

# CREATIVE WRITING: FICTION

## ENGL 218

"We want competence, but competence itself is deadly. What you want is the vision to go with it, and you do not get this from a writing class" Flannery O'Connor

**Prof. Susan Perabo**  
**Office Hours: (tentative)**  
**Tues 11:45–1:00, Thurs 4–5**  
**And by appointment**

**EC 407**  
**x1847**  
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**REQUIRED BOOK:**  
**3x33 SHORT FICTION BY 33 WRITERS**

"You can't wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club." Jack London

**FINAL GRADE BREAKDOWN:**

<b>READING QUIZZES</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>EXERCISES</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>RESPONSES</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>SHORT STORY</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>LONGER STORY</b>	<b>30%</b>

This is an introductory course in writing short fiction. To complete this course happily and successfully, you must be willing to work diligently on your writing through several drafts, revising your work based on feedback from your classmates and your professor. In addition, you must be a thoughtful reader and conveyor of constructive criticism.

As a beginning course in fiction writing, the goal of this class is to teach you to write well crafted, engaging short stories. There will be no "assigned" stories; you may write about whatever you wish, in whatever style you discover to be your own. This is part of the goal -- through drafts and exercises, you will begin to find your own unique style, the essence of what makes you different from every other writer in the world.

For the first part of the semester we will be reading classic short stories and discussing what it is that makes quality short fiction. We will also do several writing assignments that focus on specific aspects of the short story, such as plot, character, point of view, dialogue, and setting. By the fourth week, we will begin the "workshop" process. For the remainder of the semester we will talk about stories mainly on a case-by-case basis, discussing student work in-depth with an eye toward revision.

Attendance is required. If you miss more than one class, your final grade will suffer. There are no "excused" absences. Also, no late work will be accepted.

