



Intermediate Creative Writing

3 credits

Prerequisite(s): EN 100

Class Information		Instructor Information		First day of classes:	Wed., Jan. 6, 2016
Days	Tuesday	Instructor:	Amy Lin, MFA (candidate), BA, BEd	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun, Jan. 17, 2016
Time:	6:30 – 9:30 PM	Email:	Amy.Lin@ambrose.edu	Last day to request revised exam:	Mon., Feb. 29, 2016
Room:	A2212	Phone:	N/A	Last day to withdraw from course:	Fri, Mar. 18, 2016
Final Exam day		Office:	TBD	Last day to apply for time extension for coursework:	Tues., Mar. 29, 2016
No Final Exam		Office Hrs:	TBD, & appointment	Last day of classes:	Wed., April 13, 2016

Textbook: Course Pack
The Best American Short Stories of the Century – John Updike

Course Description:

This course is intended to continue the conversation about writing that began in Introduction to Creative Writing. This course is interested in connecting writers to their craft with regards to a particular work they are working with (or perhaps wrestling with, depending on the day). This course seeks, to borrow a term from Sarah Stone, to deepen fiction by giving thought and consideration to the creative effects of various craft decisions.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Explore the connection between craft and creativity and investigate how different choices result in different effects in stories and poems
2. Develop self-awareness as writers by articulating deliberate strategies they employ in their work
3. Demonstrate effectiveness as critics of writing, responding to the work of others in ways that encourage collaborative learning
4. Deepen their exploration of their purposes and subjects in writing

Course Schedule:

This course will be broken down into two types of class: *Craft* and *Workshop*. We will begin by studying the craft of writing before moving into an alternating schedule of craft lessons and student-writing workshops. Each week there will be a short writing exercised (based on the craft topic) due.

Craft

Each craft class will consist of a few short, in-class writing exercises, intermixed with a lecture on that week’s topic and a discussion of that week’s assigned stories or poems, which you will have read and picked apart, figuring out how they work.

As this a Creative Writing class, we are NOT particularly interested in themes, motifs, or historical contexts. We ARE interested in approaching writing like a trade: How did an author construct his or her story or poem, and why? What made it entertaining (or not)? What decisions on the author’s part made it work (or not work) for you as a reader? What basic rules of story-telling (or poem-writing) do the best writers employ, and to what end? By discovering how the most successful writers of fiction and poetry construct *their* work, we will gain access to their tricks and strategies and be able to better apply them to our own writing.

Workshop

After a couple of weeks devoted to learning craft, we will begin student workshops. Each week, we will constructively critique the work of two of our peers, who will have submitted their stories to us via Moodle the week before. You will read your peers' work before workshop, making line edits and margin notes, and writing a one page letter for each work wherein you discuss what in their piece worked well, what didn't, and any suggestions you might have on how to improve their work during revision. *You must submit your letter to Moodle before the workshop.*

We will discuss workshop "etiquette" further in class, but consider this: your classmates are putting a lot of trust in you to read and respond to their stories and poems, many of which will be very personal. So, criticism is an act of love. If you take someone's work seriously, your comments cannot be cruel, cannot be slight, and cannot be false. You will give one another the best gift this semester, the gift of your attention, compassion, and intelligence.

Important Dates

1. Know the date(s) when you are being workshopped
2. _____: Workshops begin
3. _____: Annotation Due
4. April 15: Revision Reflection(s) Due

Requirements:

- **Reading:** Each week you will be assigned stories or poems to read. Please come to class prepared to discuss writing from a writer's point of view—which requires that you have read the pieces more than once. The first time you read something, your mind is fully engaged with figuring *what is going on*. The real learning about how a piece works begins with the second reading.
- **Participation:** Your attendance is expected and it is needed. Every week. Because we all get sick at one time or another, you will be allowed one unexcused absence, but after that your participation grade will be seriously affected.
- **Writing:** This course focuses on the *process* of writing; you will be doing a lot of writing and not all of it will be graded. We will work to develop the writerly habit of working everyday. Not all pieces will make it past the initial drafts. Some will turn into something completely different weeks down the line. The process of developing a body of work is a process of constant writing, revising, and winnowing down to the most promising pieces. For writing to develop, the writing and re-writing process has to happen.

