

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 496.01
COURSE TITLE: Fiction Writing II
W 18:00-20:45 SS 1153

F/W 2016-2017

Instructor: Suzette Mayr

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E-mail: smayr@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 am, or by appointment

Homepage/course website: <https://english.ucalgary.ca/profiles/suzette-mayr>

Email and Electronic Submissions Policy:

I am happy to reply to short, specific questions via email and will answer as promptly as possible (usually it takes me approximately one week to respond to a given email). However, I cannot guarantee that you will have a reply within a specific amount of time. If you have detailed questions on the course material it is more appropriate to see me during office hours, or make an appointment to see me personally in my office.

Electronic submission of short fiction via D2L is required with all workshop submissions EXCEPT for written critiques, and the final short fiction submitted in April 2017. These must be in hard copy form.

Use and Abuse of Electronic Devices in Class:

Laptops are permitted for class use, but please refrain from engaging with social media or other non-class related activities during class time.

Course description:

English 496 is concerned with the practice and theory of writing fiction for students at an intermediate level, paying particular attention to craft and technique, and with some movement toward longer work. This class will be conducted as a workshop, with students required to critique one another's writing over the year. Students will also present one stylistic analysis to class, both attend and report on two readings or literary events (these must occur outside of class time), and write and submit two versions of a "Statement on Aesthetics."

Students are expected to read and write a great deal, to discuss published fiction as well as their classmates' writing, and to come to class prepared to discuss this writing with constructive, informed, and intelligent criticism. The workshop format does not imply group work, but all-class participation under my direction. Students upload writing to D2L one week in advance; students are then expected to come to class having read that material and prepared with constructive criticism and relevant responses.

Over the year, students are required to write four short pieces that will be workshopped in class, two in the first term and two in the second term. A fifth story, which will not be workshopped, is due at the end of the year to the instructor. Each piece should be between 10-20 pages long (double-spaced, 12-point font, one

inch margins), and in the second term, students wishing to submit a rewrite of an earlier story can do so, but the rewrite must be *radical*, and accompanied by a two-page (double-spaced) statement discussing what rewrites were made and to what effect. A rewrite that treats only the cosmetic, copy-editing or proof-reading aspects of the text will not be regarded favourably.

Every student must give one 20-minute group presentation on one of the published stories or books included on the reading list over the course of the year. The presentations are to be creative and invigorating, and under no circumstances are to be a flat read from a paper presentation.

Students must also attend at least two, out-of-class readings or literary events over the course of the year and submit a one-page, double-spaced report on each reading. At least one report is due by the last class in the fall semester (07 December 2016); the remaining one by the last class in the winter semester (12 April 2017).

Students will also submit a one-page, double-spaced “Statement on Aesthetics” which will be distributed to the rest of the class for discussion. This assignment is due 30 Nov. 2016. A rewrite of this assignment is due 05 April 2017.

Texts and readings:

Available at the U of Calgary bookstore:

Alexis, Andre. *Fifteen Dogs*

Gill, Charlotte. *Ladykiller*

The Writer's Notebook II: Craft Essays from Tin House

Available via D2L:

Hemingway, Ernest. “Hills Like White Elephants”

King, Thomas. “Borders”

O'Brien, Tim. “The Things They Carried”

Oates, Joyce Carol. “Thanksgiving”

Gowdy, Barbara. “We So Seldom Look On Love”

Cheever, John. “The Swimmer”

Perkins Gilman, Charlotte. “The Yellow Wallpaper”

Walker, Alice. “Nineteen Fifty-Five”

Carey, Peter. “Do You Love Me?”

Carter, Angela. “The Company of Wolves”

Yamamoto, Hisaye. “Seventeen Syllables”

Wah, Fred. “All the Trimmings”

van Neerven, Ellen. “Crash”

Assignments and Evaluation:

All work must be typed and double-spaced in a legible font, no smaller than 12 point. Fiction to be workshopped should be submitted via the D2L platform one week before it is due to be workshopped. Written critiques, and the final short fiction submitted in April 2017 must be submitted in hard copy (printed) form.

First Term: 2 short fictions (10% each)

Second Term: 3 short fictions (15% each) – one short fiction can be a rewrite of an earlier work, but it must be a *radical* rewrite and must be accompanied by a 2-page discussion of what was rewritten and to what

effect. As stated above, a rewrite that treats only the cosmetic, copy-editing or proof-reading aspects of the text will not be regarded favourably.

