

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: ENGL 3903A Intermediate Fiction Workshop – Winter Term 2018 (Mark Frutkin)**

*Course prerequisites: a 2000-level creative writing workshop or permission of the instructor*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

As this is a fiction writing workshop, the main focus of this creative writing course will involve the analysis and evaluation of short fiction manuscripts (short stories or portions of novels) 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 solid grasp of fundamentals.

Analysis and evaluation of others' manuscripts will be almost as important as your own submitted work. Only fiction will be evaluated (no poetry). All styles of writing will be acceptable, the only criterion being the excellence of the actual writing itself.

Some classes will include in-class writing exercises, and discussions about writing and publishing.

A selected number of writers will submit a manuscript each week for others to take home and read and be prepared to workshop the following week. Each student will submit two original manuscripts, of 5-7 pages each, during the course (or a total of 14-15 pages).

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. (Since no textbooks or other books will be required for the course, students will be expected to cover the cost of photocopying the required number of copies of their own stories.) Photocopying on both sides of a page, to save paper, will be acceptable.

**EVALUATION:**

The final course grade will be based on the following:

- 1) 65% - Quality and originality of the work submitted.
- 2) 30% - Quality of the editorial comments on the work of others – written and oral (in-class) contributions to the overall manuscript evaluation process.

3) 5% - Attendance - Missing more than three classes will result in a grade reduction, barring medical situations (a doctor's note is required). Arriving late to the class on a consistent basis will affect the final grade.

There will be no final exam in this course.

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 all classes.

Plagiarism: Please refer to Carleton University's web site and/or the *Student Guide* for information on plagiarism. (Any provable plagiarism will result in a failing grade.)

## CREATIVE WRITING WEEKLY COURSE CALENDAR – Winter 2018

### Week 1

Introduction

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

In-Class Writing Exercise/s

Manuscript submission schedule

### Week 2

First submissions by 4-5 students due and handed out for first discussions in Week 3

When Form Echoes Content: Becket and Conrad

In-Class Writing Exercise/s

Research and Important Resource Books

### Week 3

Workshop manuscripts

(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. Occasionally there may be short writing exercises included in the class followed by group evaluation.)

### Week 4

Workshop Manuscripts and In-class Writing Exercises

### Week 5

Workshop Manuscripts and In-class Writing Exercises

### Week 6

Workshop Manuscripts and In-class Writing Exercises

Week 7

Workshop Manuscripts and In-class Writing Exercises

Week 8

Workshop Manuscripts and In-class Writing Exercises

Week 9

Workshop manuscripts and In-class Writing Exercises

Week 10

Workshop manuscripts and In-class Writing Exercises

Week 11

Workshop manuscripts and In-class Writing Exercises

Week 12

Workshop manuscripts and In-class Writing Exercises

Week 13 (Final class)

Workshop manuscripts; and Final discussions concerning the writing life, publishing, literary magazines, etc.

**REQUEST FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** 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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

**Religious obligation:** 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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your *Letter of Accommodation* at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-

class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website ([www.carleton.ca/pmc](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc)) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

Office Hours: By appointment – contact: [MarkFrutkin@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:MarkFrutkin@cunet.carleton.ca)  
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