INTRODUCTION TO FICTION WRITING
WR 224
4 credits
Prerequisite: WR 121

Rationale for conversion: The conversion will give students greater opportunity to practice critical thinking and creative writing through increased emphasis on revision, peer review, and reading/analysis of published fiction. The length and complexity of writing assignments will be increased; a student presentation regarding the elements of craft in a published (print/non-print) work will be added, as well as required attendance and analysis of a literary event on campus or in the community.

The four credit version will:
• Add a student presentation on craft element using digital and print sources
• Add a writing assignment analyzing a literary event on campus and in the community
• Increase length and complexity of written analysis of fiction, with peer review and revision component.

The syllabus below is the four credit generic version.

Course Description
Discussion workshop. Student work examined in context of contemporary published work.

This course is designed to introduce students to the art of fiction writing. Students will read short stories from established and emerging writers that exemplify the various techniques used by fiction writers in their craft. The emphasis of this course will be on literary fiction and genre writing will be discouraged.

Students will produce written responses to published work, written critique letters for their peers, complete various craft exercises, lead a discussion on a contemporary piece of fiction, write two original short stories, and revise both of them. Students are required to meet with the instructor outside of class. The participation of each student is expected at every class meeting, as we are attempting to create a writing community. By the end of the class, students will have a better understanding of the short story as an art form, the craft of fiction writing and its tools, an appreciation for the writing process, and an understanding of contemporary fiction.

Student Learning Outcomes
• analyze and interpret published fiction for stylistic elements and meanings;
• recognize and use elements of narrative form as a means of discovering and conveying meaning for a reading audience;
• recognize and use writing processes effectively to generate, compose, organize, and revise writing;
• rhetorically analyze a variety of genres and forms appropriate to audience and purpose;
• develop and strengthen critical writing, reading, thinking, and communication skills for lifelong literacy.
This course meets the requirements for baccalaureate core courses in Writing II (Skills).

Learning Outcomes for Writing II (Skills)
1. Emphasize elements of critical thinking;
2. Focus on relevant theory, concepts, and techniques for understanding the form of communication involved and for improving skills;
3. Provide concepts and guidelines for determining effective communication within a specific area or discipline, including conventions of that field;
4. Require significant student practice or performance coupled with evaluation; and
5. Encourage appreciation and understanding of language, form, and style.

Requirements and Evaluation of Student Performance
Grading is based on performance and improvement in each area through the term.
1. Writing exercises, two short stories, and two revisions – 60%
2. Class attendance/participation/assigned readings – 10%
3. Written critiques of workshop stories -10%
4. A presentation on an assigned story – 10%
5. Attendance at a public reading and a written analysis – 10%

Texts
The Things They Carried, Tim O’Brien

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty, and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Students with accommodations approved through SSD are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through SSD should contact SSD immediately at 737-4098.

Link to Statement of Expectation for Student Conduct
http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon/htm