

Thesis

Student: Kyra Berkheiser

Faculty Member: Nick Mamatas

Course Number: WRT584-1 and 2

Semester and Year: Spring 2015

Credit Hours: 4

Subtitle for Course: Collection of short stories

Course Description: The student will finish her thesis: a collection of horror short stories and flash fiction 150 pages, double spaced, MLA format. The stories explore different interpretations of monsters in various cultures, whether supernatural or psychological in nature. The advisor will provide overall feedback and line edits.

Requirements:

January 25	Two stories due
February 1	Draft of thesis proposal due
February 8	Two stories due
February 15	Thesis proposal due
February 22	Two stories due
March 8	Two stories due
March 15	Two stories due
March 29	Two stories due
April 5	Final thesis review
April 24	Final thesis submission

Evaluation:

The grade will be determined by on-time submission of assignments and the thesis project.

Interactions:

Emails on due dates listed above and as necessary.

Learning Outcomes:

- Create a publishable-quality, book-length manuscript of short fiction.
- Become familiar with the revision process.
- Learn how to compile works into a cohesive collection, including linked short stories, individual short stories and flash fiction.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious academic offenses and will be treated as such in this course and this program. Students should familiarize themselves with the university's policy on plagiarism in the student handbook, available online. The penalty for plagiarism in the MFA program is course failure and, in most cases, dismissal from the program. Any academic dishonesty will be reported to the appropriate Dean(s) and other university officials.

Department of Writing, Linguistics, and Creative Process Policy on Academic Honesty

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<https://www.wcsu.edu/catalogs/undergraduate/academic-services-procedures/>.

In the specific context of writing, we highlight some particular problems with plagiarism. Plagiarism violations include:

- Submitting material that is not one's own.
- Using material – words and/or ideas – directly from a source without proper citation and attribution.
- Submitting a project written for one course, past or present, as new material in another course without the explicit permission of the instructor.

In accordance with University policy, plagiarism on an assignment may be grounds for failing the course and the filing of an Academic Dishonesty Report, which will escalate the situation to higher administrative decisions.

We encourage students to speak with us openly and honestly regarding any questions surrounding academic honesty and plagiarism.

Accommodations

Any student who needs accommodations of any kind to complete this course may make arrangement through AccessAbility Services, <http://www.wcsu.edu/accessibility/>, (203) 837-8225.

Thesis/PDE - WRT 584 – 01/02

Student: Charlotte Dabrowski

Faculty Member: Dan Pope

Semester and Year: Spring 2017

Course Description: The student will complete a publishable novel by April 28. She will maintain contact with both her primary and secondary thesis advisors and revise her novel until she and her advisors deem it ready for submission.

Requirements:

The student will:

- Write diligently in order to complete her thesis and other requirements by the deadline.
- Revise and fine-tune thesis according to her mentors' recommendations.
- Maintain constant communication with both mentors throughout the semester.
- Complete thesis on time.
- There is no internship or practicum required for this course.

Interactions and Evaluation: The instructor will read each submission and provide critical feedback. Student will email her mentor all drafts of the novel and any other updates according to the schedule. Student and professor will communicate mostly by email, but phone may be included. Each submission will not be graded, but the mentor will provide an evaluation per submission and provide a final grade at the end of the semester. Consistent communication will be monitored and have pertinence to the student's final grade.

Due Dates:

1/23 – Semester Begins

2/1 – First draft of thesis proposal, including prospectus and bibliography

2/5 – 25 pages of novel due

2/10 – Final draft of thesis proposal

2/15 – Thesis proposal to be sent to committee

2/22 – First complete draft of thesis

3/1 - 4/1 – Revision of thesis

4/1 – Final draft of thesis due to primary and secondary advisor for one last look

4/17 - 4/28 – Submit thesis to MFA coordinator and committee

5/12 – Semester ends

Learning Outcomes:

Student should:

- Gather all the fundamentals of the writing process learned over the course of three semesters to put towards a publishable thesis.
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses in her writing and alter them accordingly.
- Understand the importance of deadlines.
- Complete a thesis that is publishable, presentable, and commendable.

Copy Editing & Drafts: The MFA in Creative and Professional Writing is based on developing writers who are emerging into the world of publishing, professional communications, and education. Each course is a graduate level course with expectations of high quality. All work submitted to this class will be free of copy editing issues including typos, incorrect word choice, grammatical errors, punctuation errors, and other erroneous oversights. In this course, work that is viewed by the instructor as “First” or “Rough Draft” will receive an incomplete. Students should revise and resubmit for a grade. You may rewrite as often as you would like. If work is not resubmitted, incomplete work will be converted to zeroes at the final grading period.

Plagiarism: From the WCSU Graduate Catalog: The most common academic honesty violations are cheating and plagiarism. Cheating and plagiarism are complex issues, therefore we offer the following definitions. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Submitting material that is not one’s own
- Using information or devices that are not allowed by the faculty member.
- Obtaining and/or using unauthorized material.
- Fabricating information.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- Directly quoting others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them.
- Using sources of information (published or unpublished) without identifying them. This can be one’s own past work.
- Paraphrasing materials or ideas of others without identifying the sources.

For more on plagiarism, policies, and resolutions, visit the catalog at:

<https://www.wcsu.edu/catalogs/graduate/2011-2013/WCSU-Graduate%20Catalog%202011-13.pdf>

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Thesis

Student: Melissa Gordon
Faculty Member: Joe Ahearn
Course Number: WRT584
Semester and Year: Spring 2015
Credit Hours: 4

Course Description: The student will complete a book-length poetry collection in publishable form as judged by the MFA program advisors, coordinator, and committee. She will create a proposal and manuscript with consultation from Brian Clements, thesis director, and second reader, Joe Ahearn (listed hereafter as advisors).

