

**The Art of the Narrative:
A Fiction Workshop
Fall Semester 2022
MThF 1:45-3:05pm, T 2:10-3:15pm
Rm 221, Rm 330
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Google Classroom Code: exkjavu**

Course Description

What makes a compelling narrative, a character relatable? How do you immerse a reader in your imagined world, move them to feel what you want them to feel, and help them piece together the clues that will lead them toward the discovery of your grand theme? We'll investigate these questions and more through the readings, discussions, and writing assignments that make up this semester's course. Through in-depth explorations of the primary elements of narrative fiction, we as a class will work on honing our craft and breathing new life into our stories.

Workshops

There will be six workshops this semester and all students are required to submit work to be workshopped **once**. There are, however, a few extra slots in case anyone wishes to be workshopped more than once (which can earn you extra credit :)). A sign up sheet will be posted on Google Classroom, and all students must sign up by the end of the second week for participation credit.

A week before the date of your workshop, you must share your workshop piece with everyone in the class in the workshop folders posted on Google Drive. All students must read and comment on the workshop material prior to the workshop date, so that our discussions of the work can be as productive and encouraging as possible. Comments and constructive criticism must be shared with the workshopped student through Google docs. You will receive points for the following:

- Submitting your work for workshop and sharing it with your classmates (and me :))
- Reading through all workshop submissions and providing thoughtful constructive criticism
- Participating in workshop discussions
- Submitting a revised copy of your piece based on workshop feedback

You may choose to share a story written from class prompts or from personal projects. All submissions will be presented and received in a trustworthy, compassionate, and thoughtful manner, and all feedback will be respectful and carefully considered.

Classwork and Assignments:

-Discussions, Reading, and Participation: Students will be expected to show up to class prepared to engage and write. With the exception of workshop submissions, class time will be given for all reading and writing assignments.

-Workbooks:

Students will be expected to keep a workbook to complete shorter exercises, to track inspirations, and document their writing process. Workbook assignments will be posted on Google Classroom, and the

workbooks will be collected each quarter for grading. If you don't already have a sketchbook or notebook that you can use as a workbook for this course, talk to me and I will help you get one. :)

-Writing Exercises: Students are expected to keep up with weekly writing exercises. Responses to these prompts need not be completed fully to receive credit, rather I am looking to see that you are experimenting, pushing yourself, and engaging with the concepts and media presented in class.

-Short Story Assignments: In addition to your workshop final draft, you will be expected to submit three completed short stories (one for each unit). Unlike writing exercises, these stories should be polished, complete narratives.

Student Assessment & Grading

20% Writing Exercises

25% Short Story Assignments

25% Workshop Participation + Final Revision of Submission

20% Workbooks

10/% Attendance and Participation

Community Guidelines

-Keep your phones in your bag during class time, unless I give you permission to use them. Remember the school cell phone policy is:

-1st time: a warning

-2nd time: immediate confiscation by the teacher and the phone is returned at the end of the period

-3rd time: phone will be confiscated and given to the Dean to be collected at the end of the day

-Only one student can sign out to use the bathroom at a time. Don't dawdle - someone might be anxiously waiting for their turn. If you need to take a break, come talk to me, and we can figure out another way for you to take space that doesn't monopolize the pass.

-Be mindful, be compassionate, be considerate. We've all been through a lot and are continuing to go through A LOT. Let's practice patience, empathy, and care with one another, and with ourselves too.