

**Course Syllabus**  
**ENGLISH 264: Fiction Workshop**

I. Introductory Information:

A. Department Name:	English
B. Departmental Catalogue Number:	ENGL 264
C. Course Title:	Fiction Workshop
D. Credit in Terms of Semester Hours:	3 Hours
E. Clock Hours Per Week:	3 Hours
F. Overlays:	None
G. Restriction Upon Student Registration:	Composition (ENGL100 or HONR111) and an introductory literature class (ENGL 110, ENGL220, or HONR 112)

II. Description of the Course:

Teaches the writing of short fiction through a balance of lectures, readings, writing exercises and the traditional workshop.

III. Exposition:

A. Objectives:

1. After completing this course the student should be able to do the following:
  - a) Read fiction from the viewpoint of the fiction writer rather than the literary critic, with a new understanding of how and why it works or doesn't work.
  - b) Be able to imagine lives very different from their own, and therefore to create character.
  - c) Utilize various techniques to bypass their conscious minds and discover their own "subconscious obsessions," which are so useful to a writer's work. Examples of such exercises are "freewriting" and "clustering."
  - d) Write a coherent, vividly detailed traditional short story.
  - e) Revise their fiction to improve it.
  - f) Cultivate the mindset of a fiction writer, looking for story ideas, characters, and situations that can be derived from life.

B. Activities and Requirements:

1. Attend classes and individual conferences to discuss student work.
2. Complete reading, writing exercises to develop expertise in such areas as dialogue, description, characterization, and plotting; and writing complete stories.
3. Complete twenty pages of written work.

C. Major Units and Time Allotted:

1. Craft lessons in perspective, characterization, setting, symbolism, and theme (25 hours)
2. Discussions of literary examples and student texts (20 hours)

D. Materials and Bibliography:

1. Suggested Texts

- Bailey, Tom. ed. On Writing Short Stories. Cambridge: New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Gardner, John. The Art of Fiction: Notes on Craft. New York: Vintage, 1991.
- Lodge, David. The Art of Fiction: Illustrated from Classics and Modern Texts. New York: Penguin, 1994.
- Shapard, Robert and James Thomas. Sudden Fiction International: Sixty Short-Short Stories. New York: W.W. Norton, 1989.

2. Bibliography

- Alcott, Miriam. Novelists on the Novels. New York: Columbia, 1959.
- Booth, Wayne. The Rhetoric of Fiction. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1961.
- Brandt, Dorothea. Becoming a Writer. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1934.
- Dillard, Annie. Living by Fiction. New York: Harper and Row, 1982.
- Forster, E. M. Aspects of the Novel. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1954.
- Gardner, John. The Art of Fiction: Notes on Craft. New York: Knopf, 1984.
- . On Becoming a Novelist. New York: Harper and Row, 1983.
- James, Henry. The Art of Fiction. New York: Oxford University Press, 1948.
- Lubbock, Percy. The Craft of Fiction. New York: Viking, 1957.
- Macaulay, Robie and George Lanning. Technique in Fiction. New York: St. Martins, 1990.
- Miller, James E. Myth and Method: Modern Theories of Fiction. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1960.
- Rico, Gabriel. Writing the Natural Way: Using Right-Brain Techniques to Release Your Expressive Powers. New York: Putnam Publishing Group, 2000.
- Scholes, Robert. Approaches to the Novel. San Francisco: Chandler, 1961.
- Woolf, Virginia. Granite and Rainbow: Essays. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1985.

IV. Standards:

Grades will be determined by the instructor's evaluation of the required written work in the course, in accordance with university policy.

V. Rationale:

- A. This is a revision of an existing course. The department plans to eliminate ENGL364 and 464, and replace them with ENGL4xx (Advanced Topics in Creative Writing).
- B. The course is designed for English majors.
- C. No other departments will be affected by this change.

VI. Cost and Staff Analysis:

- A. There will be no additional costs incurred on university resources.
- B. The course will be offered once a year.

VII. Date approved by University President

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