

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for ENG 12B

CRAFT OF WRITING FICTION: INTERMEDIATE

Effective: Fall 2013

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

ENG 12B — CRAFT OF WRITING FICTION: INTERMEDIATE — 3.00 units

Practice in writing fiction at an intermediate level. Builds on the skills developed in English 12A by requiring the use of vivid description, specific detail, dynamic and rounded character development, consistent point of view, and logical plotting that avoids cliché. Focus on developing 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 book-length work; analysis and criticism of peer work and individual's own work. Requires submission for publication at the end of the semester. 3 hours.

3.00 Units Lecture

Strongly Recommended

ENG 12A - Craft of Writing Fiction
with a minimum grade of C
and

ENG 1A - Critical Reading and Composition
with a minimum grade of C

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

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

- A. ENG12A
- B. ENG1A

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

1. demonstrate and develop the skills of fiction writing at an intermediate level: frequent and vivid description of place and character using appropriate simile and metaphor, properly punctuated dialogue, rounded characterization, point of view consistency, logical plotting that avoids cliché, and theme that reflects the human experience and contains emotional or intellectual resonance;
2. demonstrate correct grammar, sentence structure, and format in the submitted pieces;
3. identify elements of craft within published fiction and the resulting effects of those elements on other elements of fiction and on the reader, such as the relationship between craft and emotional or intellectual resonance or the relationship between character faults and conflict in the plot.
4. identify source material for fiction
5. complete at least two short stories or novel excerpts of at least fifteen 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.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Controlled assignments to enable the student to approach mastery of specific elements of fiction
- B. An analysis of short stories 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. Lecture, discussion, and exercises related to identifying and developing sources for stories and novels;
- E. 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
- F. Submission of two 15-page stories or novel chapters and revisions of those pieces 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 novel *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. 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 fifteen pages to be workshopped by the class. 1. The story should be between fifteen and twenty pages (or a combination of stories equal to this amount), 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. Portfolios
4. Papers
5. Projects
6. Group Projects
7. Class Participation
8. Class Work
9. Home Work

B. **Frequency**

Weekly readings and writing assignments, twice the amount of 12A--an additional full-length work, 4 pages of exercises per week, and a minimum of 30 pages of workshopped work in the semester. Frequency of exams and quizzes is up to the individual instructor. In-class exercises weekly. Students should contribute to in-class discussion and every workshop on a weekly basis. Group projects if desired by the instructor. A portfolio of work, first and revised drafts, should be submitted at the end of the semester.

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.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

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