



Syllabus

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What You Should Already Know

There are no prerequisites for this course. To be successful you should have a desire to write. Even better would be that you enjoy writing.

Learning Outcomes

- Read fiction to enjoy the overall effect and to recognize, at least in part, how the author achieved that effect by using the elements of creative writing discussed in this course.
- Create believable short stories or plot outlines with tension and conflict that keep the reader's interest.
- Create characters in a short story who are believable and interesting enough that the reader will care about what happens to them.
- Choose the best point-of-view from which to tell your story.
- Use description in a story in a way that will advance the plot and reveal character.
- Create dialogue that sounds realistic and reveals what you want the readers to know about the characters.
- Establish a tone that matches the message of the story.
- Determine what your theme will be before writing your story.
- Rewrite in such a way as to improve earlier drafts of a story.

Course Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. All the required reading is in this course. However, I encourage you to read other short stories on your own—bookstores and libraries have volumes of short stories for you to choose from. Read to discover just how the author accomplishes his or her effects.

*Please note that this course was written by Karen Schlosser, M.A. Any first person reference is that of the author and not the instructor that might be teaching this course.

Course Organization

Assignments

Most of the objectives in this course are followed by a self check quiz. These computer-graded quizzes do not count toward your grade. If you pay attention and do well they will prepare you for the quizzes and for the final exam.

This course consists of 9 units. Most units end with a quiz. These computer-graded assignments count toward your grade and are one of the best ways to prepare for the final exam.

You will create a writing portfolio through this course. After you complete a writing assignment save it in a secure place. You will submit these in 2 different submissions. Be sure you have completed and submitted every assignment associated with the portfolio before you submit it.

Exams

The final exam consists of matching questions, short answer questions, and writing/rewriting exercises.

Grading

Here is the grade breakdown for this course:

Assignment	Percentage Weight
Unit 1 Quiz	5%
Unit 2 Quiz	5%
Unit 3 Quiz	5%
Unit 5 Quiz	5%
Unit 6 Quiz	5%

Assignment	Percentage Weight
Unit 7 Quiz	5%
Unit 8 Quiz	5%
Portfolio Submission 1	25%
Portfolio Submission 2	25%
Final Exam	15%

Your final grade will be determined using this grading scale:

Grading Scale	
A	100–90%
A–	89–85%
B+	84–80%
B	79–75%
B–	74–70%
C+	69–65%
C	64–60%
C–	59–55%
D+	54–50%
D	49–45%
D–	44–40%
E (fail)	39% or below