency affects your ability to meet a deadline, contact me as *early as possible* and obtain documentation.

Disability Resource Centre provides support services to students with a broad range of disabilities to ensure equitable access to post-secondary opportunities. Students with documented disabilities requiring academic and/or exam accommodation should schedule an appointment with Disability Resource Centre as early as possible. Lansdowne Campus: ID 202. Phone: 250-370-3312. TTY/TDD: 250-370-3311.

Plagiarism, the act of presenting the words, ideas, or data of another as if they were your own, is an **academic and/or artistic crime**. Unfortunately, most cases of plagiarism happen as a result of an inaccurate understanding of the rules or repercussions or out of panic when a due date is looming. Please contact me at any point if you are unsure about an assignment, or if you are having so much difficulty writing that you are tempted to use someone else's work.

A Final Word

A smoothly functioning class depends on clear communication all around. Please get in touch with me whenever you want to discuss your ideas, the assignments, my comments, the classroom dynamics, or any other subject related to the class or your writing generally. I check email regularly and am on campus four days a week. I encourage you to visit me in my office hours (it's always a good idea to let me know ahead of time in case other students have booked appointments), and I am happy to schedule an alternate time to meet with you if my office hours conflict with other commitments.

Tentative Schedule

The following outline will give you a general overview of the class. I will distribute detailed handouts in class as the course progresses. If you are ever in doubt as to what I expect of you, *please ask*. The need to adjust the schedule will almost certainly arise, so pay attention to announcements in class and over email.

- *TF* = *The Truth About Fiction* by Steven Schoen.
 - *CP* = Course pack of readings.
 - You are not responsible for the Exercises and Assignments contained within the readings unless specifically noted.
 - Readings and assignments are **due** for the dates listed.
1. Wed. Sept.4 Introduction to course, morning pages, and Assignment 1
Introduction to D2L
Sign up for early bird date
 2. Mon. Sept.9 *CP* 1-21 Excerpts by Brande, Cameron, Goldberg
TF Preface xv-xvii & Ch.1, Lying 101 (1-4)
 3. Wed. Sept.11 *TF* 4-7
CP 22-25 "Appendix A: Kinds of Fiction" (411-414)
CP 26-27 "Guidelines for Critique Groups" by Judith Barrington
The student writings
Assignment 1 due (2-3 pages): see D2L
 4. Mon. Sept.16 *TF* Chapter 4, Plot (42-50)
CP 30-33 "The Use of Force" by William Carlos Williams
CP 34-35 "Popular Mechanics" by Raymond Carver
CP 36 "What's at Stake" by Ken Rivard
CP 38-39 "Tick" by Joyce Carol Oates
 5. Wed. Sept.18 The student writings
Assignment 2 due (2-3 pages): see D2L
 6. Mon. Sept.23 *TF* Chapter 3, Character (18-34)
CP 40 "The Custodian" by Brian Hinshaw
CP 41-44 "Tell Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe
 7. Wed. Sept.25 The student writings
Assignment 3 due (2-3 pages): see D2L
 8. Mon. Sept.30 *TF* Chapter 7, Point of View 79-90
CP 45-48 "Hills Like White Elephants" by Ernest Hemingway
CP 49 "20/20" by Linda Brewer
CP 50 from "The Boy Who Lived" by J.K. Rowling
CP 51 from "The Necklace" by Guy de Maupassant
CP 52 "Filtering" by Janet Burroway
CP 53 "Psychic Distance" by John Gardner
 9. Wed. Oct.2 *CP* 54 "How to Become a Writer" by Lorrie Moore
The student writings
Assignment 4 due (2-3 pages): see D2L
 10. Mon. Oct.7 *TF* Ch. 2 Details (9-12); Ch.3 Presentation (35-40); Ch.8 Symbolism (97-98)
CP 57-58 "Sock" by Lydia Davis
 11. Wed. Oct.9 *TF* Ch.2, Details (12-15—setting)
CP 59-65 "Horst and Werner" by Grant Buday
 - Mon. Oct.14 **Thanksgiving day--no class.**
 12. Wed. Oct.16 The student writings
Assignment 5 due (2-3 pages): see D2L
 13. Mon. Oct.21 *TF* Ch.6, Dialogue (67-73)
CP 66-73 "The Baby in the Airmail Box" by Thomas King
CP 74-75 "The Physical Building of Dialogue" by Carol Bly

14. Wed. Oct.23 *TF* Ch.6, Dialogue (74-77)
TF Appendix: Research (103-106)
In-class exercise with eavesdropped dialogue.
15. Mon. Oct.28 *TF* Ch.5, Story Structure (51-60)
CP 76-77 "Powder" by Tobias Wolff
16. Wed. Oct.30 The student writings
CP 78-80 "The First Survey" by Dorothea Brande
Assignment 6 due (2-3 pages): see D2L
Schedule an individual meeting with instructor to discuss story proposal
17. Mon. Nov.4 *TF* Ch.5, Story Structure (60-66); Ch.8, Style (91-94)
CP 81-88 "Maria's Older Brother" by Bill Gaston
Assignment 7 due: Final story proposal
18. Wed. Nov.6 **Instructor meetings**
- Mon. Nov.11 **Remembrance Day: No Class**
19. Wed. Nov.13 *TF* Ch.8, Style 95-100
CP 89 "Excuses I Have Already Used" by Antonia Clark
CP 90 "Souvlaki" by Jonathan Goldstein
CP 91-91, "Criticism and the Story Workshop" and "Revision"
CP 96, "With Revision Comes Final Meaning"
TF Appendix, 107-110: Publication and Market Research
Writing your author biography and cover letter
Strategies for public readings
20. Mon.Nov.18 Full class workshops 3 stories
4 small groups workshop 1 story each
21. Wed.Nov.20 Full class workshops 3 stories
4 small groups workshop 1 story each
22. Mon. Nov.25 Full class workshops 3 stories
4 small groups workshop 1 story each
23. Wed.Nov.27 Full group workshops 3 stories
4 small groups workshop 1 story each
24. Mon.Dec.3 Class Reading
25. Wed. Dec.5 Class Reading
Final revision of story due
Also Assignment 8 due: Proposal for a fiction to be written somewhere, sometime before you die (2 pages). See D2L