

Course Information

HUAS 6354.501 Creating Short Fictions
Wednesday 4-6:45 p.m. JO 4.708 Fall 2016

Professor Contact Information

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JO 4.624
Office Hours: M 2-3:30; W 2-3:30 and by appointment

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Graduate Standing. Students will benefit from having had at least one previous course in creative writing. Students *must* have graduate-level writing ability in the English language.

Course Description

This course will proceed as a combination of lecture, discussion, and studio production. It will focus on the study and evaluation of the primary elements of the modern short story, with an emphasis on twentieth century forms and a special concentration on post-World War II and contemporary fiction forms. The thrust of the course will be toward defining and applying the principal elements of fiction: character, plot, setting, dialogue, etc. in original work. Students will actively engage in the production and evaluation of each other's original work with an eye toward publication of their work. The periodical publishing business, dealing with agents, e-publishing, etc. will also be discussed. Students should be prepared to write a *minimum* of three and a maximum of four full-length short stories during the term, to read and discuss material related to the creation of the short story, and to read and discuss short stories from an anthology.

Considerable distribution of original work will be required. Students should be prepared to photocopy and distribute all original work. Electronic distribution is not a viable option.

An integral part of this class will be predicated on each student bringing before the group a substantial amount of original fiction. The goal of the course will be for each student to complete a minimum of 3 short stories, including at least one

suitable for submission to a publisher as well as various exercises and evaluations as assigned.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Students will demonstrate through practice and discussion the ability to compose original fiction.

Students will demonstrate through verbal and oral critique an understanding of effective creative techniques with regard to original fiction.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses, XXXIX, Bill Henderson

Writing in General and the Short Story in Particular, Rust Hills

Self-Editing for Fiction Writers, Renni Brown and Dave King

Little English Handbook, Corbett and Finkle

A quality American English Dictionary. A notebook or similar vessel with blank paper and antique writing implement, such as ink pen or sharpened pencil.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

(A full and detailed calendar will be provided on the first class meeting.)

All dates are tentative. Assignments will be made with ample time for completion given. Please be alert to frequent changes in the schedule.

Calendar

August

24—Intro

31

September

7

14

21

28

October

5

12

19

26

November

2

9

16

23—Fall Break and Thanksgiving (No Class)

30

December

7—Last Class Day

Grading Policy

Work will *not* be evaluated on individual talent, taste, or choice of material, but on originality, correctness of grammar and style, and form. Students will be evaluated on completion of assigned work, on the structural and mechanical correctness of their work, on their willingness both to respond to criticism, and to offer positive, corrective critiques to their classmates' work and on improvement and development. *Class participation is a major component in final grade evaluation.*

Class participation is a vital part of the student grade. *Students who must miss class for any reason are subject to grade penalty, even failure of the class.*

Late or incomplete work is not acceptable; incompletes will not be given in this class. All installments of work must be completed and distributed according to the dated assignments or grade penalty will result. Failure to provide sufficient copies for distribution constitutes incomplete and/or late work

There will be no formal examinations in this class.

Course & Instructor Policies

The class will be divided into groups. Every member of the class will receive a copy of one story each student submits to the class each time. These stories will be read by all, commented on by all in an open forum. It is absolutely essential that deadlines for turning in work be strictly maintained.

Written critiques will be provided by each member of each group for members of that student's group, as a requirement. If students who are outside a group wish to offer written critiques of another group's member's work, such would be encouraged, but it is not required. Copies of the critiques should be given to the individual student writer; one copy should be turned into the instructor at the point when the entire group has been critiqued. Please be sure to bind the critiques for each group when they are turned in. Marginal comments on the manuscript pages are always encouraged.

Critique format will be established by a handout in the first few weeks.

Manuscript format is loose. Material should be titled, typed, double-spaced. The writer's name and title of the story should appear on every page. For class distribution purposes, both sides of a page may be used, and material may be single-spaced. Instructor copies, though, should be double spaced and on one side of the page only. A sufficient number of copies must be provided so each member of the class has one. Each page should be numbered. Handwritten alterations of small changes are not only permissible, they are expected. Each manuscript should be bound loosely with a clip, never enclosed in a folder, envelope, or stapled.

Verbal critiques should be on point, dealing with the specific content of a manuscript and focusing on the elements of fiction as defined in the class and accompanying texts. Personalities should be excluded. Time will be of the essence, so commentary will be necessarily brief and to the point. Participation is part of the evaluation element of the course, and failure to engage in the verbal critiques will not aid an individual student's grade.

Textbooks for the course are also established. Specific assignments will be made from these texts, and each student will be responsible for a brief overview and discussion of the contents of the texts.

