

PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

**INTRODUCTION TO FICTION WRITING
ENGL 2640**

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Date Revised: Fall 2010

Catalog Course Description:

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of fiction writing, including plot, characterization, exposition, point of view, dialogue, and interior monologue. In addition to being introduced to techniques designed to produce imaginative fiction, students gain exposure to conventions of fictional genres such as horror, mystery, science fiction, graphic novel and historical novel.

Entry Level Standards:

Students should have knowledge of expository writing and analytical skills derived from freshman composition; students should also be familiar with basic literary terminology and genres.

Prerequisites:

ENGL 1020

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

Brown, Renni and King, Dave. *Self-Editing for Fiction Writers*. New York: Harper Collins, 2004. Print.

Morrell, Jessica. *Bullies, Bastards, and Bitches: How to Write the Bad Guys of Fiction*. Cincinnati: Writer's Digest Books, 2008. Print.

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	Readings: <u>SEFW</u> 5-22 Written assignment: Plot, plot complications, and narrative summary
2	Readings: <u>SEFW</u> 23-39 Written assignment: Characterization and exposition
3	Readings: <u>SEFW</u> 40-66 Written assignment: Point of view
4	Readings: <u>SEFW</u> 82-98 Written assignment: Dialogue
5	Readings: <u>SEFW</u> 116-139 Written assignment: Interior monologue
6	Handouts

- Written assignment: Tag phrases, flashbacks, and transitions
- 7 Handouts
Written assignment: Genre fiction: sci-fi, mystery, horror, graphic novels
- 8 Readings: B.B. and B 50-72
Written assignment: Bastards: anti-heroes
- 9 Readings: B.B and B. 73-97
Written assignment: Dark heroes and bad boys
- 10 Readings; B.B. and B. 174-196
Written assignment: Matching wits: heroes vs. villains
- 11 Readings: B. B. and B. 215-242
Written assignment: Dangerous women
- 12 Readings: B. B. and B. 243-267
Written assignment: Monsters, creatures, and lost souls
- 13 Handout
Written assignment: Polti's thirty-six dramatic situations
- 14 Handout/Checklist for editing
Written assignment: Employing the archetypes/Workshop/Submission of portfolio
- 15 Final Exam Period

II. Course Goals*:

The course will

- A. Impart the techniques of imaginative literature and the critical approaches that clarify its nature and meaning. I.1, I.4, II.1, II.6
- B. Encourage the quality of imagination and the discipline required to produce imaginative literature. I.1, I.4, II.6
- C. Develop and expand a sensitivity to and a thoughtful attitude toward one's cultural heritage and literary works shaping that heritage over time. II.2, II.4, II,5
- D. Strengthen the skills of writing and revising and of critical reading and thinking. I.1, I. 4, I. 5, I, 7; II. 1, II. 2, II. 6
- E. Expose students to the fictional contributions of diverse cultures, each characterized by its own themes, techniques, and styles. II. 1, II. 3

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference TBR's general education goals.

III. Expected Student Learning Outcome*:

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

1. Examine drafts to analyze audience and message and to evaluate for effectiveness and clarity. B, D
2. Recognize the style and contributions of guest speakers who are published authors. C, E

3. Evaluate assigned manuscripts and participate in class discussion. A, B, C
4. Write and revise a short fiction portfolio. B, C, D
5. Develop stories from premises and create plot complications. A, B, D
6. Develop characters through description, explanation, and dialogue. A, B, D
7. Use flashbacks, transition, and viewpoint in fictional works. A, B, D
8. Examine short fiction with an eye for constructing stories (i.e., architectonics). A, B, C, D, E

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

IV. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures:

Students will keep a portfolio of all written exercises, assignments, and projects. This will constitute one-third (1/3) of the final course grade. Two written examinations will test the students' knowledge of concepts and mastery of technique, constituting the final two-thirds (2/3) of the course grade.

B. Laboratory Expectations:

None

C. Field Work:

None

D. Other Evaluation Methods:

None

V. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of the Learning Division, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the vice president of the Learning Division.

B. Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.

- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one's own work.
- Taking an exam for another student.
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

C. Accommodations for Disabilities:

Students who need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) in order to receive accommodations in this course. Services for Students with Disabilities may be contacted by going to Goins 127, 132, 134, 135, 131 or by phone: 539-7153 or TTY 694-6429. More information is available at www.pstcc.edu/departments/swd/.