CRWR 320 Section 01
Creative Writing
Craft of Revision
Spring 2016

Instructor: Robert Stubblefield
Office: Corbin 339
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Office hours: Monday 3-5:00 p.m., Tuesday 2:00-3:00 p.m., Wednesday 3-5:00 p.m. and by appointment
Classroom: LOMM 272
Class Meeting Time: T, Th 9:40 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Required Text and Materials: The Seven Basic Plots, by Christopher Booker, Case Histories, by Kate Atkinson, Reading Like a Writer, by Francine Prose.
Optional and Recommended Text: True Grit by Charles Portis.

A journal and folder for compiling all exercises and in-class and out-of-class assignments. You must have access to UM Online for required readings and postings.

Course Objectives:

This course is designed for undergraduates who have completed Introduction to Creative Writing and have generated a substantial body of work in previous Creative Writing classes. We will focus on the craft of revising and editing fiction (and limited nonfiction) as applied by writers and editors. We will study and practice editing at the language level and revising larger elements of narrative and plot. We will read, study, and discuss contemporary, classic, and student short fiction selected and presented for critique by the instructor and students. Each student will choose a book-length work of contemporary fiction (novel or short story collection) and write a detailed response relating and applying the course texts to their chosen work. In addition to the book-length texts there will be required weekly readings from sources such as The New York Times Book Review, The Rumpus, The New Yorker, The Believer, and other daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly publications and websites. Students will study, discuss, practice, and apply revising and editing techniques. Students will develop and articulate informed oral and written arguments presented in the form of class presentations, manuscript evaluations, and book reviews.

Course Requirements:
- Writing Exercises: All writing exercises and assignments will be turned in on the date due and must be typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins. Exercises will focus on specified components or be of a specified length. Keep these in your portfolio upon return.
- Journal: I expect you to keep a reading journal to develop and document informed, thoughtful responses to the texts and readings. Although I will not ask...
you to turn in these journals, I will occasionally ask for a typed excerpt (one page or less).

- **Major Assignments (stories):** You will substantially revise and workshop two works of fiction or narrative nonfiction over the course of this semester and develop an informed argument applying the required texts to an additional and instructor-approved book-length work of your choice.

**Grading/Evaluation:**
You will be evaluated based on your active participation in class, your writing exercises and oral presentations, your improvement from draft to revision, and your attendance.

**DO NOT MISS MORE THAN TWO (2) CLASSES OR YOUR GRADE WILL BE AFFECTED**

- **40%** of your grade is based on active participation. Show up prepared, comment on required readings and the work of your peers, and contribute to the community of the classroom.
- **30%** of your grade is based on successful completion of all writing assignments. These will include responses to readings, reviews, and manuscript evaluations. Assignments must be completed and submitted on time and all out-of-class work typed and double-spaced. You will receive credit for and responses to your exercises, but not a letter grade.
- **30%** of your grade is based on your two major revised works. Both works must be substantially revised and carefully edited by the end of the semester. Demonstrate improvement and the ability to effectively respond to criticism and incorporate course objectives.

All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at: [http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php)

**Students with Disabilities**
Qualified students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course. Please speak with me privately after class or in my office. Please be prepared to provide a letter from your DSS Coordinator.

**Important Dates and Deadlines:**

April 4-8 (Monday-Friday) - Spring Vacation
Wednesday, May 11, 8-10:00 a.m.- Final Meeting

Deadlines: Access this link for information on drop/add deadlines and policies.
[http://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/dropadd.php](http://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/dropadd.php)
**Extracurricular Opportunities:**

It is important that our classroom develop into a community of writers. You must be able to provide and accept criticism and feedback in a positive manner. I will be available during my office hours to meet with you and will also schedule individual and group conferences by appointment.

Missoula is a vibrant literary community. Although not required, I suggest you take advantage of readings, conferences, and gatherings occurring this semester. I will announce upcoming events, but keep in mind the Second Wind Reading Series each Sunday night. Readings are frequently held on campus and at local bookstores.

**Week 1:**
Reading: *Case Histories*: pages 1-65 (through Chapter 4).
*The Seven Basic Plots*: pages 17-29, Prologue and Overcoming the Monster

Writing and Discussion: Write 2-4 page journal response and two discussion questions for Thursday.