



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

CREW 258 THE IOWA WORKSHOP (PROSE)
Trimester 3 2013

Staff

Workshop coordinator	Evan James
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Office hours	Tuesdays and Thursdays
Administrator	Monday-Friday

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 7 January – 15 February 2013
Folio due for examination: Friday 22 February 2013
Examinator/Assessment period: 18-23 February 2013

Withdrawal dates

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

Class Times and location

The first workshop will take place on Tuesday 8 January 2013 at 10am – 1pm, the second on Thursday 10 January at the same time. Thereafter workshops will take place from 10am – 1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the workshop room (Room 102) International Institute of Modern Letters, 16 Waiteata Road.

Teaching/learning summary

Each member of the workshop will submit two new or recent stories (or excerpts from longer works – novels, novellas, etc) for group discussion and critique. Each workshop submission will require students to write a response letter. The letter must be at least one page, single spaced. Print two copies: one for your colleague, and one for the workshop coordinator.

In addition to pursuing our own writing and responding to one another's work, we will read examples of distinguished prose from authors who approach the writing of fiction in wildly different ways.

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.

Communication of additional information will take place in the workshops or by email.

Course prescription

A topic in creative writing.

Course content

CREW 258 gives recognition to creative work in fiction. By the end of the workshop, each student will have developed further as both a writer and a reader.

Over the course of the trimester, we will write and revise short stories or longer works. Each member of the workshop will submit two new or recent stories (or excerpts from longer works - novels, novellas, etc.) for group discussion and critique. As generous readers of one another's drafts, we will discuss the strengths of a piece, speculate about ways in which it might be made stronger, and use the work in question as an opportunity to discuss specific aspects of craft in fiction.

By encouraging one another to continue developing as writers, and by reading work that fires us, challenges us, amuses and awes, we will enlarge our sense of fiction as tradition and craft.

Learning objectives

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- Write fiction marked by an improved understanding of craft
- Continue developing a distinctive individual prose style
- Read contemporary fiction with an eye for construction and craft, so that they are able to identify the elements common to successful contemporary short stories and experiment with them in their own work

Workload

It is hard to assess the workload for this course. CREW 258 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. Plan on spending about 200 hours across the trimester, including workshop hours and final folio preparation.

Course Materials

The text is a course reader, in addition to work produced by your classmates throughout the trimester. All student notes for the third trimester will be available from vicbooks on Level 4 of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00am-6.00pm, Monday-Friday during term time (closing at 5.00pm in the holidays). Phone 463 5515.

Assessment

Assessment is based on the portfolio you submit at the end of the course, as well as satisfactorily meeting the two previous deadlines for turning in work. I will also take into account my impression of your overall participation during the trimester, in which your response letters and your participation in discussion of your classmates' work are of paramount importance.

Two typewritten or printed copies of your folio must be submitted by **Friday 22 February 2013**. 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.

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

The Folio

In CREW 258 folios should be between 35 and 70 pages in length. Whether the folio consists of a long story, two or more short stories, or the beginning of a longer work is at the discretion of the student.

Mandatory Course Requirements

Attendance and participation are mandatory. If you miss a class due to extenuating circumstances, you must email your response letters to both the students being workshopped and the workshop coordinator, as well as a response to the published work we have read for that class. If you are sick on one of your assigned days to turn in work and cannot attend, you must find a way to get your work to me by the beginning of class time. As a last resort, email it to evanmichaeljames@gmail.com. Missing more than one class will jeopardize the likelihood of your passing the class.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

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>

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 <http://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 (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

Week 1

Tues 8 Jan: Introductions, Flannery O'Connor's *The Nature and Aim of Fiction*,
Workshop order decided
Thurs 10 Jan: Workshop 1, Workshop 2, Flannery O'Connor's *Good Country People*

Week 2

Tues 15 Jan: Workshop 3, Workshop 4, Vladimir Nabokov's *Invitation to a Beheading*
Thurs 17 Jan: Workshop 5, Workshop 6, Amy Hempel's *In the Cemetery Where Al Jolson is Buried*

Week 3

Tues 22 Jan: Workshop 7, Workshop 8, Lorrie Moore's *How to Become a Writer*
Thurs 24 Jan: Workshop 9, Workshop 10, Allan Gurganus' *My Heart is a Snake Farm*

Week 4

Tues 29 Jan: Workshop 11, Workshop 12, Workshop 13
Thurs 31 Jan: Workshop 14, Workshop 15, George Saunders' *Sea Oak*

Week 5

Tues 5 Feb: Workshop 16, Workshop 17, Workshop 18

Thurs 7 Feb: Workshop 19, Workshop 20, Stuart Dybek's *We Didn't*

Week 6

Tues 12 Feb: Workshop 21, Workshop 22, Zadie Smith's *Fail Better*

Thurs 14 Feb: Workshop 23, Workshop 24, Graham Joyce's *An Ordinary Soldier of the Queen*

Fri 22 Feb: Folios due