TERM: Spring 2024

COURSE TITLE: Fiction Writing: (Un)plotting the Course

COURSE NUMBER: ENGL 5000.09 (CRN 72394) for M.A. Students

ENGL 5000.10 (CRN 72935) for Undergraduate Students

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: T/Th 7:55-9:35

INSTRUCTOR: Krause

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS**

In this course we will consider what fiction does besides (or in addition to) "tell a story." We will pay attention to language and the nature of meaning making as it is shared between reading and writing, and we will ask what fiction can be "about" other than "what happens." Ultimately, in reading fiction and in writing our own, we will explore how fiction asks questions and question the distinction between critical and creative discourse.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will:

-create literary art that moves, challenges, informs, entertains, and engages its audience

-affirm and cultivate an individual artistic vision

-understand the professional production of creative texts

-understand the relationship among producing literary art and social justice

-express themselves in an artistic, imaginative, inspired, and unique style

-generate compelling works of literary art

**PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND**

Upper-Division Standing or M.A. Standing

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Flaubert’s Parrot (Barnes)

Dictionary of the Khazars (Pavić)

If on a winter’s night a traveler (Calvino)

Jealousy (Robbe-Grillet)

The Ambrose J. and Vivian T. Seagrave Museum of 20th Century American Art (Kirkpatrick)

Additional required and recommended texts provided as PDF’s

Frame-tale (Barth)

What You Learn about the Baby, Grammar Questions (Davis)

Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius (Borges)

The Bookmaking Habits of Select Species (Liu)

My Body: A Wunderkammer (Jackson)

Pierre Menard/Library of Babel (Borges)

We Act (Watterson)

The Harvest (Hempel)

**COURSE WORK / EXPECTATIONS**

Students will read closely and discuss the fiction of their peers as well as that of authors outside the class. Students will regularly be asked to write in class in response to various prompts and constraints. Students will be asked to write regular brief (200 word) critical responses to assigned readings. Students will also be asked to write several short (5 page) critifictional responses. The final project will be a Critifictional Ars Poetica of the student’s own design, discussed and revised in conversation with their peers and professor throughout the semester. Students will also be asked to submit a piece of work for publication at least once in the semester.

**This course fulfills the following undergraduate English Major requirement:**

**Note: LD denotes a lower-division course and UD denotes an upper-division course.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OLD CURRICULUM** | **CHECK** | **NEW CURRICULUM** | **CHECK** |
| Genres (LD) |  | Disciplinary Research (LD) |  |
| Histories (LD) |  | History of Literature, Media, and Culture (LD) |  |
| Authors (UD) |  | Reading and Writing Genres (LD) |  |
| Critical/Theoretical (UD) |  | Theory, Power, and Rhetoric (LD) |  |
| Comparative (UD) |  | Pre-1800 (UD) |  |
| Creative/Artistry (UD) | **X** | Creative/Artistry (UD) |  |
|  |  | Race, Intersectionality, and Power (UD) |  |
|  |  | 5000-Level Seminar (UD) | **X** |

**Note: This course may also count for Creative Artistry (CA) in the new curriculum. Students who wish to use the course for Creative Artistry should contact Associate Chair, Dermot Ryan (**[**dermot.ryan@lmu.edu**](mailto:dermot.ryan@lmu.edu)**) to have a Degree Audit Adjustment Request completed.**

**This course counts as a creative writing course in the M.A. Program.**