

Syllabus

Code: ENGL 224

Title: Fiction Writing Workshop

Institute: Humanities

Department: English

Course Description:

Students will continue to build on the knowledge of craft and style garnered from the prerequisite mixed genre class, Creative Writing, but in this advanced course concentrate on the specific techniques of effective fiction writing. With a greater emphasis on the concision and fluency of prose, a deeper understanding of the purpose and process of revision, authorial voice, and character and plot development, students will work toward creating a portfolio of work with significant attention to revision and focus on preparation for publication. By the end of the course, students should also be ready to enter a creative writing degree program at a transfer institution.

Prerequisites: Creative Writing ENGL 221 or permission of the instructor

Corequisites:

Prerequisites or Corequisites:

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab/Studio Hours:

Required Textbook/Materials:

The Art of Fiction John Gardner

The Oxford Book of American Short Stories Ed. Joyce Carol Oates

Additional Time Requirements:

For information on Brookdale's policy on credit hour requirements and outside class student work refer to [Academic Credit Hour Policy](#).

Attendance at 2 on-campus literary events such as the Brookdale Visiting Writers and Lecture Series with a subsequent writing project.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Students will illustrate fluency of line through manipulation of sentences to effect tone, pacing, and rhythm.
- Students will develop effective use of paragraphing, organization, rate of disclosure, and the importance of what is not said.
- Students will analyze character development mere description with particular emphasis on how story grows out of the character, the concept of catharsis and how this ties in with plot, avoidance of manipulation of character, and the development of character through dialogue.
- Students will become facile in the use of description to build a convincing world for the reader and foster willing suspension of disbelief in the audience, as well as the use of imagery over exposition, and how to master the use of metaphor and simile.

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- Students will analyze their own and other's plotting strategies.
- Students will discuss their own and other's efforts to create irony and suspense.
- Students will explore publishing, how to research markets, prepare work for submission, develop a query letter, and learn the different types of publications from journals and literary magazines, and explore genre vs. mainstream publishing trends.

(Core Competencies: Communication – Critical Thinking – Creative Expression)

Grading Standard:

Evaluation and Workload:

- Class participation 30%
Class participation is an integral part of the workshop experience. Students will be expected to give close readings of each other's writing and offer extended and detailed analysis of craft elements in a class discussion format facilitated by the instructor. Class participation is demonstrated by the amount and quality of the student's review comments.
- 2 literary readings/annotations 10%
- Portfolio 60%
 - 4 short stories
 - 2 or more substantially revised short stories
 - Market analysis and query letter
 - Self assessment essay

Course Content:

- Students will create original short fiction.
- Students will present their work for group critiques.
- Students will respond constructively to other students' writing and listen to others respond to theirs.
- Students will read contemporary short fiction.
- Students will develop their particular artistic vision and revise and rewrite their creative work for a final portfolio.
- Students will refine an aesthetic appreciation for the discipline and craft of fiction writing.
- Students will hone their ability to communicate effectively.
- Students will think creatively and critically.

Department Policies:

General Attendance:

This class focuses on workshopping student writing. Attendance is mandatory. After two absences, the student must see the instructor to determine the student's status.

On Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:

A student has the obligation to exhibit honesty and high ethical standards in carrying out academic assignments. Submitting the work of another person in a manner that represents the work as one's own (even if it's only a few lines or an idea or a portion of a paper) constitutes plagiarism and can result in failing the assignment, failing the class, suspension from school, or even expulsion. Note: Refer to Answers Student Handbook for Brookdale's Academic Integrity Code, Student Conduct Code and Student Grade Appeal Process.

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College Policies:

As an academic institution, Brookdale facilitates the free exchange of ideas, upholds the virtues of civil discourse, and honors diverse perspectives informed by credible sources. Our College values all students and strives for inclusion and safety regardless of a student's disability, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, country of origin, immigration status, religious affiliation, political orientation, socioeconomic standing, and veteran status. For additional information, support services, and engagement opportunities, please visit www.brookdalecc.edu/support.

For information regarding:

- ◆ Brookdale's Academic Integrity Code
- ◆ Student Conduct Code
- ◆ Student Grade Appeal Process

Please refer to the [BCC STUDENT HANDBOOK AND BCC CATALOG](#).

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT/LABS:

See the Tutoring Center for information <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/academic-tutoring/>.

Writing Center

At the Writing Center, students can work one-on-one with a writing consultant at any stage of the writing process, from drafting, to revision, to proofreading. Writing Center appointments can help students clarify their main points, incorporate feedback, and address grammar and mechanical issues in the context of their own writing.

The Writing Center is located on the Lincroft campus in Room 118 Larrison Hall (732-224-2941). Hours are posted on the Writing Center website.

Writing consultants are also available at the Higher Education Centers.

See more about the Writing Center here <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/academic-institutes-and-departments/humanities-institute/writing-center/>.

NOTIFICATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Brookdale Community College offers reasonable accommodations and/or services to persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who wish to self-identify must contact the Accessibility Services Office at 732-224-2730 (voice) or 732-842-4211 (TTY) to provide appropriate documentation of the disability and request specific accommodations or services. If a student qualifies, reasonable accommodations and/or services, which are appropriate for the college level and are recommended in the documentation, can be approved.

Mental Health:

24/7/365 Resources:

- Monmouth Medical Center Psychiatric Emergency Services at **(732) 923-6999**
- 2nd Floor Youth Helpline – Available to talk with you about any problem, distress, or hardship you are experiencing. Call or text at **888-222-2228** or visit the website at <https://www.2ndfloor.org/>

Faculty Counselors:

- Students who need to make an appointment with a faculty counselor can do so by calling 732-224-1822 (non-emergency line) during business hours. Faculty counselors are licensed mental health professionals who can assist students and refer them to other mental health resources.

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DIVERSITY STATEMENT:

Brookdale Community College fosters an environment of inclusion and belonging. We promote a safe and open culture, encourage dialogue respecting diverse perspectives informed by credible sources, and uphold the virtues of civil discourse. We celebrate all identities with the understanding that ultimately, diversity, equity, and inclusion cultivate belonging and make us a stronger Brookdale community.