

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

Te Whare Wānanga o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

CREW 256 THE IOWA WORKSHOP (FICTION STREAM)
Summer trimester 2006/07

Staff

Workshop coordinator Curtis Sittenfeld
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Class Times

Workshops take place 10am-1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the workshop room, International Institute of Modern Letters, 16 Waiteata Road.

Aims and Content

CREW 256 gives recognition to creative work in fiction. By the end of the workshop each member of the course should have further developed

- their potential as a writer
- their understanding of the craft of writing longer pieces of fiction
- their skills as a reader (as well as a writer) of fiction

These goals are achieved through

- regular writing exercises
- workshop presentation and discussion of written work
- production of written assessments of others' work
- consistent, steady work towards the workshop's assessment folio

This workshop will focus on starting and building a novel, particularly for those whose previous writing experience is with short stories. The workshop will examine structure, plot development, and narrative momentum. You will produce between 75-100 pages, as well as an outline for the rest of the novel. Your work will be read and discussed by the entire class. For your classmates' work, you will type a critique summarizing your response and suggestions. The feedback you give your classmates is enormously important, helping you crystallize your own ideas about writing. Your feedback should reflect thorough reading—I urge you to read work twice before writing your letters. In addition to the letters, you should mark up the pages of classmates' work at the level of the word and the level of the sentence and hand back these copies to the author.

We will read three published novels—by, respectively, Lorrie Moore, Stephen Elliott, and Ian McEwan—and talk about which techniques of writing they highlight, whether they succeed, why or why not, and what we can learn from them to apply to our own novel-writing.

Course Materials

There are three texts for this course: the books *Who Will Run the Frog Hospital?* by Lorrie Moore (Warner Books, ISBN: 0446671916); *Happy Baby* by Stephen Elliott (Picador, ISBN: 033043831X); and *Atonement* by Ian McEwan (Vintage, ISBN: 0099429799). VicBooks (Ground Floor, Rutherford House, Kelburn campus) is currently stocking 10 – 12 copies of each book and can request additional copies with a few days notice. A copy of each is also available on 3 day loan from the Kelburn campus library, as well as an additional copy of *Atonement* on Closed Reserve. Other course texts will be those produced from the weekly writing exercises.

Note This means that photocopying will be an additional expense for you. You will need to bring **thirteen** copies of each piece of work to workshop meetings.

Assessment

Assessment is based on the portfolio you submit at the end of the course. Two typewritten or printed copies of your folio must be submitted by **Friday 23 February**.

Two examiners (the workshop teacher and one external examiner) will read each folio. After assessment is completed, one copy of your folio will be returned to you, along with the written reports of the two readers.

Note CREW 256 is assessed on a pass/fail basis only. If you pass the course, you will receive Grade H (Ungraded Pass).

The Folio

In CREW 256 folios should consist of a novel-in-progress of around 75 pages.

Mandatory Course Requirements

In CREW 256 you must attend all workshops and complete all the prescribed exercise work and commentary writing. If you do not meet these requirements your folio will not be assessed and you will automatically fail the course.

Workload

It is hard to assess the workload for this course. CREW 256 is formally a 22-point undergraduate course, but many students tend to treat it as a full-time undertaking. You should certainly expect to be busy. We suggest spending an average of four hours per week for each hour of workshop time.

Workshops

At workshops you present weekly exercise work for group discussion and (in at least one session) one of the pieces of writing from your folio work-in-progress. You will

also be asked to produce written commentaries on work-in-progress presented by other members of the class.

Towards the end of the workshop programme, each student will have an individual conference with the workshop convenor to discuss the contents and format of their final folio.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- Jan 9: Introductions and creation of writing schedules
- Jan 11: First three pages of novel due, plus outline
- Jan 16: Read all of *Who Will Run the Frog Hospital?* By Lorrie Moore (148 pages)
In-class writing exercises
- Jan 18: First 15 pages of novel due
Workshop starts
- Jan 23: Read all of *Happy Baby* by Stephen Elliott (191 pages)
In-class writing exercises
- Jan 25: First 30 pages of novel due
Workshop
- Jan 30: Read Part 1 of *Atonement* by Ian McEwan (187 pages)
In-class writing exercises
- Feb 1: First 45 pages of novel due
Workshop
- Feb 7: **Please note that this week's Tuesday class meets Wednesday because of Waitangi Day on Tuesday. Thursday's class meets as regularly scheduled on Thursday.**
Finish *Atonement* (181 pages)
In-class writing exercises
- Feb 7: First 60 pages of novel due
Workshop
- Feb 13: Workshop
- Feb 15: Last Class
First 75 pages of novel should be complete
Workshop
- Feb 23: Portfolios due by noon (75-100 pages)



General University policies and statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under 'About Victoria' on the VUW home page at www.vuw.ac.nz.

Student and staff conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct

The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct

Academic grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

Students with Impairments (see Appendix 3 of the Assessment Handbook)

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building:

telephone: 463-6070

email: disability@vuw.ac.nz

The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. In the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the support contact is **Dr Allison Kirkman, Murphy Building, room 407**. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Maori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International. In addition, the Student Services Group (email: student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at: www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 463-6983 or 463-6984, email at education@vuwsa.org.nz) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.