All work must be typed. Multiple copies of original work will be required in numbers sufficient for complete classroom distribution. Photocopying is to be done at the student's expense. *Electronic distribution is not a substitute for hard copy. No electronic submissions will be read by the instructor.*

MLA style will be required on all written work; other style or rhetorical or grammatical formats will not be acceptable, regardless of a student's major discipline or background. This especially applies to style manuals published by the APA, ABA, AMA, or your high school or junior college English teacher.

Students are advised that creative writing is *not* a leisure activity. The workload in this course will be extraordinarily heavy and fast-paced. Students are advised that the production of original creative work is a considerable undertaking all by itself; when the burden of reading texts, reading others' work for critique, and production of written critique is added, the load increases proportionately; when the prospect of doing so for graded evaluation is concerned, crises can develop. Students should anticipate such crises and strive to avoid them.

Students will be required to attend all meetings, and to be on time and prepared to begin when the class commences. Students will be expected to complete all assigned work, all exercises on time and in good order. They will also be asked to provide written critique of peer work. In addition, students will be required to read assigned work from the text and to be able to discuss it on the assigned date.

Please Note the Following:

The use of tape recorders, personal or laptop computers, cellular telephones and beepers is not permitted during any portion of this class. Students are encouraged, however, to take notes in long-hand. Children and other guests are not permitted in class without prior permission of the instructor.

The Following is offered at the instruction of the Office of the Provost:

Sharing Confidential Information

Students considering sharing personal information in email, in person, or within assignments or exams should be aware that faculty members and teaching/research assistants are required by UT Dallas policy to report information about sexual misconduct to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Per university policy, faculty have been informed that they must identify the student to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Students who wish to have confidential discussions of incidents related to sexual harassment or sexual misconduct should contact the Student Counseling Center (972-883-2527 or after hours 972-UTD-TALK or 972-883-8255), the Women's Center (972-883-8255), a health care provider in the Student Health Center (972-883-2747), the clergy person (or other legally recognized religious advisor) of their choice, or an off-campus resource (i.e., rape crisis center, doctor, psychologist). Students who are sexually assaulted, harassed, or victims of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, or stalking, are encouraged to directly report these incidents to the UT Dallas Police Department at 972-883-2222 or to the Title IX Coordinator at 972-883-2218. Additional information and resources may be found at <http://www.utdallas.edu/oiec/title-ix/resources>.

Campus Carry

Senate Bill 11 (SB 11), also known as “campus carry,” permits handgun license holders to carry their weapons onto the campus and into the general buildings of public universities and colleges in Texas. Passed by the 84th Texas Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott, SB 11 took effect Aug. 1, 2016. As part of the law, the University was allowed to establish reasonable rules, regulations or other provisions regarding the carrying of concealed handguns, including campus locations where concealed carry is prohibited, subject to amendment by the UT System Board of Regents. The purpose of the UT Dallas policy is to comply with the law while maintaining the maximum safety and security of UT Dallas students, staff, faculty and guests.

Facts

- A person must have a license to carry a concealed handgun on campus. Requirements include being at least 21 years of age and a legal resident of Texas for the six-month period preceding the date of application.
- Concealed carry is prohibited in these buildings: Callier Center-Richardson (CR); Natural Science and Engineering Research Laboratory (RL); Bioengineering and Sciences Building (BSB); University Commons Residence Halls (RHNW, RHN, RHS, RHSW, RHW); Dining Hall West (DHW); Recreation Center West (RCW); Callier Center-Dallas; the Center for BrainHealth; and the Center for Vital Longevity. (See map below).
- Solely occupied offices can be designated as exclusion zones, prohibiting the concealed carry of a handgun in that space. If occupants choose to exercise this discretion, they must provide oral notice that concealed carry is prohibited in the office. The use of signage does not satisfy notification requirements.
- License holders cannot carry concealed handguns at University sporting events, patient care facilities, including the Galerstein Women’s Center, the Student Health Center and the Student Counseling Center, disciplinary hearing or mediation facilities, and areas where schoolchildren are present.





- Open carry is not allowed. If the license holder carries a visible handgun, or if the handgun is intentionally displayed in plain view of another person, it is considered a criminal offense.
- The University will not provide storage of a license holder's handgun.

Exclusion Zones



In accordance with SB 11, signs will be posted on entry points of buildings deemed exclusion zones, where concealed carry is prohibited. In addition to the [Center for Vital Longevity](#), the entire facilities of the [Center for BrainHealth](#) and the [Callier Center campus](#) in Dallas, the highlighted buildings have been designated as exclusion zones.

Related Links

- [Texas Senate Bill 11](#) 
- [Statement from Chancellor McRaven](#)
- [Memo on implementation](#) 
- [UT System Working Group Report](#) 
- [Letter to System with UT Dallas' Recommendations](#) 

- [Statement from UT Dallas](#)
- [Amendment memo](#) 