

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department:	General Education Department
Programme:	Combined Studies
<i>FHEQ</i> Level:	5
Course Title:	Creative Writing: Towards A Collection
Course Code:	ENG 5195
Course Leader:	Anna Stearman
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Seminar / Tutorials:	10
Writing Workshops:	10
Critical Feedback Workshops:	15
Fieldtrips:	5
Lectures:	5
Independent / Guided Learning :	75
Semester:	Fall, Spring, Summer
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Description:

In this writer's workshop, students submit examples of their work for critical consideration by the instructor and other members of the class. Impetus is given to the writing tasks through the close reading and discussion of a selection of fiction and poetry forms from different genres and cultures. Students identify and experiment with aspects of poets' and fictionists' craft and develop an awareness of narrative and poetic structures with which to shape their own projects through a feedback-driven revision process. By the end of the semester, each student will have produced a collection of finished poems and pieces of short fiction.

Pre/co-requisite: ARW 4195

Aims and Objectives:

This course aims to help students develop advanced strategies for becoming "inspired"; for beginning new pieces of writing from scratch; for developing revision and editing skills. It also aims to enable students to read more effectively, by practicing active reading

and critical reading in order to develop their revision skills. Further objectives are to help each student pursue their potential as a creative writer, to widen and challenge reading habits and to help develop a healthy and thriving writing process. The course aims to promote student engagement with texts as “mentors” – examining the work of published writers to expand their sense of what is possible in their own production of creative writing texts.

Programme Outcomes:

5Aii, 5Bi, 5Ci, 5Cii, 5Ciii, 5Di, 5Dii.

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, successful students should be able to:

- use a range of starting-writing and pre-writing strategies to generate ideas for characters, settings, imagery and plot.
- collect and synthesise this material to inform a choice of creative solutions, resulting in the production of short stories and poems of varying length, pattern and voice.
- provide evidence of the development of their critical faculties and their own practices as writers (metacognition and autoreflexivity), as demonstrated in drafts and author's notes.
- provide increasingly complex verbal and written feedback on peer's creative drafts, and to do so in a manner appropriate to the workshop setting.
- show a detailed understanding of a variety of the technical functions and traditions of short stories, free-verse and formal poems, applying this knowledge to the shaping of their own prose and poetry, as demonstrated in the author's note.

Indicative Content:

- Processes of inspiration and observation
- Surrealism and making: found poetry and the cut-up
- Dialogue and the narrator
- Fiction and creative non-fiction
- How long is a story? From the micro-story to the novella
- The open and the close – approaches to beginnings & endings
- Place, time and character in short fiction
- Lineation: free-verse and the informal use of “formal” poetry
- The sonnet and the prose poem
- Radical revision techniques
- Questions of publication.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Writing Intensive Assessment Norms approved by the Academic Council on 28 June 2012

The course is evaluated as follows:

Summative Assessment Items	Weighting
Preliminary Portfolio	25%
Final Collection	45%
Reader Diary & Author's Note	30%

Teaching Methodology:

The teaching approach for this course is one of theory-into-practice (praxis). The course is taught as a workshop in which reading and discussion of peer work, sharing works and ideas in groups, and receiving both peer and instructor feedback are all central to the process. In the workshop, participants will be expected to act as a first audience for each other's work. Feedback will be used to let a writer know how much of the vision of the work has been communicated to the audience/reader. Members of the workshop are not expected to be literary critics, but fellow writers working on their craft; they are expected to conduct themselves accordingly. Workshop sessions will include the use of small-group tasks, observation exercises, (including at least one field trip), guided individual and small group writing exercises, timed writing exercises, reading and discussion tasks, co-authoring of texts, pair-work, peer-editing tasks and whole group feedback tasks. Students will be encouraged to write daily in their private writer's notebook in order to aid inspiration.

Indicative Text(s): A reader will be provided.

Web Sites

www.poets.org/

www.brevitymag.com/

www.poetrylibrary.org.uk/

www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/short-stories/

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
