
Course Title: Creative Writing

Code:	W-362
Term:	Winter 2016
ECTS credits:	5
Lessons per week:	120 min
Language:	English
Instructor:	Linda M. Steyne, PhD
Form of study:	seminar

Office #4
Tel: +421 2 59234

Prerequisites

Academic Writing I-IV

Course Objectives

- Critical reading skills
- Improved spoken and written English language skills
- Creative writing skills, primarily short stories

Contents

Students read (critically) a variety of English-language short stories, learn how to analyze and interpret them, as well as learn how to write their own using various creative writing techniques and styles.

Topics and readings

Week 1: Introduction

- Assignment: Reading 'The House on Mango Street' (3-11); keep a journal for 4 days observing the world and people around you; write a journal entry called 'My Name'

Week 2: Lexical Choice – the Power of the Right (or wrong) Word

- Assignment: Reading 'The House on Mango Street' (page 12-22); continue with 4 more journal entries in which you describe what you see or hear that interests you

Week 3: The Short Story – Part 1: Setting

- Assignment: Read 'The Cask of Amantillado'; Write the opening of a short story in which the setting is vital to the plot

Week 4: The Short Story – Part 2: Plot

- Assignment: Read 'What You Pawn I Will Redeem'; Complete your story from the previous assignment being careful to maintain the plot

Week 5: The Short Story – Part 3: Conflict

- Assignment: Read 'Hills like White Elephants'; Write a short story with a clear conflict

Week 6: The Short Story – Part 4: Character

- Assignment: Read 'The Kugelmass Episode'; Work on rewrites

Week 7: The Short Story – Part 5: Point of View

- Assignment: Read 'Eleven'; Write a short story in which the narrator is a child under the age of 10

Week 8: The Short Story – Part 6: Theme

- Assignment: Read 'The Lottery'; Write (or rewrite) a short story focusing on theme without stating that theme outright

Week 9: Writing Workshop, Peer Review and Critical Analysis

- Assignment: Read TBA; Write a short story based on the set of criteria you drew in class

Week 10: Writing Workshop, Peer Review and Critical Analysis

- Assignment: Read TBA; Write a short story for entry into our competition

Week 11: Writing Workshop, Peer Review and Critical Analysis

- Assignment: Rewrites

Week 12: Writing Workshop, Peer Review and Critical Analysis

- Assignment: Final Draft for Entry

Week 13: Writing Workshop, Peer Review and Critical Analysis

Week 14: Results of Short Fiction Competition - Awards

Required Readings

Alexie, Sherman, *What You Pawn, I Will Redeem*. (*The New Yorker*, April 21, 2003).

Allen, Woody, *The Kugelmass Episode*. (*The New Yorker*, May 2, 1977).

Cisneros, Sandra, *Eleven. In Woman Hollering Creek, and Other Stories*. (New York: Random House, 1991). ISBN: 978-0679738565.

Cisneros, Sandra, *The House on Mango Street*. (New York: Vintage Books, 1991). ISBN: 9780679734772

de Maupassant, Guy, *The Necklace*. (Le Gaulois, February 17, 1884)

Faulkner, William, *A Rose for Emily*. (The Forum, April 30, 1930).

Hemingway, Ernest, *Hills Like White Elephants*. In Charters, Ann, Ed. *The Story and its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction*. 6th Ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2003.

Jackson, Shirley, *The Lottery*. (The New Yorker, June 26, 1948).

Joyce, James, *Eveline*, In *The Dubliners*. (London: Simon & Brown, 2011). ISBN: 978-1613820032

McNulty, Garry, *The Pony Spell*. (Flash Fiction Online, 2012).
<http://www.flashfictiononline.com/f20120302-pony-spell-garry-mcnulty.html>. ISSN: 1946-1712.

Poe, Edgar Allen, *The Cask of Amontillado*. (<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1063/1063-h/1063-h.htm>, 2010).

Svendsen, Paul C., *First Date*. (Authors Den,
<http://www.authorsden.com/visit/viewshortstory.asp?AuthorID=38525&id=32845>, February 18, 2008)

Additional Readings and Sources

These will arise throughout the course as both students and the instructor come across interesting and well-written creatively written texts.

Evaluation Criteria

30% Active attendance at seminars, participation in discussions on readings, preparedness for class
 70% The average of all written work (short stories).

Course Evaluation (%)

A – excellent:	100-93%,
B – very good:	92-84%,
C – good:	83-74%,
D – satisfactory:	73-63%,
E – sufficient:	62-51%,
Fx – fail:	50-0%.

Passing a course assumes that student was not absent at more than 2 lessons.