

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 2010

1 March to 4 June 2010

Bring to the first workshop

- this set of course notes
- the CREW 254 2010 Course Reader (which you should bring to every workshop)
- a short story or collection that you admire.

Staff

Workshop coordinator	Kate Duignan
Room	404
Hours on campus	Mondays: 12noon and Thursdays: 11am-1pm
Work phone	463 6854
Home Phone	934 8234
Email	kate.duignan@gmail.com

Class times and course delivery

The course consists of twelve workshops. These will take place 2 pm – 5 pm on Mondays in the IIML Workshop Room (Room 102, 16 Waiteata Road, Kelburn Campus). Any additional information will be given to students at these workshops

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

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 writing skills and understanding of the craft of writing fiction
- their sophistication as a reader of fiction.

These goals are achieved through

- writing exercises
- reading published fiction, and keeping a reading journal
- discussion and written commentaries on each other's work
- steady progress towards the workshop's assessment folio.

CREW 254 investigates the art of the short story. We will read a range of contemporary short fiction to develop appreciation for the form. The set texts are intended to give you a broad sense of what is possible in a short story, while also providing illustrations and examples for our discussions on craft. You will keep a short reading journal over the first six weeks of the course, reflecting on these stories as you begin work on your own fiction.

The course relies on the workshop process, in which you put drafts of your writing in front of a small, supportive audience, and receive feedback from fellow practitioners. For the first three weeks of the course, you will bring an in-class exercise for discussion. Exercises will explore particular craft aspects of story writing, but will also seek to develop individual voice and imaginative range.

After this, we will start to workshop draft stories. On two occasions during the trimester you will put forward a story in progress. You will receive both written and oral feedback from each member of the workshop, responses intended to help as you refine and redraft for the final folio. In turn, you will read, consider and mark up your classmates' draft stories. You should come to class prepared to discuss these in detail, and provide a written commentary on each story of about half a page.

Final Folio

The final folio will consist of **three or more** stories. This may include material that has not been workshopped. To encourage you to experiment with brevity, **one story will be a thousand words or less**. The folio as a whole will comprise **6,000 – 12,000 words**. The leeway here allows for a range of styles.

A draft version of **one** of the stories should be appended to the folio.

Individual Meetings

In addition to the workshops, I would like to meet with each of you once during the trimester to discuss your folio content. This will be at a time convenient to both of us, but preferably before your second workshop.

Workload

It is hard to assess the workload for this course. CREW 254 is formally a 20 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 13 hours per week on this course (this figure includes workshop hours).

Course Materials

There is one text for this course: the CREW 254 Course Reader, which is an anthology of short stories. You need to purchase this from Vicbooks in the Memorial Theatre, Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. Alternatively order online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. The Course Reader can be couriered to you, or picked up from the shop and you will be contacted when they are available. Opening hours are 8am-6pm, Monday-Friday during term time (Ph: 463 5515)

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

Assessment is based on the portfolio you submit at the end of the course. Participation in class during the trimester will be taken into consideration; a thoughtful response to your classmates' work is of paramount importance.

Two typewritten or printed copies of your portfolio must be submitted by **Monday 14 June 2010**.

Two examiners (Kate Duignan 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.

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

Mandatory Course Requirements

CREW 254 requires that you meet the following deadlines.

A completed draft story to be handed out to the class on each of these two dates:

Group 1: March 22, May 3

Group 2: March 29, May 10

Group 3: April 19, May 17

Group 4: April 26, May 24

Three students will be assigned to each group at our first meeting. Usually, you would hand out a different story on each of the two dates unless there was a particularly strong case to workshop a story a second time.

Monday 19 April: Reading Journal (1500 - 2500 words; discussing five or more published stories.)

Three written commentaries on your classmates' stories are due **each week** for the last eight meetings of the course (except the week of your own workshop, when you will write two.) Two or three paragraphs of commentary is sufficient; your comments may either be typed up or handwritten on the manuscript. If you are absent, you will need to give your classmates the written commentaries on your return.

Monday 14 June: final folios due for everyone (6,000 – 12,000 words; three or more stories.)

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all twelve meetings in CREW 254, as it is unsatisfactory to run a workshop process with missing members. A single absence due to extenuating circumstances would usually be excused; further absences would make it unlikely that you would pass the course.

Punctuality

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

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class. That person should advise VUWSA using the form provided, the Course Coordinator, and the class.

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>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

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>

The AVC(Academic) 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. This website can be accessed at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

Workshop Timetable

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

From March 29, 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 1	Introductions, discussion.
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2	Monday March 8	Assignment 1 workshopped.
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3	Monday March 15	Assignment 2 workshopped.
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4	Monday March 22	Assignment 3 workshopped.
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5	Monday March 29	Workshop: Group 1
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	Monday April 5	EASTER BREAK writing writing writing
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6	Monday April 19	Workshop: Group 2
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7	Monday April 26	Workshop: Group 3
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8	Monday May 3	Workshop: Group 4
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9	Monday May 10	Workshop: Group 1
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10	Monday May 17	Workshop: Group 2
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11	Monday May 24	Workshop: Group 3
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12	Monday May 31	Workshop: Group 4
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	Monday June 14	Folio hand-in.
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