

TERM: Spring 2026

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Fiction

COURSE NUMBER: ENGL 2108.02

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MW, 9:55-11:35

INSTRUCTOR: Dermot Ryan

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

The basic goal of this course is to foster and deepen a love of fiction in every student. By reading and responding to fiction drawn from various historical periods and representing a variety of forms and cultural traditions, students will acquire the knowledge and skills they need to read, discuss, and write about fiction in intelligent and exciting ways. By drawing on their growing understanding of the way fiction works, students will also learn how to write and workshop their own short fiction.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. You will learn how to read fiction closely and will acquire the technical and critical vocabulary necessary to say what is happening in a novel or a short story.
2. You will practice writing and workshoping your critical responses to novels and short stories.
3. You will learn how to craft and workshop your own short fiction.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

REQUIRED TEXTS

TBA

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

- 3 in-class quizzes (closed book)
- 1 in-class final (closed book)
- 1 flash fiction (1-2 pages)
- Short story idea (1 page)
- First three pages of your story (3 pages)
- A short story (6-12 pages)

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

This course does not count toward the English major or minor requirements; however, English majors interested in creative writing are advised to take one lower-division ENGL 2100 course to satisfy the Core Curriculum EXP: Creative Experience requirement.