

Sinclair Community College

English 256-Creative Writing: Fiction

Initial Request Date: 1970

Biennial Review Date: 1999

Course Title: English 256

Quarter: Winter 2002

Department: ENGLISH

Division: LA&S

Phone: 512-3225

Course Code & Number: ENG 256

Professor: Ms. Christensen

Office: 3146 **Office Hours:** varies

E-mail address: Elizabeth.Christensen@Sinclair.edu **Time/days:** varies

Room: varies **Credit Hour Total:** 3 **Lecture Hours:** 3 **Lab Hours:** 0

Prerequisite(s): Dev 110 or Equivalent

TEXT: Orson Scott Card, Characters and Viewpoint . (Writer's Digest Books)

Supplementary Text and Reference: Concise Dictionary of Literary Terms

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Traditional elements of short stories will be studied, emphasizing student writing and revising. Topics covered with include: Plot/Theme, setting/scene, conflict/resolution, dialogue, point-of-view, change, genres, symbolism, and others.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of English 256 is to develop students' awareness of the importance of composition and development in creative fiction writing. The basic requirement will be a portfolio consisting of three short stories (including all of each story's drafts), and in-class/homework assignments. Each short story is required to be 5-7 pages in length, in MLA format, and double-spaced.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

- Three short stories (5-7 pages each)
- In-class and homework
- Portfolio

***Portfolios are graded by the *quality* of work you put into it.** No portfolio will be accepted if it is missing drafts, in-class, or homework assignments. Although two of your stories will earn "grades" before the end of the quarter, all stories must be included in the final portfolio!

Classroom Guidelines: You will treat the instructor and other students with respect. Students who are disrespectful and disruptive will be removed from class and withdrawn at the instructor's discretion.

Attendance: **Do not come to class unprepared or more than 10 minutes late or you will be counted as absent.** Three absences will lower your grade one letter and more than four absences will result in failure of the course.

***NOTE:** If you are going to be absent from class call and leave a message with the English Dept. or send e-mail (it will get to me faster). Don't just disappear from class the show up several weeks later without emergency documentation for your absence. NO excuses! Absence from class does not excuse you from being prepared for the next class. **Don't come unprepared or it will count as an absence!**

***Changes:** Throughout the course we may find that this syllabus needs amending. The instructor reserves the right to make these changes as the need becomes apparent.

Late Assignments: All assignments are due at the beginning of each class session. **No late or incomplete assignments will be accepted. *You are responsible for all material presented in class. If you miss a class, make sure to get the lecture notes from one of your classmates.**

PLAGIARISM: will result in failure of the course!

Format for written assignments: ALL writing assignments must be computer generated. They must follow MLA format and have a professional appearance. This will require several revisions so plan on revising each report 3-5 times before the final copy is handed in to me.

NOTE: If you do not know how to use a computer to generate assignments, get a tutor the first week! If you do not have access to a computer, use the computers in the Writing Center, 3221 or one of the other open labs. Take a disk with you and a staff member will show you how to format it. There are also tutors there for extra help.

Grades:

Distribution	Story #1	
	Story #2	
	Story #3	
	Final Portfolio	80%
	Exercises	<u>20%</u>
		100

Grading Scale =	A	93-100
	B	86-92
	C	75-85
	D	68-74
	F	67-0

COURSE OUTLINE:

WEEK ONE

Go over syllabus and classroom procedures.

Lecture: Plot/theme, setting/scene.

Homework: Write one page describing the first time you did something (drove a car, went on a date, signed up for college, etc.).

WEEK TWO

Lecture over MLA format and Literary Terms.

Discuss thesis statements and topics for story #1.

Homework: Select topic and begin outline for story #1.

WEEK THREE

Library day! Meet in the LRC at 12:30 for session 'A'.

Mandatory attendance!

Homework: Research a "genre" of your choice, type a one page description of it. Due on Tuesday 1/29. Begin rough draft of story #1.

Library day! Meet in the LRC at 12:30 for session 'B'.

Mandatory attendance!

Rough draft of story #1 due.

Homework: Revise story #1.

WEEK FOUR

Homework due: Genre descriptions.

Peer editing. Revised draft of story #1 due.

Discussion of dialogue and characterization.

Homework: Revised story #1 (second revision).

WEEK FIVE

Final peer editing for story #1. **Homework:** Revised draft.

Story #1 due today! Lecture: Story #2 and give criteria for evaluation. **Homework: Select topic and do an outline for story #2.**

WEEK SIX

Topic and outline due for story #2. Workshop.
Homework: Begin rough draft for story #2.

Rough draft due for story #2. Workshop and peer editing.

WEEK SEVEN

Revised draft of story #2 due. Peer editing.
Homework: Revise story #2.

In-class assignment: "What have you learned from writing?"
Questions to answer given in class.

WEEK EIGHT

Revised draft #3 of story #2 due.
Last peer editing for this story.
Homework: Revised story #2.

Final drafts of story #2 due.
Lecture and guidelines for story #3 given today.
Homework: Begin outline, rough draft, and chose topic for story #3.

WEEK NINE

Rough draft of story #3 due. Peer editing and workshop.
Homework: Revise story #3.

In-class assignment.

WEEK TEN

Revised draft of story #3 due. Peer editing.
Homework: Revise story #3.

In-class assignment.

WEEK ELEVEN

Final peer editing for story #3.
Last day of class! Final copy of story #3 and portfolio due.