Instructor Information
- Instructor: Deirdre McNamer
- Office: LA 116
- Email: Deirdre.mcnamer@mso.umt.edu
- Phone: 243-6975
- Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m., and by appointment.

Course Description:
We will investigate -- through discussion and through written critiques of student stories and revisions -- the elements of writing compelling fiction. Those elements include voice, point of view, characterization, scenes, description, tension and plot. This is not a class in which I will stand before you to impart information, and you will digest it, synthesize it, and feed it back to me on exams or papers. Like a student of dance or music performance, you will learn by doing. Your success will depend on how much you practice, how closely you pay attention, how willing you are to take chances, and how well you learn to read. Welcome, all.

Learning Outcomes:
1. To leave this class a significantly better writer of fiction than you came into it.
2. To recognize and avoid the technical mistakes that uninformed, ill-read, amateur fiction writers make.
3. To be able to imagine a story and convey it in such a way that your readers feel involved in it, alive to it. To be able to create an even better story by rewriting.
4. To become a more astute and informed reader.

Required Textbooks:
None. I will distribute published fiction that we will discuss in class.

Required Assignments and Tests:
- Six writing assignments, ranging from 500-1500 words each. (See attached schedule.) You will begin with a short, factual account of an event that actually happened and transform that account, through a series of revisions addressing specific tasks, into the realm of fiction. A copy of each assignment goes to me and to the members of your five-person group.
- A final version of those revisions, approximately 3500 words in length, which will be workshopped in class.
- A rewrite of that draft.
- Close reading of eight published stories, and active involvement in class discussions focused on them.
Short (1-2 pages), typewritten critiques of each student story that is workshopped. Make two hard copies and bring them to class on the day of the discussion. One copy goes to the student; one goes to me.

**Course Guidelines and Policies:**
You will receive a numerical grade from me on each of the following: your workshopped story; your rewrite of that story; your critiques of the workshopped stories.

At the end of the semester, I will average those grades, and also numerically evaluate your level of participation in the class. Those two numbers will be averaged for your final grade for the course. (See the table below.)

No late work will be accepted. If you know you will miss a class, you are responsible for turning in any assignments ahead of time.

More than three absences during the semester will lower your final grade by 15 points. Email me if you contract a communicable illness.

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<td>A</td>
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<td>B</td>
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**Student Conduct Code**
Please familiarize yourself with the Student Conduct Code website: http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php

**Attendance**
Do not come to class late. Missing more than three classes during the semester will lower your final grade by 15 points.

**Course Withdrawal**
Feb 12 is the last day you can drop the course without paying a $10 fee and obtaining advisor/instructor consent.

**Disability Modifications**
The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.