窗体顶端



**Fiction Writing and Appreciation**



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本科生

Undergraduate



English



English (facility in language, some experience with literature)



Short lectures, discussion, writing workshop (critique of students’ work)



Participation (includes readings, written exercises & class discussion) 50%
Final fiction portfolio (includes drafts & final revision of short story) 50%



2 credits



Mary Helen Stefaniak is Professor of English and Creative Writing at Creighton University in Omaha and also teaches in the graduate program in creative writing at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon.She received her M.F.A degree from the Iowa Writer’s Workshop at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, in 1984. (The M.F.A is the terminal graduate degree in the arts, equivalent to the Ph. D in other academic fields.Stefaniak has also been a visiting writer and speaker at many colleges and universities in the U.S.Professor Stefaniak has been invited to present lectures, readings, and writing workshops for many book clubs, community groups, libraries, and bookstores across the United States as well as in Italy (2009) and Hong Kong (2012). Professor Stefaniak is a writer of fiction and essays whose work has appeared in many publications.Her most recent novel, The Cailiffs of Baghdad, Georgia received the 2011 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Fiction.



Fiction Writing and Appreciation is a course that focuses on identifying and implementing the elements of fiction with emphasis on characterization, point of view, the manipulation of time and narrative structure, and the creation of a lively narrative voice.  The methods of the course are deceptively simple: we read fiction (and read about it), we discuss what we’ve read, we try to put what we learn into practice in our own writing, and then we read and respond to one another's work.  The goal is to learn to write a good short story:  one that gives the reader a chance to live, think, and feel through the experience that we've created on the page, one that lets the reader "see into the hidden life of things," as author Julie Checkoway puts it in Creating Fiction.



1. Narrative structure: the shape of a story, scene & summary
2. Characterization
3. Narrative voice: first person point-of-view

4. Setting: the world of the story
5. Making it new: the need for surprise
6. Plot: “incremental perturbations”
7. Releasing information on a need-to-know basis
8. More on narrative point of view: the art of third person
9. Development & the art of revision
10. The workshop: critique of complete story drafts
11. More on development & revision
12.  Presentation (reading) of students’ work (final class meeting)



1. Burroway, Janet. Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft (3rd edition) Harper-Collins, 1992.  (The instructor will make a PDF of this textbook available to students.)
2. Stefaniak, Mary Helen.  Self Storage: Short Stories. New Rivers Press, 1997.
3. Additional short stories will be provided as PDFs or photocopies.



Selected literary journals (online or provided by instructor)
Other online readings provided by the instructor.

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