Writing (due dates will be determined on the first day of class)	70%
Class Participation	10%
Critiquing and Critical Acumen	10%
Reading Reviews (2 over the course of the year, due dates 07 Dec. 2016 and 12 April 2017)	2%
In-Class Presentation (dates will be determined in class)	5%
Statement on Aesthetics (due 30 Nov. 2016)	1.5%
Statement on Aesthetics rewrite (due 05 April 2017)	1.5%

Students must complete ALL assignments in order to pass the course. There is no final exam in this course.

Your final grade will consist of an evaluation of all the work you hand in. Your attendance, participation, and the degree of improvement you make will figure into your final mark. You are expected to attend and to contribute to class discussion. Attached is a breakdown of how the final grade is determined. You will be given feedback throughout the year.

1. Attendance and participation

In order to receive full marks for the Participation component of the final grade, students must arrive punctually, attend class, and participate in class discussion. If you are uneasy about discussing your own or other people's work, you should reconsider your presence in the class.

2. Critiques

Each student is required to critique and edit his/her colleagues' work with care and in some detail, providing two copies of a one paragraph- to one page-long, double-spaced written commentary for each story critiqued (one for the instructor and one for the student whose work is being discussed). These critiques are due on the evening of the class discussion; your reading should thus not be a regurgitation of what is said in class, but your own initial and thoughtful response to the work.

3. Reading reviews (1 in Fall, 1 in Winter)

Readings and other literary events provide students with invaluable experience and exposure to the writing community. Students will hand in a one-page, typed, double-spaced report on the reading and the performance (you will not have to analyze a great deal, as this is difficult when literary texts are heard only once, but you should describe and remark on the event you have chosen). You may, if you prefer, attend several readings and choose the two that most capture your attention.

5. End of year reading and class chapbook

At the end of the academic year, all the Creative Writing classes have a mass reading. To celebrate that event, the class puts together a chapbook that they sell, and which gives every student who submits a publishing credit. If you are interested in editing or designing, you can choose to be a part of the team that puts the class chapbook together. Those who do that work will have their contribution counted with positive prejudice toward their class participation grade.

4. "Statement on Aesthetics" + Rewrite of "Statement on Aesthetics"

This assignment is a discussion of what you as a writer see as your own writing aesthetic and what you see as the rules that govern your understanding of how you would like to see your writing function. In the visual

arts world, the equivalent would be the Artist's Statement. For example, have certain writers influenced your writing and what you strive for in your writing? Which writers? Why? How? What elements of these other writers' work attract you? What other kind of writing do you model yours after? Why? Do you see your writing following or fitting into a particular writing school or movement? You can refer to concrete examples from your own texts in order to illustrate your points, and be sure to refer to outside sources. Please include an MLA-formatted bibliography, and be prepared to discuss your first statement in January 2017. This assignment is due 30 November 2016. A rewrite of this assignment is due 05 April 2017.

Final note:

In this class there is no such thing as writer's block and this excuse will not be accepted. If you are to make good progress, it is essential that you set aside time for writing every day because waiting for inspiration will only lead to trouble and lack of discipline.

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day [not class] that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted two weeks past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

For printed assignments, please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the dropbox. Your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

Grading system:

The University of Calgary's four-point Grading System, as described in the Calendar; (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>) will be used in this course.

90 + %	A+	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style,

correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

A range: Consistently exceptional work

The work is moving toward a publishable level. The use of language is concise and precise and original; figures of speech are imaginative and compelling; the content of the work is interesting and is treated in a fresh, new way, and the form chosen is the best possible. Writing in this range employs every element of fiction with sophistication and elegance.

B range: Consistently good work

The work is above average, with good use of language, originality, and control, but could use more refinement or development, and more revision. It shows at least in part a heightened awareness of structure and image, several striking aspects of narrative, and an interesting perspective or point of view. Word choice and description are generally exact and thoughtful.

C range: Consistently average work

The work is satisfactory, but relies on ordinary, even somewhat predictable use of language. Work in this range is formally not innovative, although the writing will be competent, even promising. The material will definitely need more work, more layering, more texture. Image and plot are sound but may verge on clichéd and predictable. Vocabulary is adequate but may be limited.

D range: Minimal pass

The work shows some effort but is carelessly constructed and may have grammatical problems or lack awareness of the mechanics of English. Use of language will be undistinguished and clichéd, ideas ordinary, even predictable.

F: No credit

Work shows no effort; no work has been done at all.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events

<http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>.

Our email address is smecuofc@gmail.com.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should

verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<http://www.enough.utoronto.ca/computeruse/eetiquette.htm>

Library and Research Support:

Christie Hurrell, Interim Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: christie.hurrell@ucalgary.ca.

Find The English Pages research guide here: <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:



Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Arts Students’ Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at

ascarts@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at

<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman’s Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>) "The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community". The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a "positive and productive learning and working environment." This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that "seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff". Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.