**Creative Writing, Senior Elective**

**2017-2018**

Instructor: Miss Lambert Office hours: 3:15-4:00pm, Tues.-Thurs.

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**Course Description:** This course will focus on the craft of creative writing with an emphasis on short fiction and a final project. Students will engage the practice of creative composition through a variety of mediums: writing exercises, experimental flash fiction, and the short story.

**Course Requirements:**

Students enrolled in the creative writing class are required to complete the following course components.

* Arrive in class on time and plan to remain in class throughout the period. On most days, you will have the majority of class as time to write.
* Keep a writer’s notebook of ideas, lecture notes, and writing exercises. Please label and date each writing exercise as it is assigned in class. Notebooks will be checked for credit on alternating Fridays, but please bring your notebook to class daily.
* Read at least two novels and write a one page review of the novel. (This must be a novel you have chosen, not one that is required for another class.)
* Give a public reading of your work—either in class or in an assembly.
* Complete one short story. (1,000 to 3,000 words)
* Design and complete a final project (selected from list below):
	+ Two additional short stories (or one longer short story)
	+ Novel outline and first three chapters of novel
	+ Storyline for comic book or graphic novel with first five illustrated pages completed
	+ A poetry collection
	+ Other projects can be designed with assistance from course instructor

**Recommended Books:** These books are not required for this class, but they will be referred to through the trimester and many of our writing exercises will be gleaned from them as these books are useful resources for any prospective writer, hoping to learn more about the craft of fiction.

On Writing by Stephen King (will be read in class)

Just Write! Here’s How by Walter Dean Myers

Steering the Craft by Ursula K. Le Guin

The Art of Fiction: Notes on Craft for Young Writers by John Gardner

The Elements of Style by William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White

What If? By Anne Bernays and Pamela Painter

Writing Down the Bones by Natalie Goldberg

**Course Schedule**

The dates, assignments, and lecture topics listed below are tentative.

You will be notified of any changes.

**Lecture Topics**

* Wednesday, March 21st: The Short Story
* Wednesday, March 28th: Plot, and Does Your Story Really Have One?
* Wednesday, April 4th: Creating Distinctive Characters
* Wednesday, April 11th: Setting and Landscape
* Wednesday, April 18th: Considerations for Writers of Fantasy or Science Fiction
* Wednesday, April 25th: What’s in a Theme?
* Wednesday, May 2nd: Conflict, Tension, and Suspense
* Wednesday, May 9th: What’s Your Writing Process?

**Due Dates:**

* Notebook Check #1: Friday, March 23rd
* Short Story first draft due: Tuesday, March 27th
* Short Story, rough draft workshop: Tuesday, April 3rd (possibly off campus)
* Notebook Check #2: Friday, April 6th
* Short Story, final draft, due: Tuesday, April 10th
* Final Project Plan must be approved by Friday, April 13th (possibly off campus)
* First Book Review due: Monday, April 16th
* Notebook Check #3: Friday, April 20th
* Final Project Progress Check: Friday, April 27th (on this day, you will read an excerpt of your work to the class)
* Notebook Check #3: Friday, May 4th
* Second Book Review due: Monday, May 7th
* Final Project Progress Check: Friday, May 11th (on this day, you will read an excerpt of your work to the class)
* Final Project due Tuesday, May 30th