

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

CREW 258 THE IOWA WORKSHOP (PROSE)
Trimester 3 2011
9 January 2012 to 17 February 2012

Staff

Workshop coordinator	Susan Hazen-Hammond
Room	404
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Office hours	Tuesdays and Thursdays following class
Administrator	Monday-Friday

Trimester Dates

Teaching dates: 9 January-17 February 2012

Examination/assessment period: 20-25 February 2012

Class Times

The first workshop will take place on Tuesday 10 January 2012 at 10am until 1pm in the workshop room (Room 102) at the International Institute of Modern Letters, 16 Waiteata Road. We will meet every subsequent Tuesday and Thursday through February 16 at the same time and place. Our time together is precious – a mere 36 hours in the classroom; we will use every minute allotted. If the class is full, we may need to run late once or twice in order to workshop everyone twice. You will know in advance which days those will be. Reserve the week following the last day of class to complete and submit your final project. Any additional course information will be made available in class or by email.

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx> .

Course Prescription

A topic in Creative Writing.

Aims and Content and Course Delivery

CREW 258 gives recognition to creative work in fiction. By the end of the workshop each member of the course should have further developed:

- their skill as a writer of fiction
- their ability to read fiction *as a writer*

Over the course of the trimester, you will write and rewrite short stories or longer works. You will submit hard copies for each member of the workshop (and the course coordinator) of two new or recent stories or sections of longer work that you would like feedback on. As readers of each other's fiction, you will focus on the strengths of a piece and on ways in which the writer might use gifts from life, the imagination and the unconscious in allowing work its full power.

Before each class you will write a response to the student fiction being workshopped that day. It should be well thought out, one-page, single-spaced, in 12-point type. You should provide one copy for each student and one for the course coordinator.

On a typical class day, you will spend approximately the first hour responding to the assigned fiction from the course reading, per the attached schedule. Following a short break, you will spend up to 50 minutes on each student piece, with a short break between pieces.

Learning Objectives

The goal of this course is to help you empower yourself as a writer. Please do not compare yourself with others, but work always to move towards an understanding of what literature is, and what you personally most need to write and how.

Workload

CREW 258 is a 20-point undergraduate course, but in order to get the most from this class, many students treat it as a full-time undertaking. You should expect to spend about 200 hours across the trimester, including hours spent in class and in final folio preparation. You will be writing, reading, thinking, listening, discussing literature, and responding to your classmates' work. Depending on the wishes of the class, we may arrange group social activities; participation in these will be voluntary and will not influence your grade.

Readings

We will read two novels, plus a photocopied packet of eleven short stories (Student Notes Book). These are available from the top floor of Vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus.

The novels are:

1. *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson. [reading schedule: chapters 1-2 for Thursday, January 26; chapters 3-7 for Tuesday, January 31; chapters 8-10 and coda (II) for Thursday, February 2]

2. *Waiting for the Barbarians* by J.M. Coetzee. [reading schedule: chapters 1-2 for Tuesday, February 7; chapter 3 for Thursday, February 9; chapters 4-6 for Tuesday, February 14]

You can order your student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. You can arrange for your student notes to be couriered to you. Opening hours are 8am-6pm, Monday-Friday during term, closing at 5pm during the holidays. The telephone contact is 463 5515.

Photocopying will be an additional expense as you will need to bring **thirteen** copies of your work with you to the workshop, **twice** during the trimester as well as thirteen copies of a short (one page or less) list of the fiction that has meant most to you for the second day of class.

Assessment

Assessment is based on the following:

- The portfolio you submit at the end of the course
- Your participation throughout the trimester, as reflected in your attendance record, your response letters, and your involvement in classroom discussions.
- Your submission, on schedule, of two manuscripts for class review.

Two typewritten or printed copies of your folio must be submitted by **Friday 24 February 2012**.

Two examiners (the workshop teacher 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.

Reminder: CREW 258 is assessed on a pass/fail basis only. If you pass the course, you will receive Grade H (Ungraded Pass).

The Folio

Folios should be between 35 and 70 pages in length, double spaced, in 12-point type. Whether the folio consists of one long story, two or more short stories, or a portion of a longer work is up to you.

Mandatory Course Requirements

You must attend class, participate in discussions, turn in written responses to other students' writing, and submit hard copies of two pieces of writing to the class at the required times. If you must miss a class because of illness or emergency, please email me in advance and email your response letters to the students being workshopped and to me. If the class you must miss falls on the day when you are supposed to turn work in, you must find a way to get hard copies to me before the beginning of class that day so that I can pass them out to your fellow students. Failure to turn in the portfolio by the required deadline would result in an automatic failing grade. See the assessment paragraph above for more details.

Class Representative

If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints, please bring them first to me. If you feel that you need additional assistance, please speak to the class representative, who will be elected in the first class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students. The representative's name and contact details will be made available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

The University's expectations regarding academic integrity and plagiarism follow:

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>

Where to Find More Detailed Information

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (see Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcademic.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- Tues Jan 10: Introductions, opening remarks, and in-class reading and discussion of Isaac Babel's *And Then There Were Ten* and Grace Paley's *Living and Wants*.
- Thurs Jan 12: Discussion of *Sonny's Blues* by James Baldwin. Bring copies for your fellow students of the list of fiction that has influenced you most. In-class writing and/or discussions as time permits.
- Tues Jan 17: Discussion of *Gooseberries* by Anton Chekhov and *Doing Good* by Sallie Bingham; workshopping of student submissions.
- Thurs Jan 19: Discussion of *The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World* by Gabriel Garcia and Marquez and *Luvina* by Juan Rulfo; workshopping of student submissions.
- Tues Jan 24: Discussion of *The Eve of the Spirit Festival* by Lan Samantha Chang, *The Thing Around Your Neck* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and *Bohemians* by George Saunders; workshopping of student submissions.
- Thurs Jan 26: Discussion of chapters one and two of Marilynne Robinson's novel *Housekeeping*; workshopping of student submissions.
- Tues Jan 31: Discussion of chapters three through seven of *Housekeeping*; workshopping of student submissions.
- Thurs Feb 2: Discussion of the remainder of *Housekeeping*; workshopping of student submissions.
- Tues Feb 7: Discussion of chapters one and two of J.M. Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians*; workshopping of student submissions.
- Thurs Feb 9: Discussion of chapter three of *Waiting for the Barbarians*; workshopping of student submissions.
- Tues Feb 14: Discussion of the remainder of *Waiting for the Barbarians*; workshopping of student submissions.
- Thurs Feb 16: Summarising discussion and remarks; final workshopping of student submissions.
- Fri Feb 24: Portfolios due