

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON  
*Te Whare Wānanga o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui*



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
**MODERN LETTERS**  
*Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao*

**CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME**

**CREW 254 SHORT FICTION WORKSHOP: Trimester 1, 2009**

**Bring to the first workshop**

- this set of course notes (and please note, on page 4, your **dates for workshopping** stories)
- the CREW 254 2009 Course Reader (which you need to bring to every workshop)
- **13** copies of Assignment 1 (enclosed), and
- a short story or collection by a writer you admire.

In addition, before the first workshop please revisit the stories 'In the Cemetery Where Al Jolson is Buried' (Amy Hempel) and 'Water Liars' (Barry Hannah).

**CREW 254 Staff**

Susan Pearce teaches CREW 254 (Short Fiction).  
Work phone: 463 6854 (Mondays only, from March 2<sup>nd</sup> )  
Home phone: 977 4512  
Email: susan@wordworks.co.nz

**Class Times**

There are twelve workshops. They take place 2 pm – 4.50 pm on Mondays in the IIML Workshop Room.

## **Aims and Content**

CREW 254 gives recognition to creative work in short fiction writing. By the end of the workshop each member of the course should have developed

- their potential as a writer
- their understanding of key craft elements in short fiction writing
- their skills as a reader (as well as a writer) of short stories

These goals are achieved through

- regular writing exercises
- regular reading, and keeping a reading journal
- workshop presentation and discussion of written work
- production of written assessments of others' work
- consistent, steady work towards the workshop's assessment folio

Exercises will explore particular craft aspects of story writing, but will also seek to develop individual voice and imaginative range.

## **Course Materials**

There is one text for this course: an anthology of short stories, which you must purchase from the Student Notes Shop, ground floor of the Student Union Building.

An optional but recommended text is *The Elements of Style*, available from the University Bookshop. This is a small, friendly, manual full of helpful advice.

**Note** Photocopying will be an additional expense for you. You will need to bring **thirteen** copies of each piece of work to workshop meetings.

## **Assessment**

CREW 254 is assessed on a pass / fail basis only. If you pass the course, you will receive Grade H (Ungraded Pass).

In order to pass you must

- submit a folio (described below) at the end of the course;
- attend all classes; and
- participate fully in the classes, workshopping others' and your own stories.

Assessment is based entirely on the portfolio you submit at the end of the course. Two typewritten or printed copies of your portfolio must be submitted by **Friday June 12th**.

Two examiners (Susan Pearce and one external examiner) will read each folio. After assessment is completed, one copy of your folio will be returned to you, along with the written reports of the two readers.

**Note** CREW 254 is assessed on a pass/fail basis only.

## **The Folio**

In CREW 254 folios should be roughly 6,000 – 12,000 words, and will normally consist of **two or more** pieces of short fiction that you write during the course.

One of your stories should be in two versions: an early draft and the finished text.

**Note:** The text of the draft version does not count towards the 6,000 – 12,000 words.

## **Mandatory Course Requirements**

In CREW 254 you must attend all workshops and complete all the prescribed exercise work and commentary writing. If you do not meet these requirements your folio will not be assessed and you will automatically fail the course.

## **Punctuality**

The workshops begin promptly. Students need to be seated in the workshop room a couple of minutes before that time.

## **Workload**

It is hard to assess the workload for this course. CREW 254 is formally a 22 point undergraduate course, but many students tend to treat it as a full-time undertaking. You should certainly expect to be busy. Full-time undergraduates should expect to spend an average of 15 hours per week on this course (this figure includes workshop hours).

## **Workshops**

At workshops you present weekly exercise work for group discussion and (in at least one session) one of the stories from your folio work-in-progress. You will also be asked to produce written commentaries on work-in-progress presented by other members of the class.

The workshop will also be the time when we discuss, in a detailed and critical way, the stories from the set text. There will also be (loosely) themed discussions of various aspects of the craft of writing. These discussions will draw on the set texts for example and illustration. **It is important to read the set text as soon as possible, before classes begin.**

During the workshop programme, each student will have an individual conference with the workshop convenor to discuss the contents and format of their final folio.

## Workshop Timetable

In our first four meetings we will discuss set texts and workshop weekly exercises.

From March 30<sup>th</sup>, we will be workshopping stories – three students per week. These stories can be up to 12 – 15 pages (see the Course Reader for information on formatting). You will hand out **13** copies of your story for workshopping **one week** before your workshop. You each have **two workshops**.

**1** Monday March 2nd

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**2** Monday March 9th

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**3** Monday March 16th

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**4** Monday March 23rd

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**5** Monday March 30th

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**6** Monday April 6<sup>th</sup>

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EASTER BREAK

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**7** Monday April 27<sup>th</sup>

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**8** Monday May 4<sup>th</sup>

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**9** Monday May 11<sup>th</sup>

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**10** Monday May 18<sup>th</sup>

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**11** Monday May 25<sup>th</sup>

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**12** Monday June 1<sup>st</sup>

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**Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>**

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**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet

- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

### **Communication of additional information**

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students by email to all class members.

## **General University Requirements**

### **General University policies and statutes**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.