



## COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/engl.html>

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.

### 1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Christine Kirchner
(b)	Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment
(c)	Location:	Paul 226
(d)	Phone:	250-370-3329
(e)	Email:	kirchner@camosun.bc.ca

### 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

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

1. Analyze, 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

- (a) **Texts:** Steven Schoen (2000) *The Truth About Fiction*.  
Lucy Rosenthal (2004) *The Eloquent Short Story*.  
CRWR 154 (001) Fall 2016 Course Package.
- (b) **Recommended:** Muriel Harris (2014) 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, *Prentice Hall Reference Guide* or a similar MLA guide.  
Any good collegiate dictionary.  
An 8 ½ X 11 Hilroy notebook, 80 pages, three-hole punched. It will clip easily into your binder along with your course package, and will serve as your **writing journal**.

### 4. Course Content and Schedule

**Class Meets:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. in Y 303C.

**Workload:** 3 hrs. in class; 6 hrs. out of class per week including lab work; 14 weeks; 3 credits

**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.

**Course Description:** Writing for its own sake, developmental exercises, craft-focused readings, and in-class story workshoping 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.

### **Class Format:**

A typical class consists of a brief lecture, several writing samples (or a complete story) to illustrate a specific writing principle, an-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 Package and Text:**

The course package includes 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 package and texts to every class in order to facilitate study.

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## **TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

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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.
- *ESS* = *The Eloquent Short Story* by Lucy Rosenthal.
- *CP* = English 154 Course Package of Readings.
- You are not responsible for the Exercises and Assignments contained within the Readings unless specifically noted.
- Readings and Assignments are **due** on the dates listed.

**Tues., Sept. 6**

### **Week One**

Course Introduction  
\* Welcome to the class

### **Mini-autobiography in class**

**Thurs., Sept. 8**

**READ:** "Preface to the Student" pp. xv-xvii (*TF*)  
Chapter 1 "Lying 101" pp. 1-8 (*TF*)  
"Getting Started" pp. 8-11 (*CP*)

**Tues., Sept. 13**

### **Week Two**

**CRWR Welcome Back Event: Library Multipurpose Room LLC 151.**

**Thurs., Sept. 15**

**READ:** Chapter 4 "Plot" pp. 42-50 (*TF*)  
"Plot" p. 2 (*CP*)  
"Pendergast's Daughter" by Lex Williford pp. 57-58 (*ESS*)  
Class Discussion Questions, p. 80 (*CP*)  
Stephen King, p. 75 (*CP*)

\* (Group) in-class exercise for your Journal: Exercise 4.1, p. 50 (*TF*)

**Tues., Sept. 20**

### **Week Three**

**READ:** "Always a Motive" by Dan Ross pp. 4-7 (*CP*)  
"Show, Don't Tell" pp. 12-16 (*CP*)

\* (Individual) in-class exercise for your Journal: Exercise 3.1, p. 22 (*TF*)

**Thurs., Sept. 22**

**READ:** Chapter 3 "Character" pp.18-34 (*TF*)

**Tues., Sept. 27**

### **Week Four**

**READ:** Chapter 3 "Character" pp. 35-41 (*TF*)

- Thurs., Sept. 29**      **Writing Workshop: Story #1: Plot.** Please bring in four copies of your story for in-class critique.
- Tues., Oct. 4**      **Week Five**
- Due: Story #1: Plot***
- READ:** “The Flats Road” by Alice Munro pp.17-32 (*CP*)  
Chapter 6 “Dialogue” pp. 67-78 (*TF*)
- \* (Individual) in-class exercise for your Journal: “Creating Characters: The Dossier, pp. 102-107 (*CP*)
- Thurs., Oct. 6**      **READ:** “About Boston” by Ward Just pp.121-152 (*ESS*)  
Class Discussion Questions, pp. 82-83 (*CP*)
- Tues., Oct. 11**      **Week Six**
- READ:** “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” by James Thurber pp.175-180 (*ESS*)  
Class Discussion Questions, p. 84 (*CP*)  
“Mrs. Sen’s” by Jhumpa Lahiri pp.153-174 (*ESS*)  
Class Discussion Questions, p. 84 (*CP*)
- Thurs., Oct. 13**      **READ:** “Point of View” pp. 54-55 (*CP*)  
“Point of View” pp. 60-61 (*CP*)  
“Hills Like White Elephants” by Ernest Hemingway pp. 56-57 (*CP*)  
Class Discussion Questions, p. 58 (*CP*)
- Tues., Oct. 18**      **Week Seven**
- Writing Workshop: Story #2: Character.** Please bring in four copies of your story for in-class critique.
- Thurs., Oct. 20**      ***Due: Story #2: Character***
- READ:** Chapter 7 “Point of View” pp. 79-90 (*TF*)
- \* (Individual) in-class exercise for your Journal: Exercise 7.2, p. 90 (*TF*)
- READ:** “On the Rainy River” by Tim O’Brien pp. 91-109 (*ESS*)  
Class Discussion Questions, p. 86 (*CP*)
- Tues., Oct. 25**      **Week Eight**
- READ:** “Car Crash While Hitchhiking” by Denis Johnson pp. 183-189 (*ESS*)  
Class Discussion Questions, p. 87 (*CP*)
- \* (Group) in-class exercise for your Journal: Exercise 7.3, p. 90 (*TF*)
- Thurs., Oct. 27**      **Setting and Details**  
**READ:** Chapter 2 “Details” pp. 9-17 (*TF*)  
“The Painted Door” by Sinclair Ross pp. 34-52 (*CP*)
- Tues., Nov. 1**      **Week Nine**
- Writing Workshop: Story #3: Point of View.** Please bring in four copies of your story for in-class critique.
- Thurs., Nov. 3**      ***Due: Story #3: Point of View***
- READ:** Appendix: “Research” pp. 103-106 (*TF*)  
“Nilda” by Junot Diaz pp. 75-85 (*ESS*)  
Class Discussion Questions, p. 88 (*CP*)

