Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Carpenter
Office Location: Walker 342
E-mail: stcarpe@mtu.edu
Office Hours: M, 5-6:30 and by appointment

Course Identification

Course Number: 84930
Course Name: Workshop in Fiction
Course Location: Walker 109
Class Times: M 7:05-9:35
Prerequisites: HU2110/HU2510

Course Description/Overview

In this workshop-style* course, we’ll explore a variety of prose fiction forms through the study of published works and craft essays. These readings will provide a foundation and reference point for the most important component of the course: writing and discussing original student work. We will begin with a unit on flash fiction (stories of 1000 words or less), continue with a unit on longer short stories (of 4,000-8,000 words), and conclude with a unit on the short novel/ novella. Students will be expected to produce new work in each form, including an outline of a novel or novel-in-stories.

*Workshop: a group discussion intended to generate productive questions, comments, ideas, and revision/expansion strategies for works in progress. We’ll discuss protocol and expectations for participation in more detail in class.

Course Learning Objectives

Over the semester, you will:
• Read and respond to published creative work;
• Produce original fiction in various modes;
• Participate actively and constructively in discussions of your peers’ work;
• Revise and develop your own work and reflect thoughtfully on your writing process.
Course Resources

Course Website(s)

- Canvas<http://www.courses.mtu.edu>

Required Course Text

Franz Kafka, Metamorphosis and Other Stories (ISBN 978-0-14-310524-4)
Canvas readings as indicated (please either print these and bring them with you to class or bring an electronic version with you)
One novella TBD by you (see below)

Assignments

Exercises:
During the first third of the semester, you will be assigned three short writing exercises (of less than 1000 words apiece), designed to offer you practice in flash fiction and fundamentals of the short story. These will be due in class for exchange and discussion.

Short story:
An original short story of 4,000-8,000 words is due via Canvas by midnight, Friday 10/16. We will workshop these pieces together as a large group over the next several class meetings. I encourage you to begin thinking about this project now and to visit me in office hours as often as you like to discuss your ideas or seek feedback.

Novel(la) materials:
The final unit of the course will focus on the novella or short novel (20,000-50,000 words). Your creative project for this unit of study will be a prospectus, outline, and opening chapters/segment (2000-word minimum) for a novella of your own. This will be the final project for the course, due 5PM, Monday, December 14 (during exam week)

Presentation:
To broaden our study of the novella form, each of you will select a novella to read and analyze, presenting your work to the class in one of three panels to be held in the final three weeks of the semester. I will provide you with a list of suggested titles, but you’re free to choose any novella published in the last 30 years that appeals to you (so long as you don’t duplicate a classmate’s pick). Presentations should focus on some specific, noteworthy craft aspect of your chosen novel (structure, characterization, point of view, etc.). An assignment sheet will follow.

Peer Feedback:
On workshop weeks, you will respond to several pieces of student work in preparation for the class period. Your responses should be typed. Responses to your peers’ short exercises should be no less than ½ double-spaced pages in length; one page for longer pieces. Please bring two copies of your responses to class: one for the writer (along with any line comments on the manuscript), and one for me. We’ll talk more about our expectations for peer response in class.
The rubric I’ll use to evaluate your creative work is appended to this syllabus.

*Note: All work for this course should be original, meaning written by you, for this course. While literary borrowings or retellings are acceptable (e.g., reinterpretations of fairy tales or myths), “fan fiction” or pieces related to RPGs are not acceptable for this class. In all cases your work should stand alone: it should be accessible to the reader without prior knowledge of the plot or characters.

**Formatting:** All fiction submitted for this class must be typed, double-spaced, in Times Roman 12-point font or an equivalent, with 1-inch margins on all sides and no extra spaces between lines or letters. (Make sure you’ve set up your word processing program according to these guidelines; do not just turn in your work in the default format of your word processing program).

All submissions must have an original title.

Late work: ***I deduct 5% per day for late work.*** Thus, if you turn in an assignment two days late, the maximum you can possibly get on it is an AB (90%). Extensions and exceptions will be made in rare circumstances; please TALK TO ME if you foresee a problem completing your work on time.

**Multiliteracies Center:** It’s your responsibility to submit your work in as polished a state as possible. If you would like feedback on your work before the due date, please consider visiting the Multiliteracies Center (MTMC). This free resource exists to help you with writing projects for any course on campus. For more information about the MTMC or to schedule an appointment, go to the MTMC website at http://www.mtu.edu/humanities/resources/mtmc/ or call (906) 487-2007. The MTMC is located in 107 Walker.

**Attendance and Participation**

Attendance and participation are critical to your success in this workshop-style course. If you must miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining notes from one of your classmates.

Two tardies of five minutes or more will count as an absence; leaving class more than 15 minutes early also counts as an absence.

If you are using your electronic devices for recreational purposes, working on non-course related projects, or texting during class I will count you as absent for the day. (If you have a personal emergency, let me know. Please also let me know if you use your phone as an e-reader).
This class meets once a week. Thus, two absences will bring your overall grade down by half a letter (50 points); three will bring it down by a full letter (100 points); if you miss four or more class meetings, you will not pass this class.

Under some circumstances, with proper notification and documentation, an absence may be excused (see http://www.mtu.edu/dean/conduct/policy/attendance/ for guidelines).

Your level of engagement in the class also affects this part of your grade.

- **Always bring the readings to class!** If you don’t have the materials necessary for the day’s work, I may ask you to leave (and mark you as absent for the day).
- Be respectful of me and of your classmates.
- Speak in class. I’d be happy to talk with you about ways to increase your involvement!

