

The University of Texas at Tyler
The Department of Literature and Languages
ENGL 3314.001
Creative Writing II
Glenn Blake
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CAS 258
Class Meeting: W 6:00–8:45
Office Hours: T–1:00 W–5:00 TH–1:00

NARRATIVE CRAFT

THE SCENE

The student-writer will weekly work to master the mechanics of writing scenes—peopling the stage with characters and propelling these characters with their distinct desires. The student-writer will monthly master the technique of writing a dialogue that word-by-word ushers the plot along and *always* whispers more than it is saying.

Abstracts

Blocking Abstracts

Establishing the Initial Dramatic Situation

Character Propelled by Aristotelian Desire

Grappling with the Complexities of Dialogue

Mastering the Mechanics of The Scene

The Fichtean Curve

ASSIGNED READINGS

What We Talk About When We Talk About Love
Raymond Carver

The House on Mango Street
Sandra Cisneros

Self-Help
Lorrie Moore

No Country For Old Men
Cormac McCarthy

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SECOND WEEK

CARVER

"Why Don't You Dance?"

"Viewfinder"

"I Could See the Smallest Things" "Gazebo"

ASSIGNMENT ONE:

Write three abstracts of three scenes. 1 pg.

THIRD WEEK

BLOCKING

"Tell the Women We're Going"

"The Bath"

"So Much Water So Close to Home"

"Sacks"

ASSIGNMENT TWO:

Block the three abstracts.

FOURTH WEEK

SHORT SCENES

"The Third Thing That Killed"

"After the Denim"

"Everything Stuck to Him"

"The Calm"

ASSIGNMENT THREE:

Write a short scene of the first abstract. 1 pg.

FIFTH WEEK

DRAMATIC SITUATION

"What We Talk About When We Talk"

"One More Thing"

"A Serious Talk"

"Popular Mechanics"

ASSIGNMENT FOUR:

Write a short scene of the second abstract in which you establish the initial dramatic situation. 1 pg.

SIXTH WEEK

CISNEROS

"The House on Mango Street"

"Born Bad"

"Cathy Queen of Cats"

"Chanclas"

ASSIGNMENT FIVE:

Write a scene in which a character is propelled by Aristotelian DESIRE. 3 pgs.

SEVENTH WEEK

"The Family of Little Feet"

"Red Clowns"

"Alicia Who Sees Mice"

"Linoleum Roses"

ASSIGNMENT SIX:

Write a scene in which DIALOGUE ushers the plot, sounds convincing, and says more than it is saying.

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EIGHTH WEEK

"The Monkey Garden"

"A House of My Own"

ASSIGNMENT SEVEN:

Write a scene with dialogue. Master the mechanics—
attribution, punctuation, paragraphs. Revise SIX.

MECHANICS

"Bums in the Attic"

"Beautiful & Cruel"

NINTH WEEK

"How to Be an Other Woman"

"The Kid's Guide to Divorce"

ASSIGNMENT EIGHT:

Write a story which includes SEVEN. 5pgs.

MOORE

"How"

TENTH WEEK

"How to Talk to Your Mother"

"A Guide to the Tenor of Love"

ASSIGNMENT NINE:

Revise EIGHT.

MOORE

"To Fill"

ELEVENTH WEEK

"How to Become a Writer"

"What is Seized"

ASSIGNMENT TEN:

Write a long scene of the third abstract. 5 pgs.

MOORE

"Go Like This"

TWELFTH WEEK

No Country For Old Men

Chapter 1 through 4

Write a story which includes TEN. 10 pgs.

McCARTHY

THIRTEENTH WEEK

Chapter 5 through 9

ADVANCED FICTION WORKSHOP

McCARTHY

FOURTEENTH WEEK

Chapter 9 through 12

ADVANCED FICTION WORKSHOP

McCARTHY

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PREPARATION & PARTICIPATION

CW II will be a Classical Creative Writing Workshop—scenes, stories, chapters will be written, copies will be made and distributed. Each and every last one of us will read these presentations and share our insights. In this Classical Workshop, we will not only learn to write, we will learn to read, to edit, to critique other writers' works.

Everyone is expected to attend all classes, arrive on time, turn off cellphones and laptops.

Attention to the cellphone instead of class and peers will be counted as an absence. Attendance is crucial in a Classical Workshop—if the student-writer is absent, the student writer will miss the distribution of the presentations, the copies and will receive a **ZERO** for the following class. The presentations, the copies, of the scenes, stories, chapters ARE the texts will be studying in Creative Writing II.

ATTENDANCE

THE DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES

The Department's Attendance Policy is to fail a student who misses three weeks of a course due to unexcused absences. Two weeks unexcused absences will result in the reduction of a letter grade.

AI is not permitted in this course at all.

I expect all work students submit for this course to be their own. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. For this course, I expressly forbid using ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values.

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FORMATTING

Scenes, stories, chapters will be typed, double-spaced in a readable font—12 or larger.

GRADING PROCEDURE

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Attendance | 25% |
| Written Assignments | 25% |
| Classroom Participation | 50%! |

IRON SHARPENS IRON

This is not only a writing class—this is a class in EDITING. Long before you can presume to put words on a page, you must first learn how to read them. You learn to write by first learning how to read.

In this Classical Creative Writing Workshop, we will learn to edit our fellow writers' works. In this workshop, we will obtain, acquire, the Mean Eyes required for the arduous life of writing fictions.