Formatting & Length Requirements

- Weekly writing assignments/journaling (stories, poems, etc.) should be typed, 1 in. margins all around, double-spaced in size 12 font (either Times New Roman or Garamond, no exceptions), with your last name and page numbers on the top right corner.
- Workshop letters are to be typed, single-spaced, 1 in. margins all around, in size 12 font (either Times New Roman or Garamond, no exceptions), with your last name and page numbers on the top right corner.
- Stories submitted for your fiction workshop should fall between 12 and 20 pages typed, with 1 in. margins all around, double-spaced in size 12 font (either Times New Roman or Garamond), with your last name and page numbers on the top right corner.
- Poems submitted for poetry workshop, should fall between 2 and 4 poems, depending on length. As usual, typed, 1 in. margins all around, double-spaced in size 12 font (either Times New Roman or Garamond), with your last name and page numbers on the top right corner.

While I appreciate work must sometimes exceed page limits, please note that I will not read/grade past the stated page counts.

****All assignments must be submitted to Moodle.****

You MUST submit copies of your work to the class at least one week prior to the scheduled workshop date.

Attendance:

Participation is critical to your success in a writing course, so regular attendance is a must.

- You will be allowed **ONE** "unexcused" absence. Any further unexcused absences will result in a **full letter grade reduction** of your participation mark.
- Any unexcused absences on *workshop* days will cost you a **full letter grade off your final grade**—it's incredibly disrespectful to expect

your classmates to spend time reading and responding to your work if you're not present to do the same for theirs.

- Missing your *own* workshop day will be extremely detrimental to your grade in the class overall—if a conflict arises, you must contact me **at least 2 weeks ahead** of the scheduled workshop.
- An “excused” absence requires a doctor’s note/official documentation. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the attendance policy.

Grade Summary:

Your grade in this class is not based on your talent as a writer, but rather on engagement with the readings, the class discussions, your application of what we learn to your own writing, the quality of your revisions, and the effort you put forth for both yourself and your classmates.

Percentage Breakdown:

Attendance/Participation: **30%**
Weekly Writing Exercises: **10%**
Workshop Letters: **15%**
Workshop Submission(s): **25%**
Annotation: **10%**
Revision Reflection(s): **10%**

Grading Scale		
Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value
90-100	A+	4.0
86-89	A	4.0
82-85	A-	3.7
78-81	B+	3.3
74-77	B	3.0
70-73	B-	2.7
66-69	C+	2.3
62-65	C	2.0
58-61	C-	1.7
54-57	D+	1.3
50-53	D	1.0
0-49	F	0.0

Other

Note: the Course Outline & dates are subject to change.

Course Outline

Week 1: INTROS & CHARACTER
Tu Jan. 19 (Re)-Introductions
Discuss syllabus & class rhythm
Set workshop schedule
Character: Developing and Complicating

Week 2: CHARACTER: Developing and Complicating
Tu Jan. 26 Be prepared to write (bring laptop / journal) and discuss this week’s readings.
DUE in class: 1. Weekly writing exercise
HAVE READ: “Drinking Coffee Elsewhere”

Week 3: POV: Third
Tu Feb. 2 Be prepared to write (bring laptop / journal) and discuss this week’s readings
DUE in class: 1. Weekly writing exercise
HAVE READ: “The Niece”

Week 4:
Tu Feb. 9

POV: First and Second
Be prepared to write (bring laptop / journal) and discuss this week's readings
DUE in class: 1. Weekly writing exercise
HAVE READ: "Trauma Plate"
WORKSHOP DUE: Writer 1 and 2 Submit pieces for workshop next (next) week

** You must submit to the forum the date you are being workshopped**

Week 5:
Tu Feb. 16

BREAK
BREAK

Week 6:
Tu Feb. 23

PLOT: Narrative Drive & Alternative Story Structures
Be prepared to write (bring laptop / journal) and discuss this week's readings as well as actively participate in workshop

DUE in class: 1. Copies of the piece(s) up for workshop
2. 1 page critique(s) of the pieces up for workshop
3. **DUE in class (only for those NOT being workshopped): 1. Weekly writing exercise**

