

English 312/001
Creative Writing Workshop: Fiction
Tuesday 4:00 - 6:50
Woodburn Hall - Room 109

Professor: Glenn Taylor
Office: G13 Colson Hall
Hours: T/W 12:00-2:00 and by appointment
Phone: 293-4547
Email: maurice.taylor@mail.wvu.edu

Books/ Materials

- **Naming the World* – Bret Anthony Johnston, editor
- *Pocket binder or folder
- *Copy costs and material

Requirements

*Two fiction manuscripts (stories or novel excerpts), or roughly 25-45 pages (total pg. count for semester), turned in on time: **(60%)**. This means that each time you hand out manuscripts, you should be handing out somewhere between 12 and 25 pages.

*Typed or written critiques of fellow student manuscripts: **(15%)**.

*Completion of one-page weekly exercises: **(15%)**.

*Participation in discussion of assigned readings and workshop discussions: **(10%)**.

Attendance Policy

*Because this class is discussion-based, with in-class planning and writing, regular attendance is essential. I expect you to attend every class meeting. If you accumulate more than two absences, I will begin lowering your final grade.

Important Guidelines

Here's how it will work, week to week:

*As you leave class on Wednesday, you'll be tasked with four responsibilities.

You'll be given, *to read*:

- 1) **a short instructional reading** (handout)
- 2) **a story or novel excerpt** (handout).

Please mark these up and be thoroughly prepared to discuss.

In addition, you'll be given, *to write*:

- 3) **a one-page Exercise**

You'll also be given, *to read and write upon*:

- 4) **two student manuscripts.**

*Your own manuscripts **must be turned in on your scheduled date**. You must have a copy for each class member, and **the work must be proofread and polished, double-spaced, and page numbered.**

*Critiques of student manuscripts must be clear, readable, and substantial. Participation in discussion must be based on mutual respect for difference in tastes and interests. We will all be allowed to best speak our minds if we create a space in which no select few dominate workshop discussions.

ENGL 312

SPRING 2014 COURSE CALENDAR

*This calendar is tentative. I will announce revisions as needed. *NTW* refers to *Naming the World* by Bret Anthony Johnston.

January 14

ENTERTAIN AND INSTRUCT

Introductions to the course and each other; set up schedule

Russo handout, *NTW* Introduction, pgs. xv-xx,

Assigned for next class: Ron Rash story, *NTW* 3-6, complete one exercise of your choice

January 21

ORIGINS OF MATERIAL

Discuss handout, exercises

Assigned for next class: Gilb/Johnston handout, Torres excerpt, *NTW* 9-14, complete one exercise of your choice

January 28

A WRITER MUST READ

Discuss readings

Workshop student story

Assigned for next class: Lu Chi handout, Marquez excerpt, *NTW* 22-24, complete one exercise of your choice

February 4

WHO/WHAT ARE THESE STORIES WE TELL? (CHARACTER AND FATE)

Discuss readings

Workshop student story

Assigned for next class: Vonnegut handout, Portis excerpt, *NTW* 67-70, 75-77, complete one exercise of your choice

February 11

PLACE (SETTING)

Discuss readings

Workshop student story

Assigned for next class: various author handout, Taylor story, *NTW* 261-265, 266-268 complete one exercise of your choice.

February 18

WHAT HAPPENS (PLOT)

Discuss readings

Workshop student story

Assigned for next class: Dufresne handout, Binder story, *NTW* 157-161, 166-169, complete one exercise of your choice.

February 25

TELLING (P.O.V.)

Discuss readings

Workshop student story

Assigned for next class: Wilkinson excerpt, *NTW* 119-122, 129-131, complete one exercise of your choice

March 4

TELLING OF A DIFFERENT SORT (VOICE)

Discuss readings

Workshop student story

Assigned for next class: Schwartz handout, Adamson excerpt, *NTW* 38-40, complete one exercise of your choice

-----SPRING BREAK-----

March 18

PEOPLE TALK (DIALOGUE)

Discuss readings

Workshop student story

Assigned for next class: Dufresne handout, McCarthy excerpt, *NTW* 215-220, 238-242, complete one exercise of your choice

March 25

A BREAK FROM THE ORGANIZED APPROACH

Discuss readings

Workshop student story

Assigned for next class: Bukowski handout, excerpt to be announced

April 1

BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS

Discuss readings

Workshop student story

Assigned for next class: Spark handout, Galeano story, *NTW* 286-287, complete one exercise of your choice.

April 8

BLOCKED? (WRITING THROUGH OBSTACLES)

Discuss readings

Workshop student story

Assigned for next class: handout to be announced, Fawkes story, *NTW* 25-27, complete one exercise of your choice.

April 15

DRAFTS (REWRITING)

Discuss readings

Workshop student story

Assigned for next class: handout to be announced, story to be announced, *NTW* 293-296, 305-308, complete one exercise of your choice.

April 22

CRAFT & DISCIPLINE

Discuss readings

Workshop student story

Last day advice for your future as writers