

ENGL A122: NOVEL WRITING I

Item	Value
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	12/02/2020
Top Code	150700 - Creative Writing
Units	4 Total Units
Hours	72 Total Hours (Lecture Hours 72)
Total Outside of Class Hours	0
Course Credit Status	Credit: Degree Applicable (D)
Material Fee	No
Basic Skills	Not Basic Skills (N)
Repeatable	No
Open Entry/Open Exit	No
Grading Policy	Standard Letter (S), • Pass/No Pass (B)
Associate Arts Local General Education (GE)	• Area 3 Arts and Humanities 3B Active Participation (OC2)
Associate Science Local General Education (GE)	• Area 3A Arts (OSC1)

Course Description

A course focusing on student production in the novel form with emphasis on discussion, criticism and evaluation of student novel fragments or completed manuscripts. Designed for beginning, intermediate, and advanced writers seeking practice and guidance in the novel craft. Discussion, criticism, and evaluation of student work. ADVISORY: ENGL C1000 and ENGL A119. Transfer Credit: CSU; UC.

Course Level Student Learning Outcome(s)

1. Identify and understand the various conventions of fiction and apply them toward the composition of the opening chapters of a novel-length work.

Course Objectives

- 1. Identify the basic techniques of story telling as derived from a study of modern novels.
- 2. Develop a disciplined writing schedule and a method of composition, which will lead to the successful completion of a book-length manuscript.
- 3. Analyze and assess the work of contemporary writers and critics.
- 4. Write one hundred pages of a typed manuscript (seven pages per week, on a regular schedule) and present fifty pages for evaluation.
- 5. Criticize and discuss manuscripts in a professional manner, backing up opinions with technical and theoretical principles.
- 6. Develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of fiction through analysis of published works and student works in progress.

Lecture Content

Introduction to the techniques of fiction Narrative Point of View Authorial Voice Texture Sensory Detail Plot Character Dialogue Time Compression Scene Panorama Movement and Modulation The Writing Schedule Page Count Hour Count Writer's Block Prewriting Revising Editing Getting Started Novel beginnings: approaches to the opening chapters The "Slap-

Dash" Outline Traditional Structure (Hero's Journey, Bildungsroman, Kunsterroman, Hourglass, Epistolary, etc.) Methods of Criticism Analysis of structure, style, and theme Applying judgments to published work Applying judgments to students' work Study of appropriate models Contemporary novels Literary and genre fiction Critical reviews and essays

Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture (02)
- DE Live Online Lecture (02S)

Instructional Techniques

Lectures focus on creative writing techniques and critical thinking strategies about the craft of writing a novel, providing a variety of methods to enhance style, content, and voice. Lectures also examine the methods of aesthetic evaluation, the process of revision, and the strategies for publication. Demonstration: Models of modern and contemporary novels from various genres (literary classics, historical fiction, detective fiction, romance, science fiction, and others) are demonstrated using a variety of methods: books, handouts, overheads, videos, DVDs, audiotapes, and CDs. Discussion: Students participate in regular discussions of reading and writing assignments, workshop group writing assignments, and topics (social, political, cultural, etc.) introduced in class. Technology: Students use the Internet to access information about major writers. Video Presentation: Students view relevant videos of major authors reading and discussing their work. Collaborative Learning: Partners and groups engage in a large amount of discussion of each other's written assignments. Conferencing: The instructor is available for individual conferences throughout the semester.

Reading Assignments

Reading: 45 hours (3 hr/week) Students interpret and evaluate published literature, including modern and contemporary novels from various genres (literary classics, historical fiction, detective fiction, romance, science fiction, and others). Students then discuss the literature's relative success according to the application of standards set by class research and discussion. Students learn and demonstrate the ability to apply these critical standards to contemporary novels. Students must also read and critique their colleagues' manuscripts each week, in seminar fashion, according to specific protocols, which requires them to analyze, criticize, and assess one another's manuscripts according to fundamental narrative techniques such as point of view, authorial voice, texture, sensory detail, plot, character, dialogue, time compression, scene, panorama, and movement. Critical thinking is involved in determining technical solutions to problems presented in the in-progress manuscripts.

Writing Assignments

Please note: The writing assignments below are produced out of class. Writing: 90 hours (roughly 6 hrs/week) Students will write a substantial amount of fiction, at least 100 pages, 50 of which will be submitted for workshop. Students will analyze their own work and others' work in terms of technical and stylistic sophistication. Students may keep journals on the process of writing and on observations that may be included in their creative work. Students may develop a final portfolio of the best revision of their manuscript.

Out-of-class Assignments

144 hours (roughly 9 hours/week) Reading: 45 hours (3 hr/week); Writing: 90 hours (roughly 6 hrs/week); Research, as appropriate: 10 hrs (1-2 hours/week) Students will write a substantial amount of fiction, at least

100 pages, 50 of which will be submitted for a workshop. Students may keep journals on the process of writing and on observations that may be included in their creative work. Students may develop a final portfolio of the best revision of their manuscript.

Demonstration of Critical Thinking

Analysis of one's own writing, including creating and revising portions of the manuscript, is evaluated in terms of the student's ability to critique using specific elements of the novel, such as point of view, authorial voice, texture, sensory detail, plot, character, dialogue, time compression, scene, panorama, and movement. Responses to published works are evaluated on the basis of completion, level of analysis, and summary.

Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration

Substantial writing, including generating at least 100 pages and revising and submitting at least 50, is evaluated in terms of the student's ability to complete written responses and manuscripts that are timely, grammatically correct, and relevant to the assignment, and that incorporate the specific advanced elements of the novel discussed in class, such as point of view, authorial voice, texture, sensory detail, plot, character, dialogue, time compression, scene, panorama, and movement. Skills Demonstration: Students are evaluated on their class performances, that is, their reading of their creative work in class. They are also evaluated on their level of critique and comments during group discussions and their analysis of their own work and others' work. Portfolio: Students are evaluated on a final portfolio of their best revision of their manuscript on the basis of timely submission, clarity of presentation, and technical merit.

Eligible Disciplines

English: Master's degree in English, literature, comparative literature, or composition OR bachelor's degree in any of the above AND master's degree in linguistics, TESL, speech, education with a specialization in reading, creative writing, or journalism OR the equivalent. Master's degree required.

Textbooks Resources

1. Required Gardner, John. *On Becoming a Novelist*, ed. Gloucester, MA: Peter Smith Pub Inc. , 2001 Rationale: - 2. Required Editors of *Writer's Digest*. *Crafting Novels Short Stories: The Complete Guide to Writing Great Fiction*, ed. *Writer's Digest*, 2012

Other Resources

1. Instructor-designed materials include writing exercises, critical essays from literary journals, and substantial amounts of published fiction, including modern and contemporary novels from various genres (literary classics, historical fiction, detective fiction, romance, science fiction, and others). The fiction varies according to the instructor's preference.