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ENG 3063-600: Intermediate Fiction Writing

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English 3063
Intermediate Fiction
Eastern Illinois University
Fall 2021

Instructor Dr. Bess

Winter

bwkosinec@eiu.edu

Office: Office hours held online this semester

Digital Office Hours

Mondays & Tuesdays –1:30p.m.-3:00 p.m. Wednesdays—1:30 p.m.-2:30pm, or by appointment (*These times may change mid-semester, as I will likely be abroad and in a different time zone)

Texts & Materials

- A blank notebook. Choose something that makes you want to write in it.
- A good pen. Choose something that makes you want to write with it.
- *Writing Fiction*, Janet Burroway, Elizabeth Stuckey-French & Ned Stuckey-French, 8th ed.
- Selected readings (*available on d2l*)

Course Description

Catalog description: (3-0-3) F. An intermediate course centered on the writing of fiction. Class time will be devoted to writing, reading, and discussion of fiction. WC

This class is not a “class” in the traditional sense. When we come together in this group we become a community of writers. Think 1920s Paris, Algonquin Round Table, the Harlem Renaissance, the Beat Poets. We share ideas, we question societal assumptions, and we challenge ourselves and each other. Debate and dialogue are encouraged here, as the only way to grow as a writer is to grow as a person, and to become a keen observer of other people. Most importantly, the success of the class depends on your contribution, your voice, your empathy toward your classmates and yourselves. And, of course, your willingness to spend time hacking it out at the keyboard.

The chief goal of this course, then, will be to take your writing from the level of a hobby or interest to an artistic practice, and to give you the tools you need to be able to speak critically about the craft of fiction. You will be fully expected to assume the role of writer and put in significant work this semester—and graded on your engagement with the

process: the whole messy, exciting, sometimes scary business of creating, workshopping, and revising stories. You will also be encouraged to explore how your fascinations make your writing unique and fully yours.

If you write and revise consistently, read voraciously, and engage deeply in class discussion, you will undoubtedly be a better writer by the end of the term.

By the end of this class you will:

- Be able to read, and analyze, fiction like a writer of fiction
- Be familiar with the tools of writer's craft
- Understand how to participate in writers' workshop
- Be familiar with a selection of techniques for revision and know how to implement them
- Have produced one revised short story plus a handful of drafts

Course Policies

Technical Requirements

To take this course, you must be able to do the following:

- Regularly access the Internet, using a laptop or desktop computer
- Download and upload email attachments
- Use Microsoft Word and PowerPoint
- Use Collaborate Ultra and Kaltura for audio/video communications
- Use Adobe Reader (free download) or Preview (for Mac) to read PDF files
- Install software
- Use a webcam and microphone

Digital Decorum, or 'Netiquette'

Constructive university learning environments require professors and students to respect differences—of background, thought, opinion, and belief. This notion holds special significance in our online literature course, where you will be asked to routinely engage with your classmates' perspectives, experiences, and ideas. Therefore, respect will serve as the guiding principle and bedrock expectation of our work together this semester.

Here are some best practices for communicating in our online classroom:

- Healthy discourse provides room for differences of opinion; however, disagreements should, without exception, be respectfully expressed.
- Keep in mind that sarcasm is more difficult to understand without tonal cues and body language.

- When you're replying to a discussion board post, please summarize the portion of the original post that has inspired your response.
- Avoid unnecessary repetition. Privilege concision and rely on the substance of your ideas to meet suggested word counts.
- Since our discussions will draw extensively from primary and secondary sources, be sure to clearly indicate direct quotes and, when possible, provide page numbers.
- In the case of digital texts with unclear or ambiguous pagination, please clearly indicate the chapter to which you're referring.

The following content will not be permitted and will, furthermore, be referred for disciplinary action:

- Illegal materials
- Harassing or threatening comments
- Harmful, abusive, or sexually explicit statements

Submitting Assignments

Dropbox assignments should use reader-friendly, 12-point fonts and should be submitted as Word or PDF files.

Instructor Response Time

I will check the course daily Monday through Friday and periodically during weekends. You can expect an email response from me within 48 hours of your message, and you can expect to receive grades on all assignments within one week of submission deadlines.

Late Work and Make-Up Work

All work should be turned in on the designated dates, at the specified times. I do not accept late work unless qualifying circumstances are discussed with me beforehand; I will grant extensions only when provided with at least 48-hours notice.

