

The University of Texas at Tyler  
The Department of Literature and Languages  
ENGL 3312.001  
Creative Writing I  
Glenn Blake  
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CAS 208  
Class Meetings: Mo-We 2:30-3:55  
Office Hours: Mo-We 4:00-5:00

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Creative Writing I: The Short-Short Story is a course designed for students who have not yet selected a genre, who have not yet selected a concentration in The Department of Literature and Languages. The student-writers will read three anthologies—short-short stories grouped, sorted, according to stylistic, thematic, similarities—revise weekly assignments, and meticulously hone their narrative techniques in preparation for more advanced seminars in Creative Writing.

### **ASSIGNED READINGS**

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Flash Fiction  | Norton      |
| Micro Fiction  | Norton      |
| Sudden Fiction | Gibbs Smith |

### **RECOMMENDED READINGS**

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Short Shorts                 | Bantam |
| Sudden Fiction (Continued)   | Norton |
| Sudden Fiction International | Norton |

### **WEEKLY RESPONSIBILITIES**

Every week, we will read eight short-short stories. Every week, we will revise the previous assignment and complete the new assignment.

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**MICRO FICTION**

SECOND WEEK

DRAMATIC SITUATION

"20/20"

"The Poet's Husband"

"The Cough"

"Your Fears Are Justified"

"Daydream"

"At the Point"

"The Halo"

"Wrong Channel"

ASSIGNMENT ONE:

Write an example of Micro Fiction in which you establish an initial dramatic situation. ½ pg.

THIRD WEEK

DESIRE

"Harmony"

"Mockingbird"

"Anti-Cain"

"Changing the Channel"

"Painted Devils"

"Wanting to Fly"

"Eclipsed"

"Honeycomb"

ASSIGNMENT TWO:

Write a Micro Fiction in which a character is propelled by Aristotle's DESIRE. ½ pg. Revise ONE.

FOURTH WEEK

TENSION/CONFLICT

"The New Year"

"Baby, Baby, Baby"

"Survivors"

"An Old Story"

"Conception"

"Kennedy in the Barrio"

"All This"

"Carpathia"

ASSIGNMENT THREE:

Write a Micro Fiction in which a character's DESIRE is thwarted. 1 pg. Revise TWO.

FIFTH WEEK

ANECDOTES/MOMENTS/SURPRISE

"Stone Belly Girl"

"Hurray for Hollywood"

"Worry"

"Morning News"

"Flu"

"This Is How I Remember It"

"Tea Leaves"

"But What Was Her Name?"

ASSIGNMENT FOUR:

Write a Micro Fiction in which you perfectly capture a moment. 1 pg. Revise THREE.

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SIXTH WEEK

"Pumpkins"(FF)  
"Roseville"(FF)  
"232-9979"(FF)  
"Snow"(FF)

EPIPHANIC MOMENTS

"Moment in the Sun Field"(FF)  
"The Last Parakeet"(FF)  
"The Hurricane Ride"(FF)  
"The Paring Knife"(FF)

ASSIGNMENT FIVE:

Write a Flash Fiction in which a character experiences an epiphanic moment. 1 pg. Revise FOUR.

SEVENTH WEEK

"Mother"(SF)  
"Billy's Girl"(SF)  
"Mr. Mumsford"(FF)  
"Pygmalion"(SF)

PERIPETEIA

"A Very Short Story"(SF)  
"Pendergast's Daughter"(FF)  
"The Appalachian Trail"(FF)  
"A Walled Garden"(SF)

ASSIGNMENT SIX:

Write a Flash Fiction in which there is a reversal of a character's fortunes, an earned reversal in the reader's expectations. 2 pgs. Revise FIVE.

EIGHTH WEEK

"Yours"(SF)  
"Night"(FF)  
"Say Yes"(SF)  
"Water"(FF)

MINIMALISM

"The Father"(FF)  
"Popular Mechanics"(SF)  
"Blackberries"(FF)  
"The Hatchet Man"(SF)

ASSIGNMENT SEVEN:

Write an example of Flash Fiction in the minimal style, a story in which the not-said is more important than the said. 2 pgs. Revise SIX.

