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CRWR 410.01: Advanced Creative Writing - Fiction

Deirdre McNamer

The University of Montana

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CRWR 410, Sec. 1—Advanced Creative Writing: Fiction

Instructor Information

- Instructor: Deirdre McNamer
- Office: LA 116
- [Email](mailto:Deirdre.mcnamer@mso.umt.edu): Deirdre.mcnamer@mso.umt.edu
- Phone: 243-6975
- Office hours: Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to noon; 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Course Description:

We will investigate – primarily through your work but also through exercises and close reading of published stories – the practices and techniques of writing compelling fiction. 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 and that you will respond to in writing.

Required Assignments and Tests:

- Two short stories, 10-15 pages each, and rewrites of each.
- Close reading of at least ten published stories, active involvement in class discussions focused on them, and a 2-page written response to each.
- 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.
- Participation in frequent, short, in-class exercises.

Course Guidelines and Policies:

Just before spring break, you will have a conference with me to discuss your work to that point, your strengths as a writer, and areas of potential improvement. If you want my assessment of your grade at that point, I'm happy to provide it.

Do not miss assignment deadlines. More than one instance will lower your final grade by a full letter grade.

More than three absences during the semester will lower your final grade by a full letter grade.

Student Conduct Code

Please familiarize yourself with the [Student Conduct Code website](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php):
http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php

Course Withdrawal

Feb 10 is the last day you can drop the course with a refund and no "W" on your transcript.

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.