

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: CRWR-154: Introduction to Fiction
CLASS SECTION: 002
TERM: F2021
COURSE CREDITS: 3
DELIVERY METHOD(S): Face-to-face, Tuesdays and Fridays in Fisher 262, 1:00-2:20pm

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here. Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

For COVID-19 information please visit <https://legacy.camosun.ca/covid19/index.html>.

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable explanation in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Micaela Maftei
EMAIL: MafteiM@camosun.bc.ca
OFFICE: Paul 327
HOURS: Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:00am-11:00am, or by appointment Wednesdays 12:30-2:30

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

In this course, students develop their skills in writing prose fiction, especially short stories. Students examine elements such as characterization, plot, dialogue, setting, point of view, openings and endings, and theme in the development of original stories. Students will prepare to share their work with an audience.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Write stories that are well-crafted.
2. Develop a writing process that involves generating, drafting, workshopping, revising and editing.
3. Create plots, settings, characters, and themes using appropriate points of view and nuanced language.
4. Compose a journal that informs the storyteller's process and finished work.
5. Read and analyze diverse published stories to identify crafting techniques.
6. Incorporate authentic detail to give fiction credibility.
7. Identify and use various resources (such as submission guidelines) available for writers in preparing work for publication.
8. Present their work in a professional manner.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

We'll be using Alice LaPlante's *The Making of a Story* as our course text. This book is available at Camosun bookstore (you don't need to buy it there, though). Please also be prepared to print out submissions for your workshops – this is probably going to be about 50-60 pages over the term.

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

| WEEK | Tuesday | Friday |
|------|--|--|
| 1 | Course intro/syllabus hand-out and discussion | Assignment breakdown and description |
| 2 | The Basics pp. 23-36; On Keeping a Notebook, pp. 40-47 | The workshop method pp. 544-551; group division |
| 3 | First Drafts, pp. 574-578; The Splendid Gift of Not Knowing, pp. 57-69 | Exercise # 1 – in class |
| 4 | Point of View pp. 258-281, "The Swimmer" pp. 330-340 | Workshop #1 – in class |
| 5 | The short story, pp. 152-165; What Makes a Short Story? pp. 167-178 | Plot, pp. 375-387 Story # 1 due |
| 6 | Exercise #2 – in class | Showing vs Telling, pp. 204-227; "Winner Take Nothing", pp. 245-257 |
| 7 | Character I, pp. 418-435, "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?", pp. 72-87 | Character II, "Surrounded by Sleep", pp. 441-453, "No Name Woman", pp. 453-464 |
| 8 | Reliability, pp. 238-318 | Exercise #3 – in class |
| 9 | Creative Nonfiction, pp. 619-633, "Moonrise", pp. 299-317 | Workshop #2 – in class |
| 10 | Dialogue, pp. 341-354; "Hills Like White Elephants", pp. 356-360 | Dialogue in-class work Story #2 due |
| 11 | Writing for Publication | Exercise #4 – in class |
| 12 | Editing/Preparing your work | Co-writing |
| 13 | Plan/organize reading | Workshop #3 – in class |
| 14 | Exercise #5 – in class | Final class/goodbyes Story #3 due |

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

| DESCRIPTION | WEIGHTING |
|---|---------------|
| Stories (Due Oct 8, Nov 12, and Dec 10) | 3 x 15% = 45% |
| Exercises (In class on Sept 24, Oct 12, Oct 29, Nov 19 and Dec 7) | 5 x 5% = 25% |
| Workshops (In class on Oct 1, Nov 5 and Dec 3) | 3 x 10% = 30% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.
<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

This course presupposes that you are interested in writing, that you are willing to put in time, voluntarily, to get better at writing, and that you believe in the idea that a writer gets better with practice, not by fulfilling the bare minimum of requirements. This course is built on the idea that we're all in this together, and that the best way to spend these 14 weeks is devoting time, effort and energy to becoming better writers, better readers, better critics and better sources of support for our peers. My suggestions to assist you to succeed are:

- Put in the time. No one can tell you how much time is needed. Put in as much as you can.
- Contact me with questions, concerns, comments, etc. I am a resource and will do my best to help! I'm also pretty good at suggesting other, better or more appropriate sources of support if I know of them.
- Be prepared for this course. That means, for workshop weeks, that you've read and annotated your peers' material, and are prepared to talk about them. For exercises, it means having a clear mind, material to write with, and mental energy for the task.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Academic Advising | http://camosun.ca/advising |
| Accessible Learning | http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning |
| Counselling | http://camosun.ca/counselling |
| Career Services | http://camosun.ca/coop |
| Financial Aid and Awards | http://camosun.ca/financialaid |
| Help Centres (Math/English/Science) | http://camosun.ca/help-centres |
| Indigenous Student Support | http://camosun.ca/indigenous |
| International Student Support | http://camosun.ca/international/ |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Learning Skills | http://camosun.ca/learningskills |
| Library | http://camosun.ca/services/library/ |
| Office of Student Support | http://camosun.ca/oss |
| Ombudsperson | http://camosun.ca/ombuds |
| Registration | http://camosun.ca/registration |
| Technology Support | http://camosun.ca/its |
| Writing Centre | http://camosun.ca/writing-centre |

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the “Attendance” section under “Registration Policies and Procedures” (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun’s Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student’s right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun’s Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/sexual-violence. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College’s Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College’s expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Changes to this syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.