

**Carleton University  
Winter 2014  
Department of English**

**ENGL 3903A**

**Mondays / 11:30-2:30**

**Location: 1006DT**

*Please confirm location on Carleton Central*

**Instructor: Mark Frutkin  
Email: mfrutkin@rogers.com  
Office: to be determined  
Phone:  
Office Hours: By appointment**

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

*(Please note: This course has Limited Enrolment (18-20). Submission of a portfolio is required. See section below for details.)*

As this is an intermediate fiction workshop, the main focus of this creative writing course will involve the analysis and evaluation of short fiction manuscripts written by the students (short stories or portions of novels). This analysis will be done by the professor and the students taking the course. Students will be expected to have a serious interest in the craft of writing and have a good grasp of fundamentals. Analysis and evaluation of others' manuscripts will be nearly as important as your own submitted work. Short non-fiction memoir, travel and/or other approaches to non-fiction will also be considered, if that is the student's writing focus. All styles of writing will be acceptable, the only criterion being the quality of the actual writing itself.

Certain classes will include in-class writing exercises, discussions about writing and publishing, as well as analysis of excellent writing samples from a select few of the world's great authors.

A selected number of writers will submit a manuscript each week for the other students to take home and read and be prepared to discuss the following week. Each student will

submit two original manuscripts, of approximately ten pages each, during the course. Slightly longer pieces will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Each student must photocopy sufficient copies of their own story to hand out the week preceding their workshop. If you are scheduled to deliver a manuscript and cannot, please give several days' notice. If your manuscript is to be discussed and you cannot appear, please give as much notice as possible.

Every manuscript submission must be typed, double spaced in ordinary typeface, and must be legible. Handwritten materials will not be accepted. No single spacing is allowed, as space is required for hand-written editorial comments. Students may use back-to-back photocopying to save paper and copying costs.

The aims and objectives of the course are to develop excellent creative writing skills in fiction or creative nonfiction areas, to have the opportunity to grow as a writer, to have one's own work commented on and criticized, and to develop critical skills in dealing with the fiction and nonfiction texts of other students, in order to work towards a further understanding of the writing craft.

## **SUBMISSION OF PORTFOLIO**

This class has a limited enrolment of 15-18 students. Your portfolio of 10-12 pages – complete with a cover page indicating **your name, Carleton student number, and Carleton email address** – should be submitted electronically to **mfrutkin@rogers.com** by **November 30, 2013**. Students are advised to make an alternate course selection until those accepted are contacted.

Final decision on the students selected for enrolment in the class will be made by early December. Previous creative writing courses are recommended but not a requirement.

## **TEXTS**

No textbooks or other books will be required for the course but students will be expected to cover the cost of photocopying the required number of copies of their own stories for distribution to students for class discussion.

## **EVALUATION**

There are no exams in this course.

The final course grade will be based on the following:

- 1) 50% - Quality and originality of the writing work submitted.

2) 40% - Quality of the editorial comments on the work of others – written and oral (in-class) contributions to the overall manuscript evaluation process.

3) 10% - Attendance (Missing more than three classes will result in a failing grade, barring medical situations with a doctor's note.) Consistent late arrivals will also affect the final grade.

*Please Note:* You must be willing to have your own work criticized and evaluated in class, in order to learn from that criticism, and you must be willing to deliver critiques of others' manuscripts that are forthright, helpful and positive in nature. Please bring writing materials (pen and paper or notebook) to every class.

Plagiarism: See the statement on "Instructional Offences" in the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar and/or the paragraphs on plagiarism below. (Any provable plagiarism will result in a failing grade.)

Students with special needs/disabilities, or students who require academic accommodations are invited to contact the Paul Menton Centre. (500 Unicentre) Please see the paragraphs below on Accommodations.

## **INTERMEDIATE FICTION WEEKLY COURSE CALENDAR – Winter 2014**

### **Week 1**

Introduction

The Alchemy of Fiction: Plot, Character, Language, etc.

In-Class Writing Exercise/s (using photos)

Manuscript submission schedule determined

### **Week 2**

First submissions by 3-5 students due and handed out for first discussions in Week 3

Form Echoes Content: Becket and Conrad

In-Class Writing Exercise/s to develop sense-driven, concrete writing style

### **Week 3**

(The main focus of all the following classes will be the workshopping (analysis and evaluation) of manuscripts. Throughout the workshopping of manuscripts, there will be comments and occasional forays into details concerning the craft of writing.)

Workshop manuscripts

### **Week 4**

Workshop Manuscripts

Week 5  
Workshop Manuscripts

Week 6  
Workshop Manuscripts

Week 7  
Workshop Manuscripts  
Mid-term discussion on workshop process

Week 8  
Workshop Manuscripts

Week 9  
Workshop manuscripts

Week 10  
Workshop manuscripts

Week 11  
Workshop manuscripts

Week 12  
Workshop manuscripts.

Week 13 (Final class)  
Workshop manuscripts (and final discussions on writing and publishing)

### **2013 Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you

only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>.

## **PLAGIARISM**

The University Senate defines **plagiarism** as **presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or the work of others as one's own.**

This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else
- using ideas, quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts or ideas without appropriate acknowledgement in an essay or assignment
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works, and/or failing to use quotation marks
- handing in substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs

Plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, suspension from a program, suspension from the university, or even expulsion from the university. See the Section on Academic Integrity in the Student Conduct Portion of the Undergraduate Calendar.