

WR 241/244: Creative Writing, Fiction

General Information

Instructor Information and Availability

Instructor name	Terrance Millet
Phone number	541 917-4555
E-mail address	milletl@linnbenton.edu
Office hours	W 5:30 Chinook Hall
Office number	NSH 203

Course Information

Course name:	WR 241/244
Section number:	
CRN:	331193
Scheduled time/days:	Wednesday, 6:00-7:20pm
Number of credits:	3
Classroom(s):	Chinook Hall, Benton Center

Prerequisites: **WR 121**

Course Materials

Required:

- OER. All material is posted on our Moodle website
- Access to Moodle

Course Description

Hello, and welcome to all of you. The goal of this class is to bring short fiction to life and to help you in the effort to write your own short stories. The format will be based on the workshop model. We'll study the elements of short fiction (dialogue, setting, character, conflict, etc.), write our stories, have them workshopped, and discuss them in class groups.

This is a workshop for literary fiction, a genre with very specific criteria. It is character-driven and dynamic. The tension derives primarily from psychological elements in play. The characters are unpredictable and life-like. They should not have

fur or fuzzy ears. They cannot be dead or ghosts. Consequently, keep your stories centered on real people and realistic scenarios. Verisimilitude is key, so base your stories on what you know. For instance, if you haven't been in a war, don't write about one. There will be plenty of opportunity for you to write your western, sci-fi, fantasy, battle, or horror stories in other venues, after you've made some headway understanding how to craft the story itself.

Pornography or needlessly violent material (action or language) will not be accepted. Let's maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect, good taste, high artistic standards, and a respect for our college environment.

This 200-level college class will contain mature content in the student-written stories. We will also study literary stories written by and for adults. Age-appropriate considerations are recommended when considering this workshop.

You must complete the assignment posted affirming that you are aware of mature course content and are okay with it.

Student Learning Outcomes

Use Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) and Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILO) Competencies from the Curriculum Document.

Class Policies

Behavior and Expectations

You are held accountable to the [Student Code of Conduct](#), which outlines expectations pertaining to academic honesty (including cheating and plagiarism), classroom conduct, and general conduct.

- **Guidelines for communication**

Use email: milletl@linnbenton.edu

- **Use of cell phones**

Not permitted in class

Attendance/Tardiness Policy

Beyond **one** unpardoned absence during the term, your failure to be present can reduce your grade by 1/3 each time. Attendance is not an option in a workshop, especially when we meet just once a week. Nor is failing to provide the writers with their feedback an option. That, too, will reduce your grade by 1/3 each time.

Grading

1. **One short story** in standard manuscript format (<http://www.shunn.net/format/story.html>), around 15 pages in length, courier 12pt, double-spaced: 50 points. Marked down for poor grammar and formatting.
2. **A substantial revision** of that story, assembled in a packet ready for mailing: 50 points. A flawless draft.
3. **Creative Writing Exercises:** We'll do these in class. Attendance is required for credit.
4. **Workshop participation and peer critiques:** 25 points each.

Each student will write a thoughtful, considerate, response-letter to the author of a story discussed in class. ALL stories are to be ready thoroughly for discussion—no exceptions.

If you have not read a story, your grade for that day's review will be reduced by 1/3.

On the day the story is to be discussed, bring to class your **hard or electronic copy** of the student story assigned to you, complete with your comments in the margins and a response-letter stapled to it.

These letters are to be typed and signed, **with an extra copy for me**. These must come in on time to get credit.

5. **Oral participation** in class. Obviously, you have to be present to take part. The quality of your participation will count in the final determination of your grade. Marks deducted for arrogance and domineering.

Each student writer will have one story discussed in the class workshop. We'll organize this together.

Remember to distribute copies of your "workshop" story for the class and me ***On The Date it is Due***, which will be one week prior to its actual discussion date.