HAVE READ: Workshop pieces; "The Best Girlfriend You Never Had"
WORKSHOP: Today – workshop Writer 3 and 4
Today – Writer 4 and 5 submit pieces for workshop next week

Week 7:
Tu Mar. 1

TIME: Scene, Summary, Flashback, Backstory, and Transitions
Be prepared to write (bring laptop / journal) and discuss this week's readings as well as actively participate in workshop

DUE in class: 1. Copies of the piece(s) up for workshop
2. 1 page critique(s) of the pieces up for workshop
3. **DUE in class (only for those NOT being workshopped): 1. Weekly writing exercise**

HAVE READ: Workshop pieces; "The Rooster and the Dancing Girl"
WORKSHOP: Today – workshop Writer 4 and 5
Today – Writer 6 and 7 submit pieces for workshop next week

Week 8:
Tu Mar. 8

SUBJECT: Material & Subject Matter
Be prepared to write (bring laptop / journal) and discuss this week's readings as well as actively participate in workshop

DUE in class: 1. Copies of the piece(s) up for workshop
2. 1 page critique(s) of the pieces up for workshop
3. **DUE in class (only for those NOT being workshopped): 1. Weekly writing exercise**

HAVE READ: Workshop pieces; "Car Crash While Hitchhiking"
WORKSHOP: Today – workshop Writer 8 and 9
Today – Writer 9 and 10 submit pieces for workshop next week

Week 9:
Tu Mar. 15

SETTING: Macro, Micro, and Detail
Be prepared to write (bring laptop / journal) and discuss this week's readings as well as actively participate in workshop

DUE in class: 1. Copies of the piece(s) up for workshop
2. 1 page critique(s) of the pieces up for workshop
3. **DUE in class (only for those NOT being workshopped): 1. Weekly writing exercise**

HAVE READ: Workshop pieces; "Pilgrims"
WORKSHOP: Today – workshop Writer 9 and 10
Today – Writer 11 and 12 submit pieces for workshop next week OR Poets 1 and 2

Week 10:
Tu Mar. 22

STYLE: Dialogue & Words
Be prepared to write (bring laptop / journal) and discuss this week's readings as well as actively participate in workshop

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- DUE in class:** 1. Copies of the piece(s) up for workshop
2. 1 page critique(s) of the pieces up for workshop
3. **ANNOTATIONS DUE TODAY**

HAVE READ: Workshop pieces; “The Cures for Love”

WORKSHOP: Today – workshop Writer 11 and 12 OR Poets 1 and 2

Today – Writer 13 and 14 submit pieces for workshop next week OR Poets 3 and 4

Week 11: CONTEXT: Society, Culture, Research & Imagination
Tu Mar. 29 Be prepared to write (bring laptop / journal) and discuss this week’s readings as well as actively participate in workshop

- DUE in class:** 1. Copies of the piece(s) up for workshop
2. 1 page critique(s) of the pieces up for workshop
3. **DUE in class (only for those NOT being workshopped): 1. Weekly writing exercise**

HAVE READ: Workshop pieces; “The Country Husband”

WORKSHOP: Today – workshop Writer 13 and 14 OR Poets 3 and 4

Today – Writer 15 and 16 submit pieces for workshop next week OR Poets 5 and 6

Week 12: REVISION: Beginnings, Middles, Ends
Tu April. 5 Be prepared to discuss this week’s readings as well as actively participate in workshop

- DUE in class:** 1. Copies of the piece(s) up for workshop
2. 1 page critique(s) of the pieces up for workshop
3. **DUE in class (only for those NOT being workshopped): 1. Weekly writing exercise**

HAVE READ: Workshop pieces

WORKSHOP: Today – workshop Writer 15 and 16 OR Poets 5 and 6

Week 13: WRAP-UP & THE WRITERS’ LIFE
Tu April. 12 Be prepared to discuss this week’s readings as well as actively participate in workshop

- DUE in class:** 1. Copies of the piece(s) up for workshop
2. 1 page critique(s) of the pieces up for workshop

HAVE READ: Workshop pieces; “The Interior Castle”

WORKSHOP: Today – workshop Writer 15 and 16 OR Poets 5 and 6

Final: **REVISION REFLECTION(S) DUE**
Fri April 15 Submit your Revision Reflection(s) via Moodle

Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Exam Scheduling

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office

in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.