NINTH WEEK

"Girl"(FF)  
"Class Notes"(SF)  
"Subtotals"(FF)  
"Tickits"(SF)

POSTMODERNISM/LISTS

"Fear: Four Examples"(FF)  
"The King of Jazz"(SF)  
"The Merry Chase"(SF)  
"Questionnaire for R.G."(SF)

ASSIGNMENT EIGHT:

Write a Sudden Fiction which is comprised of lists or fragments. 2 pgs. Revise SEVEN.

**SHORT SHORTS**

TENTH WEEK

"The Three Hermits"  
"Alyosha the Pot"  
"An Old Man"  
"After the Theatre"  
"The Wolf"

DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE

"The Beggarwoman of Locarno"  
"The Third Bank of the River"  
"An Episode of War"  
"A Yom Kippur Scandal"  
"Little Legend of the Dance"

ASSIGNMENT NINE:

Write an example of Sudden Fiction in a Dramatic Monologue. 3 pgs. Revise NINE.

ELEVENTH WEEK

"If Not Higher"  
"Eveline"  
"Paper Pills"  
"First Sorrow"  
"A Sick Collier"

SETTING

"The Soft Touch of Grass"  
"The Hunter Gracchus"  
"Joy and the Law"  
"The Untold Lie"  
"A Clean, Well-Lighted Place"

ASSIGNMENT TEN:

Write an example of Sudden Fiction in which there is a strong sense of place, in which the setting—the stage upon which the action is performed—contributes significantly to the earned tension and conflict of the story. 3 pgs. Revise NINE.

TWELFTH WEEK

"Magic"  
"The Bathhouse"  
"The Use of Force"  
"In the Night"  
"The Dead Man"  
"Wants"  
"The Eclipse"

SHORT SHORTS

"Homage to Isaac Babel"  
"Swaddling Clothes"  
"The Blue Bouquet"  
"The Death of Dolgushov"  
"My Father Sits in the Dark"  
"The Laughter"  
"News from the World"

ASSIGNMENT ELEVEN:

Write your own Short Short. 5 pgs. Revise TEN.

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**RETURN**

THIRTEENTH WEEK

SUDDEN FICTION

"Blind Girls"

"Sunday at the Zoo"

"Dinner Time"

"Reading the Paper"

"Reunion"

"No One's a Mystery"

"The Hit Man"

"A Lost Grave"

ASSIGNMENT TWELVE:

Present a revised work of Sudden Fiction. 3 pgs.  
Revise ELEVEN.

FOURTEENTH WEEK

FLASH FICTION

"Spider Creek"

"Brilliant Silence"

"Love Poems"

"Here's Another Ending"

"The Colonel"

"A Public Denial"

"Space"

"How to Touch a Bleeding Dog"

ASSIGNMENT THIRTEEN:

Present a revised work of Flash Fiction. 2 pgs.

FIFTEENTH WEEK

MICRO FICTION

"The Bridge"

"You Can't See the Dogs"

"Grief"

"Mount Olive"

"Chickens"

"But What Was Her Name?"

"Land's End"

"A Gentleman's C"

ASSIGNMENT FOURTEEN:

Present a revised work of Micro Fiction. 1 pg.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES**

The Department's Attendance Policy is to fail a student who misses more than two weeks of a course due to unexcused absences. One week's unexcused absence will result in a deduction from the final grade. Two unexcused tardy arrivals to class will result in the recording of an absence.

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY (two weeks) = 4 classes

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND FRIDAY = 6 classes

**AI is not permitted in this course at all.**

I expect all work students submit for this course to be their own. I have carefully designed all assignments and class activities to support your learning. 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.

#### **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.

**PREPARATION & PARTICIPATION**

CW I 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 we will be studying in Creative Writing I.

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**CONTRACT**

I understand the Attendance Policy of the Department  
of Literature and Languages.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Professor Glenn Blake