

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for ENG 12C

THE CRAFT OF WRITING FICTION: ADVANCED

Effective: Fall 2013

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

ENG 12C — THE CRAFT OF WRITING FICTION: ADVANCED — 3.00 units

Practice in writing fiction at an intermediate level. Builds on the skills developed in English 12B by requiring a mastery of description, detail, character development, consistent point of view, and logical plotting that avoids cliché. Focus on achieving themes that create intellectual or emotional resonance. Expectation of sentence structure, grammar, and format accuracy. Develop internal and external sources for stories and novels; analysis and criticism of published short fiction and a presentation about the craft in a book-length work; analysis and criticism of peer work and individual's own work. Requires submission for publication at the end of the semester; analysis and criticism of peer work and individual's own work. Strongly recommended: English 12B and Eligibility for English 4 or 7. 3 hours.

3.00 Units Lecture

Prerequisite

ENG 1A - Critical Reading and Composition
with a minimum grade of C
(May be taken concurrently)

Strongly Recommended

ENG 12B - Craft of Writing Fiction: Intermediate
with a minimum grade of A

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering the course a student should be able to:

A. ENG1A

Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:

A. ENG12B

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. demonstrate correct grammar, sentence structure, and format in the submitted pieces;
2. demonstrate and develop the skills of fiction writing at an advanced level: description, dialogue, characterization, point of view control, plotting, and theme;
3. identify elements of craft within published fiction and the resulting effects of those elements, such as the relationship between craft and emotional or intellectual resonance;
4. identify source material for fiction;
5. complete at least two short stories or novel excerpts of at least twenty pages and revise them based on criticism from the instructor and the class;
6. locate markets in which to publish his or her fiction and submit to the Las Positas Literary Anthology (or a similar publication) following proper submission guidelines.
7. research and present the craft of a selected author

V. CONTENT:

- A. Controlled assignments to enable the student to master specific elements of fiction and writing techniques
- B. An analysis of short stories and a full-length work by professional writers to study the craft of fiction, including the elements of fiction,

- genre, form, and necessary vocabulary for criticism and self-evaluation of work;
- C. An analysis of a full-length work to study the craft of fiction, including the elements of fiction, genre, form, and necessary vocabulary for criticism and self-evaluation of work;
- D. Student presentations about a single author's creative craft based on research;
- E. Lecture, discussion, and exercises related to identifying and developing sources for stories;
- F. Workshop of student fiction: The analysis and discussion of student writing by the class and instructor, and the rewriting of such work based on feedback
- G. Discussion of marketing and submitting fiction to magazines, contests, publishers, and agents.

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Audio-visual Activity** - B. Audio/video 1. presentations of professional writers discussing topics like craft and the life of a writer; 2. recordings of professional writers presenting their work.
- B. **Lecture** - A. Lecture and discussion 1. Presentation of forms, strategies and elements of fiction; 2. Study and discussion of professional work through close textual analysis; 3. Individual and group exercises practicing the elements of fiction; 4. Discussion of student work by the class and instructor; 5. Written feedback about students' craft within their own fiction.

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Read "The Guest," by Albert Camus, and write a one page critique of the story, explaining what worked and didn't work for you, using the vocabulary of the elements of fiction. B. Write a four-page beginning for a story based on a character during a war or colonial conflict. C. Read *The Fault in Our Stars*, by John Green. Write a two-page analysis of the craft used in the novel, using the vocabulary of the elements of fiction; include how you might apply that craft to your own writing. Present this and additional research about Green's technique to the class. D. Using the elements of fiction as a guide, write a one-page critique of each peer story submitted; include one paragraph about what worked and one paragraph about what you'd like them to improve. E. Turn in an original story, or novel excerpt, of at least twenty pages to be workshopped by the class. 1. The story should be double-spaced, and the pages should be numbered. 2. If the piece is a novel excerpt and not the first chapter, please provide a one-page synopsis of the events preceding the piece you've submitted. 3. After receiving feedback from the class, rewrite the piece as instructed by the teacher and your peers. Write a one-page summary of the suggestions made to you during the workshop and a summary of changes you chose to make.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Research Projects
4. Portfolios
5. Papers
6. Oral Presentation
7. Projects
8. Field Trips
9. Simulation
10. Group Projects
11. Class Participation
12. Class Work
13. Home Work
14. Class Performance
15. Final Class Performance
16. Other:

A research and presentation project on the craft of one published author is required for this course level

B. **Frequency**

Weekly reading and writing assignments; two short stories per week; seven pages of writing per week; forty pages of workshopped writing per semester and revisions of this work. A research presentation about one author's craft.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Burroway, Janet *Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft*. 8th ed., Longman, 2010.
2. Gioia, Dana and R.S. Gynn, Ed. *The Art of the Short Story*, Longman., 2005.
3. Tom Perrotta, ed. *The Best American Short Stories, 2012*, Houghton Mifflin, 2012.
4. Gardner, John *The Art of Fiction: Notes on Craft for Young Writers*, Vintage Books, 1991.
5. Lamott, Anne *Bird by Bird: Some Instruction on Writing and Life*, Anchor, 1995.
6. Green *The Fault in Our Stars*. First ed., Dutton Juvenile, 2012.
7. Benson, J., J. *John Steinbeck, Writer: A Biography*, Penguin Books, 1990.
8. Steinbeck, J. *Cannery Row*, Penguin Books, 2002.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Writing Material—paper and pen/pencil or computer
- B. Use of Blackboard