

Writing in the Primary Genre III

Student: Rudolf Okonkwo

Faculty Member: Mark Sundeen

Course Number: WRT577

Semester and Year: Spring 2009

Credit Hours: 4

Subtitle for Course: Perfecting the Art of telling a Simple Story from Beginning to End

Course Description: Student will learn through reading and writing the art of telling simple stories without the use of twists, complex techniques and other mechanizations that enhance stories but drive readers toward solving the riddles rather than following character's struggles and moral choices. Student will focus on moral universal power of a story. As part of the reading to be done, student will look at how great writers like Ernest Hemingway and George Orwell used language to develop their stories. Student will revise past works examining what worked and what did not with the aim of presenting a perfect copy to mentor. As a guide to writing a more perfect copy, student will refer to Strunk and White's *Elements of Style*.

Requirements: The student will read the following works.

- *Elements of Style* – William Strunk Jr.
- *Old Man and the Sea* – Ernest Hemingway
- *Politics and the English Language* – George Orwell
- *Shooting an Elephant*– George Orwell
- *Why I Write* – George Orwell
- *Winesburg, Ohio* – Sherwood Anderson
- *Dubliners* by James Joyce

Reading Schedule-

January 18- February 2nd – *Politics and the English Language/Why I Write/Shooting an Elephant*– George Orwell

February 3rd - February 23rd – *Old Man and the Sea* – Ernest Hemingway

February 24th – March 16th – *Elements of Style*

March 17th – April 6th – *Dubliners* – James Joyce

April 7th – April 27th – *Winesburg, Ohio* – Sherwood Anderson

Writing Requirements for the course include: Student will write a short story every three weeks and revise the story following mentor's review. Stories will be approximately 10-20 pages in length. For the course, a total of three stories would be written and revised.

The due dates and conference days are as followed:

January 23, 2009	January 26 –Jan 30
February 13, 2009	February 16 - 20
March 6, 2009	March 9 th – 13th
March 27, 2009	March 30 – April 3rd
April 17, 2009	April 20 – April 24
May 8, 2009	May 11 th – May 15

Evaluation: The student will be evaluated on the quality of short stories submitted and the revisions made to the final copy. Evaluation will also be based on phone conference discussions.

Interactions: Student will submit his stories by email to the mentor before the deadline stated above. Student will make appointment during the office hours for a phone conference with the mentor on days stated above.

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With the guidance of a faculty mentor, the student will research, develop, and write a customized project or projects for the course.

Student: William Dilella

Faculty Member: Mark Sundeen

Course Number: ENG 577

Semester and Year: Spring 2009

Credit Hours: 4

Subtitle for Course: Fiction Writing, Novels

Course Description: Student will submit new work for continuing novel effort as well as updates and edits for critiquing over the course of the semester; while reading works from selected authors to improve his overall quality of writing, and develop a writing style/practice.

Requirements: List specific requirements for completion of the course

In listing the requirements answer the following questions:

- Student will submit fictional works to complete draft of novel and submissions will be new material or revised work. New work will be approximately 10 pages and revised work will be approx. 20 pages in length.
- Phone conversations after each submittal.
- Student will submit 2 Response Papers on the readings on the first and second submittals.

Due Dates:

Jan 7: Final Syllabus

Jan 23 {Response Paper}

Feb 13

Mar 6 {Response Paper}

Mar 27

Apr 17

May 8

Contact Days:

Jan 26-Jan 30

Feb 16-20

Mar 9-13

Mar 30-Apr 3

Apr 20-24

May 11-15

Each date corresponds to one assignment, either 10 pages of new work or at least 20 pages of edits.

Interactions:

Each student will make an appointment during office hours for a phone conference. The best times are generally between 1 and 5 PM Mountain Time, but that time slot is flexible. Because of travel and writing schedule, instructor may not be able to respond to emails and phone calls between work-week, so if work is submitted late instructor may not be able to respond.

All manuscripts should be sent as email attachments, double-spaced, 12 point font, with author's name and page number on each page. If instructor does not acknowledge receiving student's file within 48 hours, send a reminder email or phone call, in case the email was lost. If student is sending more than 25 pages, please print and mail to instructor's home address. For each assignment instructor will send a written response via email and hold a phone conference.

Evaluation:

As MFA candidates, students are expected to submit work free from errors of grammar, usage, spelling and punctuation. Computerized spelling and grammar checks will not suffice. Also, be advised that agents and editors who encounter such errors in the first page or so will simply stop reading. All students should read and refer to a Strunk and White's *Elements of Style* or a similar guide for grammar rules.

Contact Info:

Mark Sundeen

Email: marksundeen@gmail.com

Cell: 435.260.2466

Reading list

Strunk and White – *The Elements of Style*

Earnest Hemingway- *A Farewell to Arms, Across the River and Into the Trees*

Bret Easton Ellis- *Less Than Zero*

Writing in Primary Genre III

Student: Stephen Okawa

Faculty Mentor: Don Snyder

Course Number: 41755

Semester and Year: Spring 2009

Credit Hours: 4

Subtitle for Course: "Adapting from Book to Screenplay"

Course Description: In this course the student will write a feature length screenplay using another source. He will learn to extract the necessary elements from a book and turn that in to a three act structure. The point is not merely to take word-for-word from the book, but to find the key plot points, the main reversals, and the find what the story is about. In addition the student will also learn to remain true to the author's original intent, which will be outlined in the synopsis.

Requirements: The student will complete a screenplay, and will study two scripts: (1) A script that was adapted from a book (2) A script similar in theme to the screenplay the student is writing. In addition, the student will complete a synopsis of the source material: "The Rug Merchant."

Evaluation: Student will be graded based on work completed and the frequency of communication kept between him and the mentor. The student must show he has completed the tasks required of this course.

Reading List:

Adaptation by Charlie Kaufman

"The Rug Merchant" by Phillip Lopate

Happiness by Todd Solondz

Interaction: The student and mentor will communicate via email, and if agreed, by phone.

Schedule:

Semester Begins - January 20, 2009

Synopsis Due - January 21, 2009

First Ten Pages - February 5, 2009

Finish Script - February 5 - May 22

Semester Ends - May 23, 2009