

## **ENG542 Creative Writing Workshop: The Novel 1**

**(3 credit hours)**

### **Course Syllabus**

---

#### **Course Description**

This course is the first in a two-part sequence. The focus of the course will be on writing an original novel or a good portion of a novel over the course of the two classes, using the creative writing workshop tradition, with the advantage of being online. Students will write and criticize each other's work with suggestions for improvement.

This course is a *writing intensive* course for the novelist in training; therefore it will require a minimum of 50,000 words (approximately 160-200 pages depending on format) of written creative work and 20 pages of discussion.

#### **Course Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Plan and begin to write a 50,000 word novel.
2. Tactfully evaluate short stories through literary analysis and peer review.
3. Master the conventions of plot, dialogue, and exposition within the format of a short narrative.
4. Develop one's own narrative style.
5. Improve grammar, punctuation, voice, and tone through narrative writing and editing.

#### **Required Textbook(s) and Resources**

Baty, C. (2004). *No Plot? No Problem!* Chronicle.

Brown, R. & King, D. *Self-Editing for Fiction Writers*. Harper Collins.

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#)

## Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays**.
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays**.

## Learning Activities

This course has been designed as a **Workshop** course type.

This means that by **Wednesday** each week, you'll be posting a draft of an assignment you've been working on. This might be one paper or part of a longer, cumulative project. APA formatting will not be emphasized; however you should still acknowledge any outside sources you use in some way.

By **Saturday** of each week, you will participate in peer review with your classmates. This means that you will read work from a certain number of your classmates and provide constructive criticism of their work. This feedback will be specific, objective, respectful, and done with positive intent. In other words, the course is designed to give you a real audience for your work, and that audience will give you their feedback and opinions. Harsh, condescending, or offensive comments will **not** be tolerated. Be sure to read directions carefully to find out how many and/or whose work you need to read and respond to. Since this feedback process is critical to the overall success of a workshop approach, **up to one-third of your grade** will be related to the feedback you provide to your peers.

By **Sunday** of each week, you will submit a revised version of your work based on the feedback you received from your classmates and instructor. If the course is working on a larger, cumulative project, the revised version will be posted at the end of the class.

Lastly, you will be writing a reflection due each **Sunday** that will address what you did to revise your work (or what you will do). You will discuss where you agreed with the feedback and where you disagreed with it. If you chose not to take the feedback given, you must

explain why. Then you will discuss the process in general and how beneficial you found it. Be sure to read the prompt carefully and address all elements within it.

## Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
<b>Forums</b> Activity 1.1 (n/a) Activity 1.2 (50)	<b>Peer Review</b> Activity 2.1 (50)	<b>Peer Review</b> Activity 3.1 (50)	<b>Peer Review</b> Activity 4.1 (50)	<b>Peer Review</b> Activity 5.1 (50)	<b>Peer Review</b> Activity 6.1 (50)	<b>Peer Review</b> Activity 7.1 (50)	<b>350</b>
--	<b>Reflection</b> Activity 2.2 (75)	<b>Reflection</b> Activity 3.2 (75)	<b>Reflection</b> Activity 4.2 (75)	<b>Reflection</b> Activity 5.2 (75)	<b>Reflection</b> Activity 6.2 (75)	<b>Reflection</b> Activity 7.2 (75) <b>Final Reflection</b> Activity 7.3 (200)	
<b>50</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>1000</b>

## Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | F: <69%

## Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

### Start Here

MON: Activity 1.1: Driving Force – Initial Post

### Week 1

WED: Activity 1.1: Driving Force – Optional Secondary Posts

WED: Activity 1.2: Choose a Track – Initial Post

SAT: Activity 1.2: Choose a Track – Optional Secondary Posts

### Week 2

WED: Activity 2.1: Peer Review—Characters – Initial Post

SAT: Activity 2.1: Peer Review—Characters – Secondary Posts

SUN: Activity 2.2: Reflection on Feedback

**Week 3**

- WED: Activity 3.1: Peer Review—Opening Scene – Initial Post
- SAT: Activity 3.1: Peer Review—Opening Scene – Secondary Posts
- SUN: Activity 3.2: Reflection on Feedback

**Week 4**

- WED: Activity 4.1: Peer Review—Brief Summary of Events – Initial Post
- SAT: Activity 4.1: Peer Review—Brief Summary of Events – Secondary Posts
- SUN: Activity 4.2: Reflection on Feedback

**Week 5**

- WED: Activity 5.1: Peer Review—Novel Ending – Initial Post
- SAT: Activity 5.1: Peer Review—Novel Ending – Secondary Posts
- SUN: Activity 5.2: Reflection on Feedback

**Week 6**

- WED: Activity 6.1: Peer Review—Tension – Initial Post
- SAT: Activity 6.1: Peer Review—Tension – Secondary Posts
- SUN: Activity 6.2: Reflection on Feedback

**Week 7**

- WED: Activity 7.1: Peer Review—Subplots – Initial Post
- SAT: Activity 7.1: Peer Review—Subplots – Secondary Posts
- SUN: Activity 7.2: Reflection on Feedback
- SUN: Activity 7.3: Final Reflection

**Tips for Success**

Online learning requires self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery. Your course is a place for you to grow as you benefit from the expertise, experience, and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

**For More Information:**

Be sure to review the [Support, Policies, and Procedures](#) addendum.