

Spring 1-15-2019

ENG 5020-001: Workshop in Creative Writing

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ENG5020-001: Graduate Workshop in Creative Writing
Tuesdays 7:00-9:30pm * Coleman 3159

Instructor

Dr. Bess Winter

bwkosinec@eiu.edu

Office: Coleman 3576

Office Hours: M 2-3pm, T 5:30-7pm, F 2-3:30pm

Required Texts

Comyns, Barbara. *Our Spoons Came from Woolworths*.

Cusk, Rachel. *Outline*.

Moshfegh, Ottessa. *My Year of Rest and Relaxation*.

Murata, Sayaka. *Convenience Store Woman*.

Supplemental readings as assigned

Course Description

This workshop-intensive course focuses on further development of your work, voice, and writerly fascinations, with an emphasis on the contemporary literary landscape. You will read several contemporary published works, and engage deeply with your own work and the work of your peers in the form of high-level workshop and advanced revision techniques. The ultimate goal is to produce fiction that is publishable or near-publishable.

You will be graded on a book-related presentation, participation in the English Studies Conference, and a final portfolio, as well as workshop participation.

Over the course of the semester, we'll read and discuss four novels by four women writers, all of which center around an "unlikeable" female narrator or protagonist. We'll spend time discussing what it means to write female "unlikeability," how writing "unlikeable" characters is reflected in a writer's craft-based choices, and whether there truly is such thing as an "unlikeable" character at all.

Assignments & Grading (out of 1000 points)

Attendance & Participation (discussion, workshop, workshop leadership, etc) – 250

Book discussion/presentation—250

English studies conference participation – 100

Final portfolio – 400

Workshop Submissions

Stories should be submitted a week (7 days) before class via d2l discussion board.

Workshop Responses

You will be prepared for every workshop class by doing the following:

- 1) Write comments in the margins of story up for discussion.
 - 2) Write a 1-page critique for each peer-written story we read this semester.
- Submit workshop responses as a reply to the workshopper's post on d2l.

Workshop Leadership

You will be responsible for leading two workshop discussions this term. You'll introduce your peer's story by a) summing up your understanding of the story's plot, goals, influences, and possibly its relationship to the writer's previous work and b) presenting the class with 2-3 questions/concerns you'd like us to address during the workshop. Your questions and insights should be respectful and deeply considered.

Book Discussion

You will make a 20-minute presentation on one of the four books on our reading list (two people will have to share a text and may wish to discuss/decide beforehand on which aspects of craft each will present on). The presentation should focus on aspects of writer's craft and the ways craft and "likeability" are intertwined in the text. You may wish to do some outside reading of reviews or other critical work to supplement your own reading of the text—you can also compare the chosen text to another work of fiction or non-fiction. You'll then initiate a 25-30-minute discussion of the text.

English Studies Conference Presentation

You'll participate in the English Studies Conference on April 2, either in the form of a reading or a presentation surrounding writer's craft. Note that there is no class on Apr 2.

Final Portfolio

This will consist of a significantly revised draft of one workshopped story and a 4-5 page artist's statement detailing your craft-based choices (the statement can also connect your own work to any of the readings we've done for class).

Course Policies

Attendance & Late Assignments

Your success in this class depends on full attendance and participation. Barring emergencies, you're expected to attend every class and participate fully in class discussion. Late assignments will not be accepted and will result in a failing grade.

EIU Policies:

Plagiarism

EIU English Department's Statement on Plagiarism: 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.

Accommodation for Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and are 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. Stop by Ninth Street Hall, room 2022, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

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, test 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 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Schedule (note that I may make small changes to this schedule, all of which will be announced beforehand)

1/8: Intro to course—supplemental readings

1/15: Comyns chs. 1-21, workshopper 1

1/22: Comyns chs. 22-end, Comyns presentation, workshopper 2

1/29: Supplemental reading (TBA), workshopper 3

2/5: Murata to pg. 83, workshopper 4

2/12: Murata pg. 84-end, Murata presentation, workshopper 5

2/19: Supplemental readings (TBA), workshopper 6

2/26: Moshfegh to pg. 120, workshopper 1

3/5: Moshfegh pg. 121-end, Moshfegh presentation 1, workshopper 2

3/19: Supplemental readings (TBA), Moshfegh presentation 2, workshopper 3

3/26: Cusk to chapter V, workshopper 4

4/9: Cusk chapter VI-end, Cusk presentation 1, workshopper 5

4/16: Cusk presentation 2, workshopper 6, possible supplemental reading TBA

4/23: Supplemental reading, wrap-up, possible workshop spillover

Portfolio due by Thurs Apr 30 via d2l