I expect you to participate actively and thoughtfully in each of our class discussions. I will determine participation grades at the midterm and end of the semester. Here’s how I evaluate participation:

- Meets attendance requirements; participates thoughtfully and respectfully in every class discussion: 100%
- Meets attendance requirements; participates thoughtfully and respectfully in many class discussions: 90%
- Meets attendance requirements; occasionally participates or participates superficially: 80%
- Meets attendance requirements; rarely participates or participates without seeming to have completed the reading assignments: 70%

And so on…

**Grading Scheme**

Your semester grade in this course will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short exercises (3 @ 5%)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Story</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference draft</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop draft</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novel(la) outline, prospectus, and excerpt</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novella Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Feedback &amp; Canvas posts</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Grading System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade points/credit</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% &amp; above</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>87% – 92%</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82% – 86%</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>76% – 81%</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>Above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% – 75%</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>65% – 69%</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>Below average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 64%</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Inferior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete; given only when a student is unable to complete a segment of the course because of circumstances beyond the student's control.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Conditional, with no grade points per credit; given only when the student is at fault in failing to complete a minor segment of a course, but in the judgment of the instructor does not need to repeat the course. It must be made up by the close of the next semester or the grade becomes a failure (F). A (X) grade is computed into the grade point average as a (F) grade.</td>
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University Policies

Academic integrity:
Academic integrity and honesty are central components of a student's education, and ethical conduct fostered in an academic context will be carried into a student's professional career. Academic integrity is essential in a community of scholars searching and learning to search for truth. Anything less than total commitment to integrity undermines the efforts of the academic community. Both students and faculty are responsible for insuring the academic integrity of the University.

This policy applies to the academic conduct of all persons at Michigan Technological University who have ever matriculated at the University, whether or not the person is enrolled at the time an allegation of academic misconduct is made.

This policy addresses academic misconduct in course work. Allegations of misconduct in research or publication are addressed under the Misconduct in Research, Scholarly and Creative Endeavors (http://www.mtu.edu/research/administration/integrity-compliance/pdf/Misconduct_in_Research_Scholarly_Creative_Endeavors_Policy.pdf) and its

Of these policies, the university’s position on plagiarism is most relevant to HU 2110. Plagiarism or other appropriation of the work of another individual and presenting it as if it were one's own or without credit to the originator as is required by commonly accepted practices in the community of one’s discipline; plagiarism also includes self plagiarism, for example excerpting or reusing papers written for another class.

**Student disability services:**
Michigan Tech complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For more information about reasonable accommodation for or equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at (906) 487- 2212 or go to http://www.mtu.edu/dean/disability/policies/

**Title IX**
Title IX is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally-funded education program or activity (www.justice.gov). Title IV makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and/or gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources at http://www.mtu.edu/equity/title-ix/overview/

**Assessment:**
Student work products (exams, essays, projects, etc.) may be used for purposes of university, program, or course assessment—the institution’s efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of its programming. All work used for assessment purposes will not include any individual student identification.
Reading Schedule

Note: The readings listed beside each date should be completed by that date.

Week 1: Introductions
8/31: Introductions: to one another, to the course, to flash fiction.
Flash fiction response/exercise due via Canvas by midnight, Friday 9/11

Week 2: No Class; Labor Day

Week 3: Flash Fiction
9/14: Discuss craft essays by Randall Brown and Bruce Holland Rogers; flash fiction by David Galef, A.M. Homes, Etgar Keret, Grace Paley, Anthony Varallo.
Exercise 1 due on Canvas by midnight, Friday 9/18

Week 4: Flash Fiction
9/21: Peer feedback due; discuss Exercise 1
Discuss Brady Chapter 10; craft essays by Pia Z. Ehrhardt and Robert Shapard; flash fiction by Lydia Davis, Franz Kafka (Metamorphosis, pp. 10-27), Gary Lutz.
Exercise 2 due on Canvas by midnight, Friday 9/25

Week 5: Short Story
9/28: Peer feedback due; discuss Exercise 2
Discuss Brady Chapters 1 & 2; Junot Diaz, “Fiesta, 1980;” Alice Munro, “Fathers”
Exercise 3 due on Canvas by midnight, Friday 10/2

Week 6: Short Story
10/5: Peer feedback due; discuss Exercise 3
Discuss Brady Chapters 4 & 5; Kafka, “The Judgment” (pp. 35-50); Joyce, “The Dead;” O’Connor, “A Good Man is Hard to Find”
Conference drafts due by Noon, Monday 10/12

Week 7: Short Story
10/12: Class meets from 7:05-8:20. Conferences TBA
Discuss Brady Chapters 6 & 9; Shepard, “Love & Hydrogen”
Short Stories due to Canvas by midnight, Friday 10/16

Week 8: Short Story Workshops
10/19: Workshop 1, 2, 3

Week 9: Short Story Workshops
10/26: Workshop 4, 5, 6
Inform Stephanie of your novella choice (for presentation) if you haven’t already.
**WEEK 10: SHORT STORY WORKSHOPS**
11/2: Workshops 7, 8, 9 + Readings TBD by enrollment

**WEEK 11: NOVELLAS**
11/9: Brady Chapter 3 and Kafka, “The Metamorphosis” (pp. 87-146)

**WEEK 12: NOVELLAS**
11/16: Brady Chapters 7 & 8
Novella presentations 1, 2, 3

No Class; Thanksgiving

**WEEK 13: NOVELLAS**
11/30: Prospectuses due for final projects.
Novella presentations 4, 5, 6

**WEEK 14: NOVELLAS**
12/7: Novella presentations 7, 8, 9
Final matters.

**FINALS WEEK**
Your novel(la) prospectus, outline, and beginning (minimum 2000 words) is due to my mailbox in Walker by 5PM, Monday, December 14.