Requirements: The student will complete four tasks.

1. Complete a book-length manuscript of poetry (minimum 60 pages)
2. Compose a thesis proposal: prospectus/artist's statement (1,000-1,500 words), abstract, and bibliography.
3. Submit the final thesis project, including introduction, abstract, manuscript, and bibliography, as described in the Thesis Advisement Guide.
4. Read *The War of Art* by Steven Pressfield (190 pp.)

Requirements/Assignments:

1. Thesis Proposal
2. Thesis Manuscript. Submitted 1st Draft prior to syllabus creation so focus is on 2nd Draft through Final submission.
3. Final Thesis Project
4. Read *The War of Art* by Steven Pressfield

Task	Date Due	Notes
1 st Draft Proposal	Friday Aug 28	To advisors
Advisor Feedback 1 st Draft Proposal	Sept 3	
2 nd Draft of Manuscript	Friday Sept 4	RESTRUCTURE AND EDIT FOCUS. Will include a draft of all poems for inclusion and will clearly mark changes made since 1 st Draft submission.
2 nd Draft Proposal	Monday Sept 7	To advisors
Advisor Feedback 2 nd Draft Proposal	Friday Sept 11	
Submit Final Proposal	Tuesday Sept 15	Student submission and advisor sign off
Advisor Feedback 2 nd Draft of Manuscript	by Friday Sept 25	Comments on structure and individual poems.

3 rd Draft of Manuscript	Friday Oct 9	STRUCTURE AND EDIT FOCUS. Will include draft of all poems and will clearly mark changes from 2 nd Draft.
Advisor Feedback on 3 rd Draft of Manuscript	October 23	Comments on structure and individual poems.
<i>The Art of War</i> by Steven Pressfield	October 23	
4 th Draft of Manuscript	Monday Nov 16	Structure and all poems should be considered as close to final as possible. Changes clearly marked from 3 rd Draft.
Advisor Feedback on 4 th Draft of Manuscript (FINAL FEEDBACK)	Wednesday Nov 25	
FINAL THESIS PROJECT SUBMISSION	Monday Dec 7 by NOON	Student submission and advisor sign off

Evaluation

Mentor will provide feedback for response papers within two weeks of receipt.

The student will be evaluated on the quality and timely submission of academic work. She will also be evaluated on the quality of the mechanics, style, and ideas.

The student will be evaluated both on the effectiveness of her writing and on the quality of insights presented in her work. All submitted work should be proofread, spell-checked and well edited. Submitted work should provide evidence that the student not only completed assignments, but also that she reflected on the meaning and value of those assignments. All work should meet basic academic requirements (MLA style) for grammar, punctuation, format and syntax. Submitted work will be returned for rewrites if it does not display these qualities. Each rewrite needed will result in a lowering of the possible grade by one letter point. Assignments must be submitted in a format that will allow the mentor to use Microsoft Word's commenting feature.

Grades will be based on:

- a) Lack of mechanical problems with the manuscripts submitted, and
- b) Clarity, precision, and originality of ideas presented.

Notice that 25% of the student's grade in this course will be based on the student's diligence in copyediting and proofreading manuscripts and papers. All work submitted, including creative work, should meet a high standard of finish, and should be free of misspellings, grammatical errors, punctuation errors, and problems with diction. All work submitted, including creative work, should meet MLA style requirements.

The instructor will, when requested by the student, offer an estimate of the student's grade for the course and, if necessary, provide suggestions for improvement.

Interactions

The student will submit all assignments by the due date via email. Advisor feedback will be sent via email by the dates listed. Additionally, feedback given on the manuscript will be discussed via phone call or in person as needed.

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Thesis

Student: Camellia Mukherjee
Faculty Member: Brian Clements

Course Number: WRT 584
Semester and Year: Fall 2016
Credit Hours: 4

Course Description:

The student will finish her thesis, a memoir about the relationship and status of women in India over four generations. She will work on revisions of essays already written as well as new material.

Requirements:

Thesis proposal submission schedule:

August 29	First draft of proposal including structure of the memoir
September 5	Revision of proposal
September 12	Final draft to instructor
September 15	Final thesis proposal due

Schedule for thesis submission:

August 24	New work I (25-30 pages or more)
August 31-Sept 7	Revision of New work I
September 7	New work II (25-30 pages or more)
September 14-Sept 21	Revision of New work II
September 21	New work III (25-30 pages or more)
September 28	1 st draft of complete thesis (rough) including revision for New work III
September 30-October 16	I will be in India during this time
October 26	Revision of half of 1 st draft of complete thesis
November 9	Revision of other half of 1 st draft
November 18-Nov 25	2 nd draft of complete thesis
December 2	Final thesis submission

Interactions:

The student will receive written feedback on the submitted writing shortly after each due date, either through markups sent in the mail or track changes through email. In addition, the student and instructor will have phone conversations to follow up on these comments and at other times as needed.

Camellia Mukherjee: camellia2190@gmail.com
(563) 564 6574

Brian Clements: clements@wcsu.edu

Evaluation:

Final grade will be determined by:

33% On-time submission of assignments per the schedule in this syllabus
33% Demonstrated engagement in the writing and revision process

34% Student's engagement with instructor suggestions and quality of decision making in organization of manuscript and revisions.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, student will have:

- demonstrated a firm grasp of creative nonfiction techniques
- revised previous material and incorporated it with newer material
- compiled a publishable, book-length memoir

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