



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
**MODERN LETTERS**

*Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao*

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME

**CREW 254 SHORT FICTION WORKSHOP**

**Trimester 1 2013**

**4 March - 3 July 2013**

**Bring to the first workshop**

- this set of course notes
- the CREW 254 2013 Course Reader (which you should bring to every workshop)
- the exercise sent out to you by email

**Staff**

Workshop coordinator      William Brandt  
Room                              404  
Work phone                      463 6854 (times to be advised)  
Home Phone                      977 5351  
Email                                [william.brandt@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:william.brandt@vuw.ac.nz)

**Class Times and locations**

The course consists of twelve workshops. These will take place 10 am – 1 pm on Fridays in the IIML Workshop Room (Room 102, 16 Waiteata Road, Kelburn Campus).

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates:              4 March - 7 June 2013  
Easter break:                   28 March - 3 April 2013  
Mid-trimester break:        22 - 28 April 2013  
Last piece of assessment due: 21 June 2013  
Study week:                    10 – 14 June 2013  
Examination/Assessment Period: 14 June – 3 July 2013

**Withdrawal dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

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

**Course prescription**

A workshop course in writing short fiction which also involves wide reading in the genre.

**Communication of additional information**

Any additional information will be handed out in class or distributed to students by email.

**Teaching Learning Summary 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 journal over the duration of the course, investigating the published stories in the light of your own creative decisions and struggles.

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 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.

## Learning Objectives

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Analyse how successful short fiction achieves its effects.
2. Edit and improve their own stories in light of both critical reading of texts, and class discussions.

## 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.

## Expected 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 15 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. All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 11 February to 15 March 2013, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from vicbooks' new store, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks Easterfield Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto: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 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

An optional but recommended text is *The Elements of Style*, also available from vicbooks. 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 **Friday 21 June**.

Two examiners (William Brandt 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 (note this is the week *before* your workshop date):

**Group 1: 5 April, 10 May**

**Group 2: 12 April, 17 May**

**Group 3: 26 April, 24 May**

**Group 4: 3 May, 31 May**

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. One of the drafts should be 1000 words or more, and the other 2500 words or more.

**Friday 21 June: Journal Due.** You should aim to write something for your journal each week. It needs to include reflections on at least four short stories (often those read in class). It also gives you a record of your progress and process as a writer. The journal will be read by the course co-ordinator. It will not be marked but is a course requirement.

**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.

**Friday 21 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 the start.

### **Class representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be made 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](http://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-](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-)

[progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy). Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar) (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the Academic Office website, at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic).

## Workshop Timetable

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

From 12 April, 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**.

<b>1</b>	Friday 8 March	Introductions, discussion.
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<b>2</b>	Friday 15 March	Assignment 1 workshopped.
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<b>3</b>	Friday 22 March	Assignment 2 workshopped.
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	<b>29 March</b>	<b>EASTER BREAK</b>
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<b>4</b>	Friday 5 April	Assignment 3 workshopped.
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<b>5</b>	Friday 12 April	<b>Workshop:</b> Group 1
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<b>6</b>	Friday 19 April	<b>Workshop:</b> Group 2
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	<b>26 April</b>	<b>MID TRIMESTER BREAK: Writing time.</b>
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<b>7</b>	Friday 3 May	<b>Workshop:</b> Group 3
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<b>8</b>	Friday 10 May	<b>Workshop:</b> Group 4
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**9**    Friday 17 May            **Workshop: Group 1**

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**10**   Friday 24 May           **Workshop: Group 2**

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**11**   Friday 31 May           **Workshop: Group 3**

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**12**   Friday 7 June            **Workshop: Group 4**

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**Friday 21 June            Folio hand-in.**

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