

Spring 2-1-2011

ENCR 295.01: The Oval - Literary Magazine Studio

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Recommended Citation

Stubblefield, Robert, "ENCR 295.01: The Oval - Literary Magazine Studio" (2011). *Syllabi*. 8878.
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ENCR 295 Section 01
Creative Writing: Special Topics
The Oval: Literary Magazine Studio
Spring 2011

Required Text and Materials: *Writing in General and the Short Story in Particular:* Rust Hills. *The Making of a Poem:* Mark Strand and Eavan Boland
A journal and folder for compiling all exercises and in-class and out-of-class responses and assignments. You must have access to Blackboard for required readings and postings.

Course Objectives:

This special topics course is open to undergraduates who have completed at least one course in Creative Writing (ENCR). The class will be conducted in a studio format. We will focus on the editing, design, layout, and marketing of *The Oval*, the undergraduate literary magazine here at The University of Montana. The opening portion of the class will focus on researching a sampling of comparable undergraduate literary journals from across the region and nation. We will also read, discuss, and develop responses to well-established, wide-circulation literary magazines. We will individually and collectively develop criteria for content and design and each student will be expected to document and defend their aesthetic for chosen criteria. The class will include the evaluation and selection of prose, poetry, and visual art submissions to *The Oval*. Students will have both independent and collaborative responsibilities within and outside of class. The latter portion of the semester will include producing *The Oval* on deadline, scheduling launch events, and working cooperatively with sponsors and partners including The Mansfield Library, ASUM, and University of Montana Printing and Graphics.

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. Responses and exercises will focus on specific manuscripts and/or 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 (Portfolio):** You will compile a portfolio including responses to texts, submissions in at least two genres, and critiques of publications.

Grading/Evaluation:

You will be evaluated based on your active participation in class, your exercises and assignments, and your portfolio. **DO NOT MISS MORE THAN ONE (1) CLASS 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 and timely completion of all assignments. These will include responses to readings, reviews, and manuscript evaluations. Assignments must be 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 final portfolio. Demonstrate the ability to incorporate course objectives, effectively critique manuscripts, and articulate and defend responses to submissions.

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/SA/VPASA/index.cfm/page/1321>

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:

Monday, February 21, Washington-Lincoln Holiday

April 4-8 (Monday-Friday) - Spring Vacation

Monday, May 9, 7:40-9:40 p.m., Final Meeting

Deadlines: Before the course has begun or during the first 3 weeks of the Spring or Fall Semester you can drop on Cyberbear. <http://cyberbear.umt.edu> After the end of the third week you need to obtain your advisor (undergraduate students only) and your instructor's signature. There will be a \$10 fee and you have until the end of the 30th instructional day to do this. After the 30th instructional day has passed, you must petition to drop. On the petition you will need to have your advisor, instructor and dean of your major's signature. There will be a \$10 fee. The deadline is the Friday before finals week.

Extracurricular Opportunities:

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.