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English 15B: Creative Writing, Emphasis on Short Fiction

Objectives Enhanced self-expression through short fiction; increased critical abilities regarding technique (ability to recognize good versus bad; how to strengthen the good, how to eliminate or rework the bad); developed appreciation of current creative work.

This class will not teach you how to write genre fiction (e.g. science fiction, romance, etc.); in fact you will not be allowed to work in these so-called genres. In other words you will not learn anything that will result in fame, fortune, or notoriety, but you will learn about the process of making literature from the writer's perspective.

Class Site and Log-In To access the website go to the following URL: <http://blackboard.reedleycollege.edu>. Login using your seven-digit student ID number for both your username and password. Go to Personal Information and check to make sure your e-mail address is correct. You will need to be officially enrolled before you will be allowed to enter the site.

Texts There is no formal text book for this class. However, we will also be making extensive use of the electronic anthology provided on this site. Subscribing to various literary journals and magazines and/or their websites is strongly recommended.

Since this class is a workshop in format, your writing (and your response to others' work) will be the primary texts for the class; you will be responsible for submitting your original work in a format that can be read electronically by others.

Discussion Board The Discussion Board is really where the "life" of the class takes place, and as such we want to grant it the importance it is due. So, let me make a couple of observations:

- First, unlike discussion in a traditional classroom, you have the opportunity to think carefully and deeply about the things that you "say" on the Discussion Board without the constraint of time pressure or the concern of whether or not your voice will be heard over the voices of others; you also have the opportunity to edit your remarks. Please take advantage of those opportunities.
- Second, because this is an academic environment, please do not consider the Discussion Board as analogous to text messaging, instant messaging, or e-mail

Syllabus (Spring 2012)

to friends. Your comments should be grammatical and mechanically sound with regards to spelling and punctuation.

- Third, your role on the discussion board is to talk with each other about the reading. While I will be starting the conversation with questions, I hope that you will address your comments to each other. I will, of course, answer questions that you have about assignments, but I'd like for you to use your group discussions as ways of learning from each other.
- Finally, remember that a significant portion of your grade is based upon the quantity, but more importantly, the quality of your participation.

Grades Your semester grade will be based on the following criteria:

- Your reading of all assigned work (texts and student manuscripts) and lively participation on the various Discussion Board Forums regarding the same (40 points)
- Your submission of the five-page one-scene story (15 points) and the complete short story (25 points) according to deadline (total of 40 points)
- A revision of your complete story turned in as a final (20 points)
- Attendance at readings/lectures by guest authors (2 points extra credit per event for a maximum of 10 extra credit points; please submit an Extra Credit form (Assignments) following your attendance at each event)
- I reserve the right to deduct points for work that is late or without proper respect for standard grammatical conventions; posts to the discussion board should likewise be timely and as grammatically correct as possible; points will also be deducted if a writer insists on writing so-called genre material (please review disclaimer above).

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D

This class does not use grades as a measure of talent or potential per se; instead the grade will reflect your fulfillment of the above expectations.

As a group, we will only benefit if every member contributes to discussion and analysis, each member desiring the others' growth as writers and observers.