Policy on Plagiarism

Here is the English department's plagiarism policy: "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work' (*Random House Dictionary of the English Language*)—has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources."

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>).

Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by McAfee Gym, room 1210, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

Technical Support

If you need assistance with D2L, call D2L Support toll free at 1-877-325-7778. Support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Email and Chat options are also available on the "My Home" page after logging in to D2L. Other D2L Resources, including a D2L Orientation course for students, are available on the "My Home" page. If you are experiencing less than optimal D2L Brightspace performance, review the D2L Brightspace Performance Checklist to assess the issue.

For technical questions related to other software, hardware, network issues, EIU NetID/password, or Panthermail, contact the ITS Helpdesk at 217-581-4357 during regular business hours, or submit a help ticket at <https://techsupport.eiu.edu/>. If you have a question related to course content, please contact your instructor.

Grading

Assignment	Grade	Total Points
Pre-Workshop Participation, Modules 1-4 (includes discussion board participation, D2L activity, writing exercises, & small assignments)	20% (5% x 4 modules)	200
Workshop Participation, Modules 5-8 (includes discussion board participation, D2L activity, writing exercises, & small assignments)	10%	100
Workshop Submissions	20% (10% x 2)	200

Workshop Feedback	20%	200
Final Portfolio (2 revised stories & accompanying 1-2 page craft statement)	20%	200
Digital Presentation	10%	100
Total	100%	1000

Final Grade	Total Points/Percentage Grade
A	895-1000 (90-100%)
B	795-894 (80-89%)
C	695-794 (70-79%)
D	595-694 (60-69%)
F	0-594 (0-59%)

Additional Support

Office Hours

I will hold regular digital office hours at the times listed above, and I am always happy to speak with you—whether you have questions, want to brainstorm together, or simply

would like to discuss one of our books. If the demands of your schedule prevent you from meeting during office hours, please contact me to make other arrangements—we will find a time that works well for both of us.

The Writing Center

I encourage you to use EIU's Writing Center located at 3110 Coleman Hall. This free service provides one-to-one conferences with writing center consultants who can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support, documenting your papers, and working with sentence-level concerns. The writing center is open to help any student from any major at any stage of his or her writing process, and its system of one-to-one conferences demonstrates value and respect for individual writers, all of whom can benefit from feedback about their works in progress.

To schedule an appointment, you can drop by the center (3110 Coleman Hall) or you can go to <https://www.eiu.edu/writing/> or call 581-5929. Face-to-face Writing Center Hours are Mondays through Wednesdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Thursdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Fridays 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Online Hours are Sundays-Thursdays 5 p.m.-9 p.m.

The Student Success Center

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, text taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to McAfee Gym, Room 1301.

Schedule

The dates below are tentative; I reserve the right to make adjustments for the benefit of the class.

Module	Key Subjects & Craft Concepts	Materials & Major Assignments
Module 1: August 23rd-September 5th	--Why Short Stories? --What Are Short Stories? --How Do You Write Them?	-- <i>Writing Fiction</i> --D2L Resources & Activities

Module 2: September 7th-19th	--Craft Concept: Character --Craft Concept: Setting	-- <i>Writing Fiction</i> --D2L Resources & Activities
Module 3: September 20th-October 3rd	--Craft Concept: Form/Time --Craft: Plot	-- <i>Writing Fiction</i> --D2L Resources & Activities
Module 4: October 4th-17th	--Craft Concept: POV --Craft Concept: Dialogue/Voice	-- <i>Writing Fiction</i> --D2L Resources & Activities --Workshop Story #1 Due by 11:59 on October 17th
Module 5: October 18th-31 st	<i>Workshops Round 1, Part A</i>	--Workshop Submissions --D2L Resources & Activities
Module 6: November 1st-14th	<i>Workshops Round 1, Part B</i>	--Workshop Submissions --D2L Resources & Activities --Workshop Story #2 Due by 11:59 on November 14th

Module 7: November 15 th -28 th	<i>Workshops Round 2, Part A</i>	--Workshop Submissions --D2L Resources & Activities
Module 8: November 29 th -December 12	<i>Workshops Round 2, Part B</i>	--Workshop Submissions --D2L Resources & Activities --Digital Presentation/Reading Due by December 12th
Finals Week: December 13 th -17 th		Final Portfolio & Craft Statement Due