- Tues., Nov. 8**                    **Week Ten**
- Due: First Portfolio: two Finished Stories***
- Structure**  
**READ:** "Brownies" by ZZ Packer pp. 190-213 (*ESS*)  
 Class Discussion Questions, pp. 88-89 (*CP*)
- Thurs., Nov. 10**                **Writing Workshop: Story #4: Setting.** Please bring in four copies of your story for in-class critique.
- Tues., Nov. 15**                **Week Eleven**
- Due: Story #4: Setting***
- READ:** Chapter 5 "Story Structure" pp. 51-66 (*TF*)  
 "Mr. Know All" by W. Somerset Maugham pp. 62-67 (*CP*)  
 "Address Unknown" by Kathrine Kressmann Taylor pp. 232-256 (*ESS*)  
 Class Discussion Questions, p. 90 (*CP*)
- Thurs., Nov. 17**                **READ:** "Demonology" by Rick Moody pp. 19-31 (*ESS*)  
 Class Discussion Questions, p. 91 (*CP*)
- Tues., Nov. 22**                **Week Twelve**
- Writing Workshop: Story #5: Structure.** Please bring in four copies of your story for in-class critique
- Thurs., Nov. 24**                ***Due: Story #5: Structure***
- READ:** Chapter 8 "Style" pp. 91-102 (*TF*)  
 "Sweet Town" by Toni Cade Bambara pp. 3-7 (*ESS*)  
 Class Discussion Questions, p. 92 (*CP*)
- Tues., Nov. 29**                **Week Thirteen**
- READ:** "Snow" by Ann Beattie pp. 61-63 (*ESS*)  
 Class Discussion Questions, pp. 92-93 (*CP*)
- "Miriam" by Truman Capote pp. 267-280 (*ESS*)  
 Class Discussion Questions, p. 93 (*CP*)
- Thurs., Dec. 1**                **Writing Workshop: Story #6: Style.** Please bring in four copies of your story for in-class critique.
- Tues., Dec. 6**                **Week Fourteen**
- Due: Story #6: Style***
- READ:** Appendix: "Publication and Market Research Exercise" pp. 107-110 (*TF*)
- READ:** "On Writing" by Stephen King pp. 68-74 (*CP*)
- Thurs., Dec. 8**                FINAL CLASS / WRAP UP
- Due: Book Review***
- Due: Journal***
- \* Mon., Dec. 12**    **Hand in second portfolio (with two Finished Stories)**  
**at my office, Paul 226 by 5:30 p.m. (There will be no extensions.)**

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

**Evaluation:** each assignment will be preceded by *detailed* instructions:

### 1. Final Drafts: You write **FOUR** out of the following six stories:

- \* Story #1 "Plot" is due on Tues., Oct. 4
- \* Story #2 "Character" is due on Thurs., Oct. 20
- \* Story #3 "Point of View" is due on Thurs., Nov. 3
- \* Story #4 "Setting" is due on Tues., Nov. 15
- \* Story #5 "Structure" is due on Thurs., Nov. 24
- \* Story #6 "Style" is due on Thurs., Dec. 1

4 X 5% =	20%	
2. Midterm Portfolio of 2 Short Stories (due on Tues., Nov. 8)	25%	
3. Journal: in-class and assigned exercises (due on Thurs., Dec. 8)	10%	
4. Final Portfolio of 2 Short Stories (due on Mon., Dec. 12)	25%	
5. Lab work: Book Review (of a fictional novel) (due on Thurs., Dec. 8)	10%	
6. Participation (class, writing workshops, attendance, etc.--ongoing)	10%	
	100%	

Detailed instructions will 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.

## 6. Grading System

*(No changes are to be made to this section unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through the Education Council of Camosun College for approval.)*

### 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
<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.

## 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](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 the College web site in the Policy Section.

#### Students' Responsibilities:

Everyone learns differently. It is up to you to take an active part in the classes and to make sure you are getting the encouragement, criticism, evaluation, and information that you need. Please do not hesitate to email or phone me if you have any questions.

1. 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. Portfolios include earlier drafts and critiques from your instructor and peers.
2. You should ALWAYS keep a copy of EVERYTHING you hand in for evaluation. Accidents sometimes happen and work may be misplaced.
3. **You must complete all assignments to receive a grade in this course.** Hand work in on time (at the beginning of class on the due date). Late submissions must be negotiated and will be penalized 5% per day, counting weekends, up to a maximum of five (5) weekdays, after which they will not be accepted.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of MLA documentation. Plagiarism is a violation of academic ethics which results in serious penalties; therefore, it is vital to give credit where credit is due. Use research/reference materials to support your ideas, not replace them, and make sure your documentation is accurate. For College policies regarding plagiarism, see Student Conduct Policy, "Academic Misconduct," in the Camosun Student Calendar.
5. 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).

#### Instructor's Responsibilities:

The instructor will adapt the course appropriately, function as a senior learner, share her own ideas and writing, stimulate and support the learning of others, give every opportunity for success, provide clear instructions and examples for assignments, comment helpfully, return work promptly, and treat students with respect, fairness, and honesty.

#### Format Requirements for Assignments:

1. All homework must be typed.
2. In the left-hand corner, please include your name, my name (Christine Kirchner), CRWR 154, and the date. In addition, each finished story should have a thoughtful title. (No separate title pages, please.) Centre the title.
3. 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.