



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF

MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME

CREW 254: Short Fiction Workshop
20 points

TRIMESTER 2 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 14 July to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 14 July to 17 October 2014

Mid-trimester break: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Last assessment item due: 31 October 2014

Study period: 20-24 October 2014

Examination/Assessment Period: 24 October to 15 November 2014

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

The course consists of twelve workshops. These will take place from 10am-1pm on Fridays in the workshop room at the International Institute of Modern Letters (Room 102, 16 Waiteata Road, Kelburn Campus).

Names and contact details

Workshop convenor	Pip Adam
Room	404, 16 Waiteata Road
Work phone	463 6854 (for messages for Pip)
Email	pip.adam@vuw.ac.nz
Administrators	Katie Hardwick-Smith and Clare Moleta
Room	402, 16 Waiteata Road (9am-5pm)

Communication of additional information

Any additional information will be handed out in class or distributed to students by email.

Prescription

A workshop course in writing short fiction which also involves wide reading in the genre.

Course content and Teaching Format

CREW 254 gives recognition to creative work in short fiction writing. By the end of the workshop each member of the course should have developed

- their writing skills and understanding of the craft of writing fiction
- their sophistication as a reader of fiction

These goals are achieved through

- writing exercises
- reading published fiction and keeping a reading journal
- discussion and written commentaries on each other's work
- steady progress towards the workshop's assessment folio.

CREW 254 investigates the art of the short story. We will read a range of contemporary short fiction to develop appreciation for the form. The set texts are intended to give you a broad sense of what is possible in a short story, while also providing illustrations and examples for our discussions on craft. You will keep a journal on Blackboard over the duration of the course, investigating the published stories in the light of your own creative decisions and struggles.

The course relies on the workshop process, in which you put drafts of your writing in front of a small, supportive audience, and receive feedback from fellow practitioners. For the first three weeks of the course, you will bring an in-class exercise for discussion. Exercises will explore particular craft aspects of story writing, but will also seek to develop individual voice and imaginative range.

After this, we will start to workshop draft stories. On two occasions during the trimester you will put forward a story in progress. You will receive both written and oral feedback from each member of the workshop, responses intended to help you as you refine and redraft for the final folio. In turn, you will read, consider and mark up your classmates' draft stories. You should come to class prepared to discuss these in detail, and provide a written commentary of about half a page on each story.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Analyse how successful short fiction achieves its effects
2. Edit and improve their own stories in light of both critical reading of texts, and class discussions.

Mandatory course requirements

CREW 254 requires that you meet the following deadlines and requirements:

1. A completed draft story to be handed out to the class on each of these two dates (note this is the week *before* your workshop date).
Please note: you will be put into groups at our first meeting.

- Group 1: 15 August, 26 September**
Group 2: 22 August, 3 October
Group 3: 12 September, 10 October
Group 4: 19 September, 17 October

Usually, you would hand out a different story on each of the two dates unless there was a particularly strong case to workshop a story a second time. One of the drafts should be 1000 words or more, and the other 2500 words or more.

2. **Friday 31 October: Reading Journal due.** You should aim to write something for your Blackboard journal each week. It needs to include reflections on at least four of the short stories read in class, but you should also feel free to discuss any other reading you're doing. The journal gives you a record of your progress and process as a reader and writer. The journal will be read by the course convenor throughout the course. It will not be marked but is a course requirement.
3. **Three written commentaries** on your classmates' stories are due **each week** for the last eight meetings of the course (except the week of your own workshop, when you will write two). Two or three paragraphs of commentary is sufficient; your comments may either be typed up or handwritten on the manuscript. If you are absent, you will need to give your classmates the written commentaries on your return.
4. **Friday 31 October:** final folios due for everyone (6,000-12,000 words; three or more stories).
5. **Attendance**
Students are expected to attend all twelve meetings in CREW 254, as it is unsatisfactory to run a workshop process with missing members. A single absence due to extenuating circumstances would usually be excused; further absences would make it unlikely that you would pass the course.

Workload

CREW 254 is a 20 point undergraduate course. You should expect to spend approximately 200 hours across this course (an average of 15 hours per week). This includes 3 hours of workshop, 6 hours of reading and 6 hours of writing.

Individual Meetings

In addition to the workshops, I would like to meet with each of you twice during the trimester to discuss your folio content. This will be at a time convenient to both of us.

Assessment

Assessment is based on the portfolio you submit at the end of the course. Participation in class during the trimester will be taken into consideration; a thoughtful response to your classmates' work is of paramount importance.

Two typewritten or printed copies of your portfolio must be submitted by **Friday 31 October**. The final folio will consist of **three or more** stories. This may include material that has not been workshopped. To encourage you to experiment with brevity, **one story will be a thousand words or less**. The folio as a whole will comprise **6,000 – 12,000 words**. The leeway here allows for a range of styles. A draft version of **one** of the stories should be appended to the folio.

Two examiners (Pip Adam 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.

CREW 254 is assessed on a pass/fail basis only. If you pass the course, you will receive Grade P (Ungraded Pass).

Set texts/Course materials

There is one text for this course: the CREW 254 Student Notes, which is an anthology of short stories. This will be available for purchase from vicbooks in June 2014. You can purchase from their shop or order online at www.vicbooks.co.nz, or email an order.

An optional but recommended text is *The Elements of Style*, also available from vicbooks. This is a small, friendly manual full of helpful advice.

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

Punctuality

The workshops begin promptly. Students need to be seated in the workshop room a couple of minutes before the start.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Students will be asked to provide Course feedback as well as Teaching feedback at the final workshop. This consists of answering an individual questionnaire for each of the two feedback options. The convenor will leave the room whilst students are answering the questionnaire and this should take a maximum of 15 minutes.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats

- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Workshop Timetable

In our first four meetings we will discuss set texts and workshop weekly exercises.

From 15 August, we will be workshopping stories – three students per week. These stories can be up to 12 – 15 pages (see the Course Reader for information on formatting). You will hand out **13** copies of your story for workshopping **one week** before your workshop. You each have **two workshops**.

1	Friday 18 July	Introductions, discussion.
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2	Friday 25 July	Assignment 1 workshopped.
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3	Friday 1 August	Assignment 2 workshopped.
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4	Friday 8 August	Assignment 3 workshopped.
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5	Friday 15 August	Workshop: Group 1
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6	Friday 22 August	Workshop: Group 2
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29 August

MID TRIMESTER BREAK: Writing time.

6 September

MID TRIMESTER BREAK: Writing time.

7

Friday 12 September

Workshop: Group 3

8

Friday 19 September

Workshop: Group 4

9

Friday 26 September

Workshop: Group 1

10

Friday 3 October

Workshop: Group 2

11

Friday 10 October

Workshop: Group 3

12

Friday 17 October

Workshop: Group 4

Friday 31 October

Folio hand-in.
