



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF

MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME

CREW 258: The Iowa Workshop (fiction) 20 points

TRIMESTER 3 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 17 November 2014 – 22 February 2015

Teaching dates post Christmas: 5 January – 13 February 2015

Last assessment item due: 20 February 2015

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 first workshop will take place on Tuesday 6 January 2015 at 10am-1pm, the second on Thursday 8 January at the same time. Thereafter, workshops will take place from 10am-1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Location: Room 102, International Institute of Modern Letters, 16 Waiteata Road (the workshop room). Names and contact details

Communication of additional information

This will take place in the workshop room or will be communicated by email.

Prescription

A topic in creative writing. Course materials will be an additional cost.

Course content

Over the course of this class, we will practise writing fiction. Emphasis will be placed not on perfection, but on generation. That being said, as rewriting is a critical aspect of writing, you should hope to emerge from this class with a polished and thoughtful final portfolio. Whether that portfolio consists of short stories or sections of a longer work is entirely up to you.

We will practise reading as writers do. We'll study selected short stories (and one novel excerpt) in an attempt to discern how they accomplish their aims. To this end, please read all assigned published work thoughtfully – and since we'll also be workshoping each other's fiction, please take even greater care when reading pieces written by your classmates.

In addition to producing two pieces of your own (and, the meeting before your workshop, bringing enough hard copies of these for everyone), you are expected to, before each class, write a one-page response letter to the writer of each short story or novel excerpt. This helps both to get down your thoughts before discussion and to ensure that said discussion isn't at a loss for topics. Please bring two copies of these letters – one for the writer and one for me.

In addition to workshop discussions, which will, after the first week of class, take up at least two-thirds of each meeting, I will also teach and assign writing prompts on various topics, i.e. problems facing fiction writers. As in all things, you are expected to consider these thoughtfully.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Write fiction marked by an improved understanding of craft
2. Continue developing a distinctive individual prose style
3. Constructively edit and comment on others' fiction
4. Discern how best they personally operate as a writer

Teaching format

This is a workshop-based class. You'll write and revise two short stories or excerpts from a longer piece by the end of the trimester. Most classes will include one or more long writing exercises. Requirements include in-class discussion, weekly reading, note-taking and submitting a portfolio at the end of the trimester.

Mandatory course requirements

1. Attendance is mandatory. If you miss a class due to extenuating circumstances, you must email your response letters to both the students bring workshoped and the workshop convenor.

2. If you are sick on one of your assigned days to turn in work and cannot attend, you must find a way to get your work to the workshop convenor by the beginning of class time. As a last resort, email it to me at jessie.rose.hennen@gmail.com.
3. Missing more than one class will jeopardise the likelihood of your passing the course.
4. Your submission, on schedule, of two manuscripts for class review.
5. Submission of your final folio on Friday 20 February 2015.

Workload

CREW 258 is a 20-point undergraduate course. You should expect to spend approximately 200 hours across this course (an average of 30 hours per week). This includes 6 hours of workshop, 12 hours of reading and 12 hours of writing.

Assessment

Two typewritten or printed copies of your folio must be submitted by **Friday 20 February 2015**. Two examiners (the workshop convenor 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.

The Folio

In CREW 258 folios should be between 35 and 70 pages in length. Whether the folio consists of a long story, two or more short stories, or the beginning of a longer work is at the discretion of the student.

Submission and return of work

Work is to be submitted to the convenor at the workshop, or to be left in the pigeonhole of the convenor (in the administration office at the IIML), or in the case of ill health, can be emailed to the convenor by the required date.

Work will be returned to the students at workshops or at the individual meetings held between the student and the convenor.

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

Bring thirteen copies of your work to class when you are up for workshop – the photocopying is an extra expense for you.

Set texts

The course reader can be purchased from vicbooks (www.vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are

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

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

6 January: Introductions.

Why do we write? / The Writers' Workshop / Stories told vs. stories written.

8 January: Fictionalizing, editing and revising.

- "People Like That are the Only People Here: Canonical Babbling in Peed Onk" (Lorrie Moore) / "Revision Example" (Jan Ellison) / "Shitty First Drafts" (Annie Lamott)

13 January: Causality in fiction.

- Workshopping of student submissions.
- "Weber's Head" (J. Robert Lennon)
- Lecture: Story vs. plot.

15 January: Quiet stories.

- Workshopping of student submissions.
- "Flying Carpets" (Steven Millhauser)
- Lecture: The Hero's Journey.

20 January: Epiphanies and iceberg stories.

- Workshopping of student submissions.
- "The Dead" (James Joyce)

22 January: Time in fiction.

- Workshopping of student submissions.
- "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been" (Joyce Carol Oates)
- Lecture: Summary vs. scene.

27 January: Creating distinct individuals.

- Workshopping of student submissions.
- "Revelation" (Flannery O'Connor)
- Lecture: The scourge of relatability.

29 January: Dialogue and subtext.

- Workshopping of student submissions.
- "Bangkok" (James Salter)

3 February: Visceral details and world-building.

- Workshopping of student submissions.
- Chapter 1 – "The City": "The Brief History of the Dead" (Kevin Brockmeier)

5 February: Communal narration.

- Workshopping of student submissions.
- "The School" (Donald Barthelme)

10 February: Liminal fantasy.

- Workshopping of student submissions.
- “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings” (Gabriel Garcia Marquez)
- Lecture: Types of non-mimetic literature.

12 February: Humor.

- Workshopping of student submissions.
- “Night Flight to Stockholm” (Dallas Wiebe)
- Lecture: Yes! And!

Friday 20 February

Folios due