CALVARY UNIVERSITY

Syllabus

15800 Calvary Road
Kansas City, MO 64147-1341

Course: **EN312-T & NT Creative Writing Fiction**
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Fall 2025 (Sessions 1-2)
Location: East Ed 105, TR 1:00 – 2:20am
Instructor: Dr. Tim Hange, tim.hange@calvary.edu

*About This Class: This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

*About Changes to this Syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course, but any changes made will only be done after clearly communicating the need for the change and the specific change to be made via in-class announcement and Canvas announcement.

I.   DESCRIPTION

Creative Writing: Fiction introduces students to the elements of short fiction, especially image, character, setting, plot, and voice. Students will read and discuss short fiction and practice creative writing skills in journal entries, from which they will develop into short story drafts. Rough drafts are critiqued in a workshop setting. The course culminates with the development of a polished portfolio. This course may be repeated once for credit. (Prerequisite: EN218).

II.   OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved. You will:
1. Understand and apply short story elements and conventions to written work. (PLO 1, 2; Assignments A–C).
2. Analyze elements and conventions of short stories in literary works (PLO 1, 3; Assignment B–D).
3. Demonstrate understanding of workshop skills (PLO 1–4; Assignment D).
4. Produce a polished portfolio of short stories that demonstrates understanding of short story elements and conventions (PLO 1–4; Assignment E).

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. You will be able to:

1. Apply advanced knowledge literary elements in fiction in your own writing.
2. Use journaling to get ideas for creative writing projects and develop creative writing skills.

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3. Review peer creative writing in a professional manner.
4. Revise, edit, and proofread work to produce a polished portfolio.

III.   REQUIRED MATERIALS

A. Required Textbooks
1. **The Bible** is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

2. Burroway, Janet and Elizabeth Stuckey-French. 2019. *Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft* (10th Edition). Pearson. ISBN-13: 978-0-226-61669-8 Price: $48.00 (new hardcover) 22.50 (electronic).

IV.   REQUIREMENTS

A. Attendance: Students are required to attend the class section for which they enroll: online students may attend via livestream or by watching the recorded lecture; in-class students must attend in class. In-class students may not choose to attend online without approval of the instructor.

Attendance is taken for all in-class and livestream students.

Online students who attend asynchronously are required to submit all in-class activities on Canvas in the "Participation Activities Week X" assignment prior to the next class period. Late Participation Activities are counted as absences.

B. Reading Assignments

1. Readings are assigned weekly (see Calendar below).
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of each reading assignment by answering prompts provided in Canvas.

C. Writing Journal

1. Students will keep a creative writing journal, used solely for this class, in which they will take notes, jot down ideas, brainstorm, and experiment with various creative writing elements and forms. Students are expected to spend at least 10 minutes a day, 5 days a week journaling.
2. This daily habit will generate a library of story ideas that students will develop into short story drafts.
3. Students will demonstrate completion of *The Writer's Sketchbook* activities

in their final Reflection Letter in the final portfolio (see E. Portfolio below).

D. Draft Workshops

1. Workshops are a chance to get peer feedback on drafts in progress. Six workshops will take place over the course of the cycle. Each workshop requires both a submission of a draft **and** participation in giving feedback. Students will submit 2 short stories, 2 poems, and 2 non-fiction essays (see Canvas for details).
2. Drafts are uploaded on the Canvas Discussion Board. Both online and in-class students will then review **each** student's draft and provide feedback based on the Discussion Board's instructions (see Canvas).

E. Portfolio

1. The Portfolio contains three **polished** pieces that demonstrate the sub-genres covered in class. Students may select any of the drafts they submitted to workshop for inclusion in the portfolio (see Canvas for specific requirements of sub-genres).
2. Short stories included in the portfolio must have gone through a workshop and been revised. Working with a tutor in the Clark Academic Center will add another layer of polish to the story. **Drafts that have not been revised will be given 0 points. Meaningful revision must have taken place.**
3. Along with each portfolio piece, students will include a self-review that assesses their work (see Canvas).
4. After the portfolio pieces have been selected and reviewed, students will write a reflection letter that details how their writing has changed over the course of the semester (see Canvas for details).
5. The portfolio is submitted on Canvas like all other assignments.
6. Students will present their portfolio during the last week of class. In-class students will present live in class. Online students will submit a video recording of their presentation, which will be played in class. These presentations will be handled as if students were pitching to an editorial board. Details for this assignment may be found in Canvas.

V.   METHODS

A.   Lectures, Textbook Reading, Additional Required Reading, Discussing, Writing, Workshopping, Portfolio.

B.   **Grading**

Workshop Participation (12 x 25)	300 points
Participation	200 points
Reading Prompts (8 x 25)	200 points
Portfolio	
6 Short Stories 3100)	
Self-Review of each Portfolio piece (50)	
Portfolio Reflection (50)	300 points
Portfolio Presentation	50 points
Total:	**1,050 points**

VI.   Course Schedule: Detailed in Canvas

IX.   NOTICES
1. Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.
2. The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
3. *Plagiarism* is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification. Required class research papers must be original and not used for credit for any other class, (high school, college, or graduate/seminary), or resubmitted when retaking a course, without the professor's permission.
4. Style Guide: All class papers must follow the MLA style according to the MLA Handbook, 8th edition.