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Fall 9-1-2000

ENCR 210.03: Creative Writing - Fiction

Kate Gadbow
The University of Montana

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ENCR 210 SECTION 03
CREATIVE WRITING: FICTION

Instructor: Kate Gadbow
Classroom: JOUR 306
Class time: TTh 2:10 - 3:30

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Office hours: T 3:30 - 5 Th 3:30 - 5
and by appointment.

This course is designed to develop your skills in writing, reading, revising, and responding to fiction. Each of you will write a short story to be handed in at a specified deadline. You will revise this story as a final project. We'll also read a bunch of fiction--published work as well as the work of class members. I'll require typed responses to the stories we workshop and will also collect exercises. I'll conference with each of you once during the semester, around midterms. I hope you'll conference with each other much more often than that.

Text: *Writing Fiction: A Guide to the Narrative Craft* (5th edition) by Janet Burroway. Available at the UC Bookstore.

Supplies: A folder of some type for keeping all your work. Paper, pencils etc. for in-class exercises. A disk to use in the University's labs if you don't have your own computer.

Course Requirements:

- * One short story, to be rewritten as a final project. Stories will be discussed in a workshop setting, so you'll need to hand in enough copies for the entire class.
- * Numerous exercises, to be typed and handed in.
- * Typed, one-page critiques of student stories discussed in class. Make two copies, one for the writer and one to hand in for inclusion in your portfolio. Critiques will be assigned for each workshop. Everyone will do at least six.
- * Attendance is vital. Your engagement and responses are as important as your written work. More than two absences, for any reason, will hurt your grade.

Grades:

I'll provide you with plenty of written and spoken comments on your work, but no letter grade until the end of the semester. I'll let you know how you're doing at the midterm conference and at any other time you need to know. Final grades will be based on the quality and improvement of your writing; on the quality of your criticism; and on your level of participation and adherence to deadlines.

CALENDAR

Friday, Sept. 8 & Saturday, Sept. 9 Montana Festival of the Book (Panels and readings by local and regional writers. Downtown Missoula.)

Thursday - Saturday, September 21-23 Five Rivers Film Festival: American Indians and the Mythic West. Panels and screenings on campus and downtown.

Thursday, October 12 - Workshop and conference sign-up.

Friday, October 13 - Poet Lynn Emanuel reading on campus.

October 17, October 19 - Conference week. No class.

Tuesday, October 24 - Story due, with enough copies for class.

Friday, October 27 - Poet Agha Shahid Ali reading on campus.

Friday, November 3 - Fiction/Non-fiction writer Joy Williams reading.

Tuesday, November 7- Election Day. No Class.

Friday, November 17 - Poet/Non-fiction writer Alison Deming reading.

November 22 to 26 - Thanksgiving break. No Class.

Thursday, December 14 - Portfolios due.

Wednesday, Dec. 20. Final 3:20 p.m. Portfolios returned.

Autumn Semester 2000 ~*~ Course Schedule

Required: Writing Poems by Wallace and Boisseau, Fifth Edition

The Triggering Town by Richard Hugo

A two-pocket folder to organize drafts and assignments

With the exception of **BOLD** dates, this is an approximate schedule and subject to revision as the semester progresses.

Week 1 -- Introduction. Found poem exercise (linebreaks).

Chapters 1 and 2. Verse, Line, Diction. Obscurity v. Ambiguity.

September

12 -- Chapter 3-4. Prose poems.

14 -- continued. Free write assignment.

19 -- Chapter 5. Sound. Writing assignment.

21 -- continued

26 -- Chapter 6. Subject matter. Writing assignment.

28 -- continued. Workshop rules.

October

3 -- Chapter 7. Narrative. *Bring Poems to Class for first Workshop.*

5 -- First Workshop

10 -- Workshop

12 -- Chapter 8. Metaphor. Writing assignment. Outside reading assignment.

17 -- Workshop (**Prepare to submit mss to upper division cr. wr. courses.**)

19 -- Review of text, review of paper requirements

24 -- MIDTERM TEST

26 -- Chapter 9. The Sense of Nonsense. Writing assignment.

31 -- Workshop

November (Pre-registration for spring semester begins Nov. 6. See your advisor NOW!!!)

2 -- PAPER TOPICS DUE. Review of literary paper/guidelines.

7 -- Holiday--Don't forget to vote!

14 -- Chapter 10. Imitations. Writing assignment.

16 -- Workshop

21 -- Chapter 11. Revisions. Writing assignment.

23 -- Holiday

28 -- Workshop

30 -- Workshop

December

5 -- Workshop. PAPERS DUE!

7 -- Chapter 12 discussion.

12-- Workshop/revision. Papers returned.

14-- Final workshop. Portfolios Due

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 19 3:20-5:20 p.m.