- A = 90-100% Excellent Work
- B = 80-89% Good Work
- C = 70-79% Average Work
- D = 60-69% Poor Work
- F = 0-59% Failing Work

Letter Grade	Percentage	Performance
A	90-100%	Excellent Work
B	80-89%	Good Work
C	70-79%	Average Work
D	60-69%	Poor Work
F	0-59%	Failing Work

Late Assignment Policy

Beyond **one** unpardoned absence during the term, your failure to be present can reduce your grade by 1/3 each time. Attendance is not an option in a workshop, especially when we meet just once a week. Nor is failing to provide the writers with their feedback an option. That, too, will reduce your grade by 1/3 each time.

College Policies

LBCC Email and Course Communications

You are responsible for all communications sent via Moodle and to your LBCC email account. You are required to use your LBCC provided email account for all email communications at the College. You may access your LBCC student email account through Student Email and your Moodle account through Moodle.

Disability and Access Statement

LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR) and would like to use your accommodations in the class, please talk to your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs. If you believe you may need accommodations but are not yet registered with CFAR, please visit the CFAR Website at www.linnbenton.edu/cfar for steps on how to apply for services or call (541) 917-4789.

Statement of Inclusion

To promote academic excellence and learning environments that encourage multiple perspectives and the free exchange of ideas, all courses at LBCC will provide students the opportunity to interact with values, opinions, and/or beliefs different than their own in safe, positive and nurturing learning environments. LBCC is committed to producing culturally literate individuals capable of interacting, collaborating and problem-solving in an ever-changing community and diverse workforce.

[Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy](#)

Academic Integrity Syllabus Language

Academic integrity is the principle of engaging in scholarly activity with honesty and fairness, and participating ethically in the pursuit of learning. Academic integrity is expected of all learners at LBCC. Behavior that violates academic integrity policies at LBCC includes cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance or supporting others in engaging in academic dishonesty, knowingly furnishing false information, or changing or misusing college documents, among others. LBCC students are responsible for understanding and abiding by the College's academic integrity policy.

Title IX Reporting Policy

If you or another student are the victim of any form of sexual misconduct (including dating/domestic violence, stalking, sexual harassment), or any form of gender discrimination, LBCC can assist you. You can [report](#) a violation of our sexual misconduct policy directly to our Title IX Coordinator. You may also report the issue to a faculty member, who is required to notify the Coordinator, or you may make an appointment to speak confidentially to our Advising and Career Center by calling 541-917-4780.

Public Safety/Emergency Resources:

In an emergency, call 911. Also, call [LBCC Public Safety and Loss Prevention Office](#) at 541-926-6855 and 541-917-4440.

From any LBCC phone, you may alternatively dial extension 411 or 4440. LBCC has a public safety app available for free. We encourage people to download it to their cell phones. Public Safety also is the home for LBCC's Lost & Found. They provide escorts for safety when needed. Visit them to learn more.

Campus Resources

Learning Center

Excellent tutoring and guidance for your written work.

Library

Computers and printing available, other ways the library could help your student with this class

Other

The College Skills Zone (CSZ) is inviting ALL students on campus to take advantage of our resources beginning this spring. Drop-in hours will change to Mon-Fri 8:30-4:00.

Tips for Success in This Class

Format your stories correctly. This is an important skill set you are expected to master for this course.

Use the template provided (correct margins, courier font, title page, header data aligned top right, etc. Bookmark this site:

www.shunn.net/format/story.html

Format your critical work using the Chicago Style. See any handbook, our website, or http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c10_s1.html for details.

Changes to the Syllabus

I reserve the right to change the contents of this syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances. You will be given notice of relevant changes in class, through a Moodle Announcement, or through LBCC e-mail.

Class Calendar or Schedule

Print the calendar or class schedule on its own page, preferably the last, so that students can easily find this resource.

- Week 1: Introductions and scheduling stories
- Week 2: First submissions of feedback letters and discussion
- Week 3: Students stories

- Week 4: Students stories
- Week 5: Students stories
- Week 6: Students stories
- Week 7: Students stories
- Week 8: Students stories
- Week 9: Students stories
- Week 10: Students stories
- Final: Capstone Portfolio, due Week 10

Week	Readings	Activities	Due dates
1			
2		Feedback letters submitted	Wednesdays 6pm
3			“
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
Final			