Administrative Unit: Humanities Department

Course Prefix and Number: ENGL 207

Course Title: Creative Writing I -- Fiction

Number of: Credit Hours: 3  Lecture Hours: 3  Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: This is a workshop class in the writing of short fiction; including class criticism of student and professional work. As a literary studio course, ENGL 207 does not fulfill a General Education requirement. Prerequisite: ENGL 112.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): ENGL 112.

Text(s): Two types of books are recommended: 1) a good collection of short stories, and 2) a book about the process of creative writing. The range of possibilities is broad; below are recent representative samples.


Course Objectives:

• To analyze and practice the craft of story writing, from the tale’s inception to its finished form.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

• Recognize and use the terminology of fiction and, by reading, discussing, and studying several dozen stories by professional writers, and by writing 40-50 pages of short fiction, (as well as multiple exercises and drafts) the student will achieve a thorough understanding of the process and value of writing short fiction, critiquing not only their work but the work of others.

• Demonstrate thorough revision.

• Understand current published stories.

• Understand contemporary fiction and current fiction publications in a critical essay: a “defense” of their fiction.

• Understand a magazine’s submission policies and qualities of short-stories published in specific magazines.
Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

- Read several stories and pertinent selections from creative writing text; readings directly related to each major writing assignment, or story.
- Discuss story in progress thoroughly, with instructor and classmates.
- Submit a number of drafts of story, embodying significant revisions.
- Continue reading stories and creative writing text, to aid successive drafts of story.
- Submit final draft of story for grading.
- Repeat process for each story assigned.
- Throughout the course, in-class activities, including brief writing exercises, aid and enliven the process.
- Collect all drafts, stories, and writing exercises in a portfolio, which may be submitted for reading and grading, especially near the end of the course.
- A final examination, usually an oral presentation, culminates course work.

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 15

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Dr. Pam McClure

Date: September 12, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.