

Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the Instructor during the first day of class.

The American University of Rome
English Writing, Literature, and Publishing Program

Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title: Fiction Writing
Course Number: ENG 300
Credits & hours: 3 credits – 3 hours
Pre/Co-Requisites: ENG 208 or equivalent or permission of the instructor

Course description

This course will focus on the elements of fiction and the creative process to help students in the generation of several different forms of fiction writing, including flash fiction, the short story, and longer fictional narratives. Through the examination of professional examples of creative fiction, discussion, and critiques, students will become acquainted with the techniques and tools used to build a strong portfolio of literary pieces.

Required Textbook (subject to change)

- Burroway, Janet. Writing Fiction. Boston, Ma. Pearson Publications, 2011
ISBN – 978-0205792306

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. read more critically
2. engage with the elements of writing fiction: structure, character, plot, style, language, and theme, and apply them creatively in writing.
3. apply re-writing and editing skills to their own and others' writing.
4. work effectively in writing workshops and give suggestions and critical feedback to help others improve their writing skills.

Course Learning Activities

- Participation in daily discussions
- Writer's Notebook and Written responses to class readings
- Three short stories and one poem
- Oral Presentation and Lead discussion on a story in Writing Fiction
- Final Portfolio

Assessment tools

Class participation	20%
Writer's Notebook	20%
Three short stories and one poem (5% each)	20%
Writing Fiction	10%
Final Portfolio	30%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Reading
Week 1	Class Introduction Creating Stories Reading fiction	Chapter One Writing Fiction Assign stories
Week 2	Showing and Telling Two-page story due On-Site Class	Chapter Two Writing Fiction pages 21-72
Week 3	Characters	Chapter Three Writing Fiction pages 73-115
Week 4	Workshop second short story – four pages	
Week 5	Characters Second story due	Chapter Four Writing Fiction pages 116-147 pages 147-163
Week 6	Setting	Chapter Five Writing Fiction pages 164-207 “Twin Beds in Rome” by John Updike – handout
Week 7	Workshop third story, four pages	
Week 8	Fictional Time Third story due	Chapter Six Writing Fiction pages 208-246
Week 9	Plot	Chapter Seven Writing Fiction pages 247-299
Week 10		Handouts
Week 11	Point of View	Chapter Eight Writing Fiction pages 300-339 “My Side of the Matter” by Truman Capote
Week 12	Workshop Final Stories	
Week 13	Revision Hand in Final Portfolio & Writer’s Notebook	Chapter Nine – Writing Fiction pages 340-396
Week 14	FINAL EXAM	

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.

Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		