



Creative Writing Undergraduate Course Information Guide

Course Number: CCA 176, 2 or 4 credits, 10 Weeks
Delivery Formats: Online Async

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Course Description

Designed to help you explore the art of writing stories, either stories that are "made-up" or stories based on lived experience. You will be required to complete six fiction-writing exercises, and either one short story, one autobiographical story, or one story based on an oral history collected by the you. In addition, you write a final essay in which you reflect on your learning and experience in the course.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Differentiate between narrative and exposition (showing vs. explaining)
- Identify, reflect on, and apply elements of story (including elements of plot, character, and setting)
- Analyze a story's structure and voice for effectiveness
- Exercise the options involved in selecting a narrative point of view
- Apply narrative techniques to shape and create a story that is either wholly fictional, comes from your own life, or derives from the experiences of others
- Work to revise, rewrite, and edit your own work, and help others with this process
- Participate in supportive analytical discussions about elements of craft that are contributing to or detracting from a story's intended effect
- Reflect on your experience and production in the course and assess your own learning

Learning Strategies and Resources

Some learning activities, assignments and deadlines will vary depending on the delivery format of the course and may differ slightly from what is presented in this document.

This course consists of ten modules. Each module contains a Discussion topic. During these discussions, you will have the opportunity to exchange ideas with your virtual classmates about work in-progress. There is a Final Essay at the end of the course (Module #10).

Required Readings

Books and learning materials are available at the DePaul bookstore, at <http://depaul-loop.bncollege.com>, or through alternative sources.

Bernays, Anne and Pamela Painter. What If? 3rd ed. New York: Harper Collins College Publishers, 2009.

Recommended reading:

Minot, Stephen. Three Genres. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2003.
Ruszkiewicz, et. al. SF Writer. 2nd ed. New York: Longman, 2002. (or – other Handbook of English.)

Assessment of Student Learning

Distribution of Grade Points

Graded Assignments	Percentage of Final Grade
Forum Discussions	15%
Weekly Exercises	61%
Paper Assignments	24%

Grading Scale

A = 95 to 100	A- = 91 to 94	B+ = 88 to 90
B = 85 to 87	B- = 81 to 84	C+ = 77 to 80
C = 73 to 76	C- = 69 to 72	D+ = 65 to 68

D = 61 to 64	F = 60 or below	INC
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Course Schedule

Week or Module Title or Theme	Readings / Learning Activities	Graded Assignments
Week 1, Module 1: Getting Started		Unit #1 – Assignment: Using the Discussion Forum Unit #2 –Assignment: Using Google Docs
Week 2, Module 2: Bringing Abstract Ideas to Life		Exercise One: Bringing Abstract Ideas to Life Exercise Two: Person, Place, & Song
Week 3, Module 3: Character and Setting		Exercise Three: Oh! That Sort of Person Exercise Four: Creating a Character's Background Post and respond to classmates on forum.
Week 4, Module 4:		Exercise Five: From Situation to Plot Exercise Six: Verbal Dance
Week 5, Module 5: Short Story Beginnings		Submit a story outline and abstract or a collection of sample pages and story plan.

Week 6, Module 6: Work of Fiction: Draft		Submit a complete early version of the story for feedback.
Week 7, Module 7: Writing Competence		Exercise Seven: Complete reading and prepare a paper to submit for discussion.
Week 8, Module 8: Peer Review		Review the stories of your classmates on Google Docs.
Week 9, Module 9: Final Story		Revise your story based on the feedback you have been given and your own final review.
Week 10, Module 10:		Compose an Essay Reflecting on your learning in the course.

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Course Policies

For access to all SCPS and DePaul University academic policies, refer to the following links:

[SCPS Student Resources Website](#)

[DePaul Student Handbook](#)

The [D2L Course Website](#) for this course.

Course Syllabus

The official syllabus for this course that includes course dates, instructor information and quarter specific details will be provided by the course instructor by the start of the course and available on the course D2L website.

Course Registration

To find out when this course will be offered next, you can go to the [SCPS Registration website](#) for details on how to register for the course.

For information on how this course can apply to your program, contact your academic advisor.

School of Continuing and Professional Studies

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