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ENCR 510.02: Graduate Fiction Workshop - The Novel

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The University of Montana

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SYLLABUS

ENCR 510, SECTION 02

GRADUATE FICTION WORKSHOP: THE NOVEL

Instructor: Deirdre McNamer

Office: LA 116

Office telephone: 243-6975

Office hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

Class time: Mondays, 7:10 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Classroom: Fine Arts 302 (Note: this is a change)

Course description: This course, limited to enrolled students in the Master of Fine Arts program, is a workshop for writers with novels underway. Each week, we will discuss draft material from one workshop participant, with an eye to helping the writer shape the material into a compelling narrative. Problems of organization, management of fictional time, point of view, characterization and tension will be among those we address.

Requirements: 1) Each participant will sign up for two class slots, and will make copies of his or her novel-in-progress for each member of the workshop. These copies are due **one week** before the discussion. Bring them to class.

2) Those whose work is not discussed will provide the writer and me with typewritten critiques of the work we discuss. These should be a page or two minimum, though you are free to write more. Critiques are due on the day of the discussion.

Attendance: Perfect is best. If sickness or an emergency requires your absence on the day your novel is to be discussed, you are responsible for arranging a substitute and for getting that person's work to the rest of the class.

Grading criteria: No grades will be given until the end of the semester, though you are welcome, at any time, to ask for my opinion about how you are doing. Final grades will be based on my assessment of your writing skills, your critical skills, your improvement and your participation.

Goal for the course: That each workshop participant produce a strong draft of a full-length novel.