Southern New Hampshire University

Graduate Course Syllabus

MFA 630: Writing Short Works
Center: Online

Course Prerequisites
None

Course Description
Explore the many avenues for publication through production of short works. Learn and practice fundamentals of flash fiction, short story, articles, and serial fiction. Become familiar with the submission process and business models of magazines, journals, and other media. Develop an awareness of key publishers within particular genres. Produce, workshop, and submit an article or original short work.

Course Outcomes
- Analyze techniques to craft effective short stories
- Craft original polished short works for publication for specific genres
- Evaluate current publication opportunities to develop industry knowledge for supporting a coherent submission strategy
- Articulate a vision for how short works support growth as a creative writer
- Tailor submissions for particular publication outlets
- Determine relevant communication avenues for achieving visibility in the short work marketplace

Required Materials
Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Click the links below to get free access to your textbooks through the Shapiro Library.

The Short Story
Ailsa Cox, ed.
Cambridge Scholars Publishing
2008
ISBN: 978-1-84718-669-0

The Anthem Guide to Short Fiction
Christopher Linforth, ed.
Anthem Press
2011
ISBN: 978-0-85728-769-4

The Short Story: An Introduction
Paul March-Russell
Edinburgh University Press Ltd
2009
ISBN: 978-0-74862-774-5

The Bath Short Story Award Anthology 2017
Jude Higgins, Jane Reikemann, and Anna Schlesinger, comp.
Brown Dog Books
2017
ISBN: 978-1-78545-227-7

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
As indicated in our core values, SNHU is committed to "embrace diversity where we encourage and respect diverse identities, ideas, and perspectives by honoring difference, amplifying belonging, engaging civilly, and breaking down barriers to bring our mission to life."

This may or will be reflected in SNHU's curriculum as we embrace and practice diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) to provide the most transformative experience for our students, faculty, and staff. Because topics pertaining to DEI can be sensitive, please remember that embodying and practicing diversity, equity, and inclusion is one of our core values that you will encounter throughout the academic experience. In higher education, we are expected to think and engage critically. Use a growth mindset to embrace the diverse readings, course assignments, and experiences of your peers and faculty.

For more information about DEI at SNHU, please visit our website at the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Instructor Availability and Response Time
Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours. Instructors will post grades and feedback (as applicable) within seven days of an assignment's due date, or within seven days of a late submission.

Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	10	10	100
Microburst Writing Assignments	3	50	150
Assignments	4	50	200
Workshops	2	50	100
Journal	1	50	50
Final Project Submission	1	400	400
			Total Course Points: 1,000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Graduate

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
A	93–100	4.00
A-	90–92	3.67
B+	87–89	3.33
B	83–86	3.00
B-	80–82	2.67
C+	77–79	2.33
C	73–76	2.00
F	0–72	0.00
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure *	
W	Withdrawn	

* Please refer to the policy page for information on the incomplete grade process.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics section of the course.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Introduction to the Short Story
	The Short Story, What Is It Exactly, What Do We Want to Do With It, and How Do We Intend to Do It?
	The Anthem Guide to Short Fiction, Charlotte Perkins Gilman
	The Bath Short Story Award Anthology 2017, "Forget Me Not" by Sarah Mackey
	1-1 Before You Get Started
	1-2 Discussion: Getting Started
	1-3 Final Project Review
	1-4 Discussion: Introduction to the Short Story
	1-5 Reminder: Begin Working on Microburst Writing Assignment: Flash Fiction
2	Short Story Form, Function, and Challenges
	The Short Story: An Introduction, Chapter 16
	The Anthem Guide to Short Fiction, Anton Chekov
	The Bath Short Story Award Anthology 2017, "Everything Must Go" by Sandra Marslund
	2-1 Before You Get Started
	2-2 Microburst Writing Assignment: Flash Fiction
	2-3 Discussion: Short Story Writing Challenges
	2-4 Reminder: Begin Working on Microburst Writing Assignment: Writing Short Works
3	Reading to Analyze
	The Anthem Guide to Short Fiction, James Joyce
	The Bath Short Story Award Anthology 2017, "Then I Am Gone" by Emily Devane
	3-1 Before You Get Started
	3-2 Microburst Writing Assignment: Writing Short Works
	3-3 Discussion: Short Story Craft Elements
4	Selecting Publication Outlets
	The Anthem Guide to Short Fiction, H.P. Lovecraft
	The Bath Short Story Award Anthology 2017, "Paid in Full" by Catherine Finch
	4-1 Before You Get Started
	4-2 Assignment: Selecting Publication Outlets
	4-3 Discussion: Short-Term and Long-Term Goals
	4-4 Workshop: Writing Short Works
5	Planning to Submit Your Publication
	The Anthem Guide to Short Fiction, Sarah Orne Jewett
	The Bath Short Story Award Anthology 2017, "Into the Looking Glass" by Shannon Savvas
	5-1 Before You Get Started
	5-2 Discussion: Short Story Craft Elements
	5-3 Assignment: Submission Guidelines
	5-4 Reminder: Begin Working on Microburst Writing Assignment: Writing Creative Short Nonfiction

Module	Topics and Assignments
6	Crafting Your Vision
	The Anthem Guide to Short Fiction, Edgar Allan Poe
	The Bath Short Story Award Anthology 2017, "Speak No Evil" by David Butler
	6-1 Before You Get Started
	6-2 Discussion: Crafting Your Vision
	6-3 Microburst Writing Assignment: Writing Creative Short Nonfiction
	6-4 Assignment: Submission Feedback
7	Communities and Networking
	The Anthem Guide to Short Fiction, Kate Chopin
	The Bath Short Story Award Anthology 2017, "Hunger in the Air" by Judith Wilson
	7-1 Before You Get Started
	7-2 Discussion: Networking and Communities
	7-3 Workshop: Creative Short Nonfiction
8	Promoting Your Work
	The Anthem Guide to Short Fiction, Arthur Conan Doyle
	The Bath Short Story Award Anthology 2017, Performance in the Hills
	8-1 Before You Get Started
	8-2 Discussion: Promoting Your Short Works
	8-3 Assignment: Comparing Craft Elements in Classic and Contemporary Short Stories
9	Putting It All Together
	9-1 Final Project Submission: Short Work Submission Packet
10	Wrapping Up
	10-1 Discussion: Fitting Into the Market
	10-2 Journal
	10-3 Reminder: ePortfolio
	10-4 Course Wrap-Up

Attendance Policy

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is automatically dropped from the course for non-participation. Review the full attendance policy.

Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the full late assignment policy.

SNHU Student Handbook

Review the student handbook.

ADA/504 Compliance Statement

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is dedicated to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008.

SNHU prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities. The university has adopted this policy to provide for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints regarding any action prohibited by Section 504, the ADA, or the ADAAA.

For questions about **support services, documentation guidelines, general disability issues, or pregnancy accommodations**, please visit the Online Accessibility Center (OAC).

As a student, you must complete an interactive intake process, with supporting documentation, in order to be granted accommodations. Once reasonable accommodations are approved by the OAC, you will receive an accommodations letter. You are then responsible for sharing the letter with your instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive.

If you feel you've been subject to discrimination on the basis of disability, by any party, you may file a complaint or grievance. For more information on the ADA/504 Grievance Policy, go to the Disability and Accessibility Services website.

Academic Integrity Policy

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the full academic integrity policy.

Copyright Policy

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the full copyright policy.

SNHU Withdrawal Policy

Review the full withdrawal policy.

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the policy page.