

Course Name – You Lie When You Write the Truth: Introduction to Writing Fiction

Course Code – LH-E-698

Credits- 4

Faculty Name - Dr. Satyaki Kanjilal

Faculty Biography (maximum three to four sentences) -

Dr. Satyaki Kanjilal graduated with a Ph.D. in English literature from the University of Nevada-Reno and an MFA in creative writing from Florida International University.

His creative work has appeared in *Jaggery*, *Mobius: The Journal for Social Change* and *Boston Accent Lit*. Dr Satyaki Kanjilal is revising a collection of short stories *Road to Gede and Other Short Stories*.

Course Description-

Welcome to Introduction to Writing Fiction—where your wildest ideas will finally get the structure they deserve. If you’ve ever wondered how authors seem to effortlessly weave worlds and craft characters that leap off the page, you’re in the right place. This course will give you the keys to the literary kingdom—provided, of course, you’re willing to unlock the door and step inside.

In this class, we’ll tackle the essential elements of fiction writing: plot, characterisation, point of view, dialogue, and setting. You’ll learn how to build a narrative from the ground up, creating a plot that is both compelling and meaningful. You will learn you how to shape characters who don’t just sit there like paper dolls, but instead breathe, move, and make readers care about what happens to them. From there, we’ll dive into the fine art of point of view—because let’s face it, if you can’t decide *who* is telling the story, things might get a little confusing.

But it doesn’t end there. Dialogue? Oh, we’ll make sure your characters speak with the same flair that they think with. No more wooden lines; your characters will engage in conversations that crackle with life. And setting—because where the story takes place is just as important as who’s telling it and what’s happening. Learn how to craft a backdrop that enhances your story and draws the reader into the world you’ve created.

Throughout the semester, you’ll be writing, revising, and reading each other’s work (with a generous helping of constructive feedback). You’ll get to practise your new skills, experiment with different styles, and most importantly, find your own voice as a writer. You’ll also be given the opportunity to read works from some of the best storytellers to understand how the pros do it.

Now, we know you're all busy, so there won't be any long, exhausting essays (unless, of course, that's what you're into). The final evaluation will consist of either a flash fiction piece written in class (we'll give you a prompt and watch you work your magic), or an in-class scene reading assignment. Either way, you'll have a chance to showcase what you've learned in a format that's just the right amount of challenge.

By the end of the course, you'll not only understand the mechanics of fiction, but you'll also have gained the confidence to take your stories from your head to the page. So, bring your imagination, your sharpest pen, and a sense of humour—we're about to dive deep into the art of fiction writing. Let the stories begin!

In this class, you will be expected to read extensively and write frequently. If you are averse to reading and writing, this may not be an ideal class for you. This course will follow a workshop model, which is an integral part of its pedagogy. If you fail the course, you will not be able to take a resit exam for this course as it will not be possible to arrange the workshops for a single student. The only way you can fail the course is if you do not turn in all the assignments.

Some specific goals for this course include:

- Learn to distinguish between expository and imaginative writing
- Learn to recognise a range of authors, styles, and genres
- Develop an informed vocabulary for discussing prose techniques, both in your own work and in the work of others
- Strengthen your reading, writing, and revision skills as a prose writer.
- Be able to create multiple scenes from a short story that showcase sufficient understanding of plot, characterisation, setting, point of View (and tense, i.e. past, present), tone, and theme
- Gain methods of generating ideas for stories
- Dabble with AI tools to generate ideas
- Recognise the methods and strategies that successful, published authors use in their own fiction
- Learn how to write a flash fiction

Prerequisites- None

Scheme of Evaluation and Grading -

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:±

Assignment	Grade Percentage
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Quizzes	5% of the total grade
In-class Writing Assignments*	10% of the total grade
Chat GPT Assignment*	5 % of the total grade
Chat GPT Workshop*	5% of the total grade
Short Story Conference	10% of the total grade
Workshops*	25% of the total grade
In-class Flash Fiction Writing End Term Exam	10% of the total grade
Writer's Note + Workshop Draft	4% + 6% = 10% of the total grade
A Letter to the Instructor/Reflection Piece + Revised Draft of the Short Story	5% + 15% = 20% of the total grade.

*** You need to be in class to get credit for these assignments. You cannot get credit for a workshop or an in-class writing assignment if you are not present throughout the entire class period.**

±This is a rough estimate of the grade distribution. This grade distribution may change based on the new regulation as mandated by the Exams office or for some other unforeseen reason.