

Department of English & Writing Studies

Advanced Fiction Workshop

English 4570F (001)

Fall 2018

Instructor: Nino Ricci
University College 2414
nricci5@uwo.ca
(519) 661-2111 ext. 85790

Course Location: University College 4401

Course Date/Time: Tues 2:30-5:30 PM

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 from English 2200-2250, English 3200-3210, Theatre Studies 3205F/G, or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

A workshop course directed at students interested in writing a novel or a collection of linked short stories, with a focus on the crucial early stages of the writing process. Students will be expected to complete 25 to 40 pages of an early draft of a novel or story collection over the course of the term.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will have:

- enhanced their understanding of the creative process and of the theory and practice of novel-writing;
- improved their ability to analyse and edit both their own work and that of others;
- learned about the practical aspects of getting their work published and of pursuing writing as a profession.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

- Gardner, John. *The Art of Fiction: Notes on Craft for Young Writers*. Vintage, 2010 (1983).
King, Stephen. *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*. Scribner, 2010 (2000).
Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird*. Anchor, 2007 (1994).
Wood, James. *How Fiction Works*. Picador, 2009.

Secondary/Recommended Texts:

- Dillard, Annie. *The Writing Life*. Harper Perennial, 2013 (1989).
Gardner, John. *On Becoming a Novelist*. W. W. Norton, 1999 (1983).
Goldberg, Natalie. *Writing Down the Bones*. North Point Press, 2002 (1995).
Shapiro, David. *How to Write a Novel*. HarperCollins, 2009 (1997).
Talbott, John. *The Art of Fiction*. HarperCollins, 2009 (1997).
Winters, Kenneth. *The Writer's Life*. HarperCollins, 2009 (1997).

Methods of Evaluation

This is a workshop course. Students will be expected to submit work on a regular basis to be discussed by the class and to produce 25 to 40 pages of an early draft of a novel or story collection by the end of term. Students submissions and to provide written commentaries on them.

A workshop schedule will be established early in the semester. In addition, the instructor will meet individually with students to establish a pl

Final grades will be based on the following:

Workshop submissions: 50%

- Students will submit a portfolio at the end of the semester of 25 to 40 pages (6,500 to 10,000 words) containing all work submitted during the semester and any additional work completed but not yet submitted.
- class may be included in your total page count.

Oral presentation: 10%

- Each student will be responsible for a 10-minute in-class presentation on a topic drawn from one of the required course texts.

Class participation: 20%

Written commentaries (150-250 words for each submission): 20%

- Bring two copies of each commentary to class, one to be given to the instructor and one to the student whose piece it comments on.

There is NO final exam in this course.

For a creative writing workshop to function effectively, students MUST ATTEND REGULARLY and MUST SUBMIT WORK ON DEADLINE. Absences not supported with a other acceptable documentation will affect and may result in a failure in the course if they amount to more than 15% of class time. Late submissions will be penalized or not accepted.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at [http://\[de\]3\(\[dedo\]3\(p \)8\(t11\(\)d\(\)-6\(e \)8\(f\)-14\)-22\(O\)1BTe\)at/\(ti\)6td o](http://[de]3([dedo]3(p)8(t11()d()-6(e)8(f)-14)-22(O)1BTe)at/(ti)6td o)

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be

together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at [ht](#)