

WRITING 2218F-001

Creative Writing: The Short Story

*(To Make a Long Story Short: Introduction to Writing Short Fiction)***Fall 2016**

Tuesday 12:30 - 3:30 PM

SH3307

Instructor:

Terence Green

COURSE OUTLINE**1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The course consists of thirteen 3-hour classes, conducted in the “**workshop**” mode (as opposed to the lecture format), in which students will develop not only fiction writing ability, but also critical reading skills. **The short story** will be the focus of the course.

Based on professional models, instructor guidance and class discussion, students will produce their own short fictions, progressing from short “flash” fictions of 500-750 words, to interim lengths of 1000-1250 words (“sudden” fiction), to the final assignment stressing dialogue.

The ability to communicate information, arguments and analyses accurately and reliably, orally and in writing to a range of audiences, is an objective of all the Writing Program courses.

This is not a lecture course. It is a discussion, reading and **workshop** course, and as a result students must be prepared to **participate** in the workshop process: peer evaluation, editing, drafting, discussion topics, etc. In a writing workshop, one learns to write for others besides oneself – to respect one’s readers and work toward their seamless reading. And clearly, as there are only 13 classes (and no final examination), attendance is mandatory. I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. Should you arrive late, it will be your responsibility to ensure that you are not marked absent by seeing me after class. **[See note regarding Writing Program policy for documenting absences and penalties for absences in Section 3 of this Course Outline.]**

2. REQUIRED TEXTS

- *Flash Fiction Forward*, ed. by James Thomas & Robert Shepard [\$21] (80 very short stories)
[To be read by **Week 2**, September 19]
- *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love*, by Raymond Carver [\$17] (short stories)
[To be read by **Week 7**, October 24]
(above texts available in university bookstore)

3. EVALUATION SUMMARY

Regular attendance and participation in workshops is required.

Flash Fiction	30% (draft: 10%; final: 20%)	Week 5/6/7
Sudden Fiction	30% (draft: 10%; final: 20%)	Week 8/9/10
Final Story	40% (draft: 10%; final: 30%)	Week 13
Total	100%	

- **NOTE:** All work submitted for grading or shared with other students in a workshop setting must be computer-printed for legibility. All writing must be backed up on CD or disk or memory stick, for submission if requested.
- Late assignments will be penalized 5% a day (including weekends) unless an extension has been negotiated at least 48 hours in advance of due date.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at class is required to improve as a writer. Here is the Writing Studies attendance policy in this class:

- You may miss up to three hours (the equivalent of one week of class) of class meetings during the term without explanation. That means that the first three class hours you miss will be recorded as absences but *excused provided you don't miss any more*.
- However, if you miss a total of four to nine class hours (the equivalent of up to three full weeks of class), your final grade will be reduced by 10% (e.g. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 72).
- If you miss a total of more than nine hours of class meetings (the equivalent of more than three weeks of class meetings) your final grade will be reduced by 15% (e.g. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 68).

This policy will be waived only for medical or compassionate reasons. If you have good reasons for waiving an absence of one class meeting (e.g. if you've missed three hours, and need or want to miss another class meeting) discuss these reasons with your instructor within one week of that absence. If your absence is extended and prolonged (over one week of continuous non-

attendance), then you should discuss it with your academic advisor in your home faculty, who may require documentation. That advisor may then contact all of your instructors. See also: ‘**Medical Accommodation Policy**’ below.

Attendance also extends to tardiness. If you are more than 20 minutes late, you will be penalized an hour of attendance. Please make every effort to be on time as late entry can disrupt the flow of discussion in our class. Early departures from class, which have not been previously arranged with the instructor, will also be counted as an absence. If you leave during the break, you will be docked an hour of attendance.

This policy will only be waived for medical or compassionate reasons.

Prerequisites: “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.” The prerequisite for registration in this course is a) a final grade of 65 or more in one of Writing 2101, 2121, 2111, or 2131, or b) a final grade of 70 or more in Writing 1000F/G, or c) Special Permission of the Program.”

No audits allowed.
3 hours; 0.5 course