

English 436.04  
Fiction: Long Short Stories and the Novella  
Wednesday evenings, 18:00 – 22:45

Professor A. van Herk  
SS 1132/220-5481                      vanherk@ucalgary

English 436 is a course in the practice and theory of writing longer fiction for students at an intermediate level, with emphasis on well-developed short stories or short novellas. Students are expected to read and write a great deal and should be prepared for intensive work. The course is conducted as a workshop, along with analyses and lectures; class participation is required. The class functions as a workshop of the whole. Students will make work to be discussed available in advance so that their colleagues can read that material and come to class prepared to discuss it with erudition and eloquence.

Students are required to submit work that is polished and well developed. Students are also expected to read their colleagues' writing with care, to write brief critiques of their colleagues' work, and to come to class with constructive criticism, prepared to discuss each piece of writing under consideration. This requires steady and thoughtful work in preparing for class, and it requires focused attention on an ongoing basis.

Students are required to write and submit about 50 pages of Creative work: one short novella OR two long stories, OR four shorter pieces of about 15 pages, with a final re-written portfolio to be submitted as a piece de resistance at the end of the course. Work will be critiqued by the class, and all work should be carefully constructed, showing evidence of re-writing and revision. Pages of writing should total around fifty, but that is a rough guide. The primary expectation is that students will be producing polished work.

Students are also required to do one in-class presentation on a selected work from material assigned to the class. This in-class presentation will be brief (5 minutes), and will approach a particular piece of writing from a writer's perspective, elucidating its effectiveness and usefulness.

### **COURSE WORK AND WEIGHTING**

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| 50 pages of writing        | 50%         |
| Final portfolio            | 20%         |
| Class participation        | 10%         |
| Critical acumen, critiques | 10%         |
| In-class presentation      | 10%         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>100%</b> |

A student must complete **ALL** work in order to pass this course.  
There is **NO** final examination in this course  
Please complete the form on the following page.

**APPLICATION AND PORTFOLIO DUE: August 1, 2018**

Application Form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

List previous English courses that may relate, and Course instructor:

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List all previous Creative Writing courses (including non-credit), grade received, and instructor:

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Your reasons for wishing to enroll in this course:

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Attach 20 pages of your best writing.

You will be notified of whether or not you gain admission by mid-August.