

English 15B: Creative Writing—Fiction

Syllabus Spring 2016

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Instructor: | David Borofka |
| Phone: | 559.638.0300, ext. 3681 |
| E-mail: | david.borofka@reedleycollege.edu |
| Office: | CCI-213 |
| Office Hours: | TTh (1:00-2:00 PM) F (9:00-10:00 AM); other times arranged as necessary |
| Course site and e-mail: | <p>To access the course site go to the following URL: http://scccd.blackboard.com. Follow the directions for logging in. You must register before you will have access to enter the site. Students registering late will not have access to the course site until they use an authorization code and their enrollment in the class is verified.</p> <p>Any e-mail for this class will go to your @my.scccd.edu address.</p> |
| Texts: | <p>There will be no required textbooks for this class; instead, we will make use of essays and chapters from various craft books as well as stories from the electronic anthology provided on this site. Reading and/or subscribing to various literary journals and magazines or their websites is strongly recommended.</p> <p>However, 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, and you will be responsible for reviewing electronic copies of manuscripts and reading materials available to you on the course site.</p> |
| Class activities: | <p>Like a traditional class, this class will consist of reading assignments, writing assignments, discussion activities, and lectures. The degree to which you are successful in this class will be a direct reflection of how seriously you take each of these activities. In a face-to-face format, this class would require 150 minutes of classroom time each week. You should expect to spend at least that amount of time in addition to the time it takes to read material from the texts and write the assigned exercises and story. Once again, if I determine that you are not watching the weekly lectures or engaging with the material on the course site, I reserve the right to drop you before the ninth week.</p> |
| Discussion Board: | <p>The Discussion Board is 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 to |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| | <p>friends. Your comments should be grammatical and mechanically sound with regards to spelling and punctuation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Make this a meaningful conversation with each other rather than a make-work activity. I will, of course, answer questions that you have about assignments, but I'd like for you to use the discussion board as a way of learning from each other. • Fourth, you should respond to each weekly discussion forum (regarding the lectures and texts) during the week that it is available (the forum will be active during that week and the week following, and after that time it will be graded); you will also be required to interact with at least two of your fellow class members each week. You should post your comments regarding the work of your fellow writers within two weeks of it becoming available. • Finally, remember that a significant portion of your grade is based upon the <u>quality</u> and <u>timeliness</u> of your participation. |
| <p>Attendance:</p> | <p>Although an online class does not chart attendance <u>per se</u>, you do need to make your presence known every week. Every week new Discussion Board threads will be posted in response to the assigned reading, lectures, and student work. If you fall behind at any point during the course of the semester, you will find it extremely difficult to catch up. In addition, I will periodically check your access of course site materials and the extent of your use of the recorded lectures; <u>if I do not see sufficient participation, I reserve the right to drop you from the course.</u></p> |
| <p>Programs:</p> | <p>Browser (eg. IE, Firefox, Chrome, Safari), E-mail (my.scccd.edu), word processor (MS Word preferably), and Adobe Acrobat Reader (for viewing of PDFs).</p> |
| <p>Paper format:</p> | <p>All work must be typed, double-spaced and in 12-point Times Roman type. You must submit your work via the Assignments area. You must submit files as Word documents (*.doc or *.docx).</p> |
| <p>Plagiarism:</p> | <p>Use of another's work as though it were your own will not be tolerated. In the current Reedley College Catalogue, plagiarism is defined as follows:</p> <p>Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another's words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights. Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on the particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.</p> <p>Verified instances of plagiarism will result in a 0 on the assignment for which it occurs. The student responsible will be reported for appropriate disciplinary action to the office of the Vice President for Instruction, the Dean of Humanities, the Chair of the Composition,</p> |

Literature, and Communication Department, and the Vice President for Student Services.

Extra credit: During the course of the semester there will be several readings sponsored by Reedley College Speakers Series and Reedley College First Wednesdays at One. Following your attendance at a reading, you must complete and submit an Extra Credit Assignment to receive as many as ten points per reading. You may earn as many as fifty extra credit points during the semester. I will give you notice of dates and times. **Please note: extra credit is just that—extra; if you are unable to attend extra credit events due to schedule conflicts, lack of transportation, or for any other reason, I will not provide alternative events or assignments.**

Accommodation: If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

Grades: Grades will be based on the following criteria:

- your reading of all assigned work (texts, lectures, and student manuscripts) and lively “discussion” regarding the same: 45% (20%—texts and lectures; 10%—5-page scene workshop; 15%—story workshop)
- your submission of one 5-page scene: 10%
- your submission of one complete short story: 25%
- your submission of a revised version of your complete story turned in as a final: 10%
- your submission of a brief (<1000 words) “Why I Write” essay: 10%

| | |
|---------|---|
| 90-100% | A |
| 80-89% | B |
| 70-79% | C |
| 60-69% | D |
| 0-59% | F |

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.

This class does not use grades as a measure of talent or potential; 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.