

Grande Prairie Regional College
Department of
Arts and Education

COURSE OUTLINE 2008

ENGLISH 2950: INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING: prose

CREDIT: 3 (3-0) UT Transfers as a Writing course to U of A and as either writing or literature to most universities in Alberta and in Canada. Check ACAT for details.

LEVEL: Senior English Writing (composition & literature)

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Elroy Deimert, PhD office: C426
phone: 539-2984 E-MAIL: edeimert@gprc.ab.ca
Office Hours: M / W 1 p.m. to 2:30 or by appointment

PREREQUISITE:

EN 1010, EN 1000, EN 1111/1112 or equivalence, as well as the instructor's consent (based on some demonstrated attempts at creative writing in the form of a small portfolio turned in to the instructor 8 days before the start of classes).

APPLICABLE PROGRAMS: B.A. English, B.A. General Studies, B. Ed. or options for other programs

METHOD OF DELIVERY: GPRC, Classroom modes— mostly seminars and work-shops, with minimal lectures.

CLASS SIZE: probably 15-20, but the official maximum is still 35

CLASS SCHEDULE: Fall semesters, September through December Wednesday 6 pm to 8:50 pm

SCOPE: ENGLISH 2950 INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING: PROSE utilizes seminars and creative writing work-shops designed for "apprentice" writers (novice-level or better) who have the demonstrated motivation to write regularly over the course of the semester. Students learn from the instructor (and from each other to some extent) some of the basic skills in handling point-of-view, language styles, editing, dialogic and polyphonic voicing, and some basic structures for the various genres. They also learn to aesthetically evaluate prose in various genres, as represented by the works of masters and by their own colleagues' works. Students learn to actively critique their colleagues' writings as well as their own. They also learn how and where to submit manuscripts for publication, as they garner information about the small presses, literary agents, literary contests, literary magazines, and the publishing industry in general.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

EN 2950 emphasizes principles and practices aimed at writing publishable prose in various genres like, short stories, novels, prose drama, dramatic monologues for the broadcast media markets, creative non-fiction, etc. The course targets "apprentice" writers (novice level or better) who have some demonstrated motivation toward creative writing. Writing workshops and seminars to develop the student's critical skills are also supplemented by information about publication, literary markets, literary agents, editors and other relevant technical knowledge.

RECOMMENDED TEXT: Jason and Lefcowitz. Creative Writer's Handbook.

There are no required texts, but there will be other required readings including the writings of various masters in the fiction genres, and readings about the creative writing process. These will be on reserve in the GPRC Library or readily available in public libraries and bookstores.

BOOKS ON RESERVE THAT CONTAIN SOME REQUIRED READINGS

- Bakhtin, M. M. The Dialogic Imagination. U of Texas Press.
Birney, Earl. The Creative Writer. C.B.C.
Hills, Rust. Writing in General and the Short Story in Particular.
Hodgins, Jack. A Passion for Narrative. M&S.
Minot, Stephen. Three Genre. Prentice Hall.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: provided through GPRC Library and Media Services. GPRC is a member of NEOS.

INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN & CURRICULUM:

This will follow standard practices of introductory creative writing courses at the university level. Students will submit their own work to be distributed by the instructor among the students of the class. Students will be taught to give both positive and critical "feedback" to the writer of the work in a sensitive and constructive manner, based on aesthetic principles taught by the instructor and modelled by some of the masters in the genres. Short seminars and lectures on important areas of craft and style (like handling of point-of-view, imagery, and language styles) are included. The equivalent of four substantial short prose works (about 48 pages of a novel, stories, novella, or other genres) are required for credit. Manuscripts (chapters, stories, etc.) are due near the end of each month and will be graded by the Alpha grade system (page 40 of the current GPRC calendar).

EVALUATION, EXPECTATIONS, & STANDARDS

Four short prose works averaging 3,000 words per manuscript (or equivalent) are required (as a minimum). The final works will be weighted more than the first (ie. 15%, 20%, 25%, and 25%). The first prose work is due one week before the first class (off. C426). Sept. 28, Oct. 26, and Nov. 23 are the due dates for the 3 remaining prose submissions. Up to 15% is awarded for attendance, participation, and good preparation for each class. As seen by the marks break down, there is no final exam.

No grades will be awarded in percentages. Alpha grades A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, & F will be used with the explicit meaning and grade point average as described on pg. 41 of the GPRC Calendar. Student conduct and plagiarism standards are enforced as written in the GPRC Calendar pg. 47-51.

Dr. Elroy Deimert
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Grande Prairie Regional College
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Aug. 8, 2008

To Creative Writing students registered in EN 2950

Dear students:

This is just to remind you that part of the registration for EN 2950 involves submission of a sample of your creative prose (that is fiction or non-fiction or dramatic prose, but not poetry). Most of the work in a creative writing class involves learning to constructively and tactfully critique and evaluate creative writing by other students, and thus transfer the skills to creating and revising your own work. These samples will be distributed to other students and will be the first work of yours that the class will read. Since we will begin working on these by the second meeting, the samples need to be in my possession for photocopying in time for the first class. This means I must have the samples by noon on Sept. 2 at the latest.

The samples should be a minimum of 6 pages double-spaced (12 pt font), but aim for 10 (not much more than 18 pages for now). You are aiming for the equivalent of 4 submissions averaging 12 such pages each (including your sample). There is no final exam. We will deal with the work in the order that it is received as a rule.

Don't let this all intimidate you; we make sure that everyone is comfortable and enjoying the classes. No one is allowed to put another student down, to embarrass them, or to humiliate them in any way. This is a safe and caring class. However, you must write, and you must read the work of others regularly. Remember, everyone is a beginner at this, and you will be learning the necessary skills as we progress so the first submission will not injure your grade if you improve your skills.

Email submissions should be in WordPerfect or MSWord or .rtf attachments or in the text of the email if absolutely necessary (email: deimert@gprc.ab.ca). You may also drop off or mail a manuscript addressed to me through the GPRC mail (cashier). See you soon.

Sincerely,
Elroy Deimert