

Grande Prairie Regional College  
Department of  
Arts, Commerce, and Education

COURSE OUTLINE 2002

**ENGLISH 3950: CREATIVE WRITING: fiction**

**CREDIT:** 3 (3-0) UT

**LEVEL:** Senior English Writing (composition & literature)

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Elroy Deimert, PhD office: C426 Hrs. TR 11-12:30  
phone: 539-2984 E-MAIL: deimert@gprc.ab.ca

**PREREQUISITE:**

EN 2950 or a UT 3 credit writing course as well as the instructor's consent (based on some demonstrated craftsmanship in a creative writing portfolio turned in to the instructor at least 9 days before the start of classes).

**APPLICABLE PROGRAMS:** B.A., B.Ed., elective for others

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

**CLASS SIZE:** probably 15-20, but the official maximum is 30

**CLASS SCHEDULE:** Winter semesters, January through April  
Mondays & Wednesdays 10:00 to 11:20

**SCOPE:**

ENGLISH 3950 CREATIVE WRITING: fiction involves seminars and creative writing work-shops designed for intermediate level "apprentice" writers who have already demonstrated some basic knowledge of the craft of fiction or related creative writing skills. Students learn from the instructor, and from each other, some of the finer skills in handling point-of-view, language style, editing, dialogic and polyphonic voicing, and some basic structures for fiction genres. They also learn, partially from classic and contemporary fiction, how to aesthetically evaluate prose, and to actively critique their colleagues' writing, as well as their own. Students also learn how and where to submit manuscripts for publication, as they garner information about the nature of small presses, literary agents, literary contests, literary magazines, and the publishing industry in general.

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

EN 3950 emphasizes principles and practices aimed at writing publishable fiction. The course targets "apprentice" writers who have some demonstrated experience in the craft of fiction or related writing. Writing workshops and development of the student's critical skills will also be supplemented with information about publication, literary markets, editing, literary agents, and other relevant technical knowledge.

**TEXTS:**

Hodgins, Jack. *A Passion for Narrative*. M&S.  
There are no other required texts, but there will be other assigned readings from 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.  
Biney, Earl. *The Creative Writer*. C.B.C.  
Hills, Rust. *Writing in General and the Short Story in Particular*. Houghton Mifflin.  
Minot, Stephen. *Three Genre*. Prentice Hall.  
*The Art of Short Fiction*. Ed. Gary Geddes.

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

**INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN & CURRICULUM:**

This will follow standard practices of 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. Included are short seminars or lectures on important areas of craft and style (like point-of-view and language style). The equivalent of four substantial short stories (or about 60 pages of a novel or novella) are required for credit. Manuscripts (chapters, stories, etc.) are due at regular times each month and will be graded by the stanine system.

**EVALUATION:**

Four short stories (or equivalent) averaging 3,500 words per manuscript are required. The final story is weighted more than the first stories (20%, 25%, 25%, then 30%). In the case of novellas or novels, the quality of the finished manuscript determines the grade in these genres. The first story or chapter is due a week prior to the first class. The 4<sup>th</sup> week, the 7<sup>th</sup> week, and 10<sup>th</sup> week are due dates for the 3 remaining submissions.