I. **OVERVIEW**

The following information will appear in the 2009 - 2010 catalog

**ENGL 106 Creative Writing: Short Fiction**  
3 Units

*Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of ENGL 101 with a minimum grade of C or better.*

Instruction and practice in writing shorter forms of fiction. A maximum 6 units of creative writing transferable to University of California. Course is repeatable - three completions allowed. Field trips are not required. Course is applicable to the associate degree. General Education: CSU-GE - C2

II. **LEARNING CONTEXT**

Given the following learning context, the student who satisfactorily completes this course should be able to achieve the goals specified in Section III, Desired Learning:

A. **COURSE CONTENT**

1. **Required Content:**

   A. Elements of fiction
      1. setting
      2. plot: conflict, pacing, resolution
      3. characterization
      4. point-of-view
      5. theme

   B. Fiction-writing techniques, application of principles
      1. writing effective openings
      2. setting of mood
      3. choosing between implication and explication in character development
      4. selection of point-of-view
      5. writing description: long and short forms, selection and use of detail
      6. establishing conflict
      7. writing dialogue
      8. establishing chronology (sequential and disordered)
      9. using stream of consciousness
      10. writing endings

   C. Analysis of representative works of fiction

   D. Study of markets for fiction writers and a consideration of editorial requirements and the manners of submitting manuscripts.

   E. Guest lecturers as appropriate

B. **ENROLLMENT RESTRICTIONS**

1. **Prerequisites**

   Satisfactory completion of ENGL 101 with a minimum grade of C or better.

2. **Requisite Skills**

   Before entering the course, the student will be able to:
a. Read actively and analyze reading selections in directed class discussion or in written analysis.

b. Write compositions as assigned employing mastery of the following skills: a. understanding rhetoric and organization, b. composing clear conventional sentences, c. selecting appropriate language.

c. Rewrite effectively by examining and analyzing their own writing or that of another student, proofreading well, and revising and rethinking writing drafts.

C. HOURS AND UNITS

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D. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION (TYPICAL)

Instructors of the course might conduct the course using the following method:

1. Assign works of fiction and readings about the craft of writing.
2. Lecture.
3. Lead discussion of analysis of models of fiction (in writing or in directed class discussion).
4. Direct class discussion which focuses on analyzing and evaluating student work.
5. Guide students through activities that allow them to reflect on their life experiences with a view toward drawing upon those experiences in their writing of original fiction: 1) identifying experiences and conclusions derived from experience that might serve as situational or thematic bases for writing; 2) reaching conclusions about and evaluating the appropriateness of particular experiences as a basis for fiction.
6. Apply criteria developed in class discussion, lecture and reading to student-written and other works of fiction to 1) identify factors in the work itself and in the nature of its intended audience or market that might affect the way the work is understood or how well it is received by the audience or market; 2) express judgments about the way in which a given work is likely to be understood or received by its intended audience or market.

E. ASSIGNMENTS (TYPICAL)

1. EVIDENCE OF APPROPRIATE WORKLOAD FOR COURSE UNITS

Time spent on coursework in addition to hours of instruction (lecture hours)

1. Weekly fiction writing exercises.
2. Weekly readings of representatives texts.
3. Weekly readings about the different elements of fiction from the text book.
4. The writing of weekly peer reviews of students’ stories submitted for weekly workshops.
5. Submission of works of fiction for workshop at least twice during the semester.
6. Completion of approximately fifteen pages of original fiction for the term.
7. Completion of various weekly writing activities during class times.
8. Weekly participation in workshops during class.
2. **EVIDENCE OF CRITICAL THINKING**

Assignments require the appropriate level of critical thinking

A. Examples of typical assignments which develop and demonstrate critical thinking skills:

1. Weekly 150-word peer reviews that require students to indicate effective and ineffective areas within students’ stories.
2. Weekly 300-600 word exercises that require students to demonstrate their ability to create writings with reflect effective scenes, summaries, dialogue, setting, characterization, tension.
3. Participation in weekly class workshops, where students must verbally specify effective and ineffective aspects of peers’ works.
4. Revision of personal works throughout the semester to render their fiction writings more effective.

B. Actual exam quiz questions, activity prompts, and story prompts:

1. In "Bullet in the Brain," why does the writer Tobias Wolff have his narrator end the story by stating, "They is, they is"?
2. Go to a spot on campus where there are people. Watch a few individuals and create a scene where you use your chosen person(s) in a fictional predicament, which ultimately will help your reader understand the desires of your character(s) and the obstacles preventing them from having what they want.
3. Create a scene where your protagonist is involved in some sort of accident. You must include sensory detail of at four of the five senses.
4. Write about a time when you were terrified. Then base a work of fiction on your experience, adding fictional events and details where appropriate. Remember to apply the emotional heat in your writing to a work of fiction.

F. **TEXTS AND OTHER READINGS (TYPICAL)**


III. **DESIRED LEARNING**

A. **COURSE GOAL**

As a result of satisfactory completion of this course, the student should be prepared to:

Understand the multiple elements of effective fiction and be able to create their own effective fiction writings which contain these elements. As well, students should be able to successfully analyze works of fiction and be able to identify works’ strengths and weaknesses.

B. **STUDENT LEARNING GOALS**

Mastery of the following learning goals will enable the student to achieve the overall course goal.

1. **Required Learning Goals**

   **Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:**

   a. Name the major elements of fiction according to the terminology commonly used in the analysis of fiction.

   b. Identify the meanings of and concepts behind the terms commonly used in analysis and
discussion of fiction (e.g. mood, setting, point-of-view, theme, conflict, and so on). The students' ability to use these terms will be demonstrated by their appropriate and accurate use of the terminology in written analysis or directed class discussion.

c. Plan, gather material for, and write short stories applying approaches and techniques discussed in lecture, reading, and other class exercises.

d. Write short stories which are coherent and interesting and which illustrate a particular theme.

e. Analyze and critique their own work and those of other class members objectively and constructively, applying methods of analysis, principles, and criteria developed in lecture and other class exercises.

f. Read actively and critically with conscious recognition of effective writing in the work of other authors. Active reading and recognition of good writing will be demonstrated in the students' analysis of fiction in directed class discussion and other class exercises.

 g. Read actively and critically their work and excerpts of professionals who cover a broad range of multicultural experiences.

IV. METHODS OF ASSESSMENT (TYPICAL)

A. FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

1. 1. Quizzes
2. Writing exercises
3. Peer reviews
4. Participation during workshop
5. Essay(s)

B. SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

1. 1. Portfolio consisting of approximately fifteen pages of original fiction writing(s).