

English 212  
*Creative Writing Syllabus*

**Fall 2018**

T/Th 8:30-9:45 CKH-D 111
Instructor: Kanza Javed
Office: 332 Colson Hall <a href="mailto:kj0019@mix.wvu.edu">kj0019@mix.wvu.edu</a>
Text: All readings are online and will be provided through e-campus. While there is no textbook, you are expected to print the copies, annotate them and bring them to class on respected days.

***In English 212,***

We will delve into the craft and the art involved in writing fiction. We will examine the elements of storytelling (action, description, dialogue, thought, and exposition), read a variety of short fiction, learn how to workshop a short story and of course, write. You will benefit from in-depth readings and constructive critical support in a class that fosters a community of writers.

**Requirements:**

***Participation in Discussion:***

Discussion based classes are more successful and beneficial when you participate in them. We will work to develop a vocabulary to allow us to consider, discuss, and reflect on creative writing. You are expected to contribute to class discussions **at least once per day**. The best discussions allow room for everyone to participate.

***Write:***

We will be writing every day in class and of course, you will be working on your separate short fictions.

***Workshop:***

We will be workshopping our short stories. This is a task which requires patience, general, insightful and thoughtful critique that will help a classmate's writing.

***Share:***

Get ready to share your thoughts and writings. You are still required to meet deadlines. Give yourself ample time to write, revise, and make these decisions. If you are unsure about something you write, feel free to contact me before it's due.

### ***Late Assignments***

Assignments are due (printed, stapled, and ready to hand in) at the beginning of class. If an assignment is due online, it is due online by the beginning of class unless otherwise noted. I will verify time stamps. In-class assignments and quizzes that are missed due to lateness or absence cannot be made up. All late work will be penalized unless extenuating circumstances exist (determined by me).

### ***Assignments Overview and Grading***

Creative Work (70% total):

- Two Workshops (20% each = 40%)

All submissions must be original, typed, proofread, and submitted on time.

3 short stories (10-15 pages each)

- Writing Exercises (10%)

All submissions must be original, typed, proofread, and submitted on time.

Writing Activities

Freewrites

Quizzes

- Final Portfolio (20%)

Reflective Critical Preface and Revisions of Both Workshopped Pieces

Critical Work (20%):

- **Peer responses throughout the semester**

o Each response should be single-spaced, typed comments of about a half-page to a page per submission. Response that don't meet the length minimum or follow the template will receive deductions.

Participation (10%):

- **Participation, Professionalism, and Lateness**

o These include turning in materials on time, **consistently** adding thoughtful and meaningful comments during workshops and not simply being in attendance, not texting (especially not during your peers' workshops!!!), not exceeding the 3 absences, etc.

### **Additional Help**

I am always available to help you with any questions regarding the course. However, if you would like additional support:

#### **Eberly Writing Studio**

The Eberly Writing Studio is a resource that can support you in all aspects of the writing process. You can visit [speakwrite.wvu.edu/writingstudio](http://speakwrite.wvu.edu/writingstudio) for more information.

**Location:** Colson Hall G02

**Hours:**

- Mon.- Thurs.: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Fri.: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**To Schedule an Appointment:**

- Call 304.293.5788 or stop by Colson G02 or visit [speakwrite.wvu.edu/writingstudio](http://speakwrite.wvu.edu/writingstudio)

- Thursday, December 6—Last Day of Classes

<p><b>Course Schedule</b> <b>This schedule is subject to change; additional readings and activities may be added as they become relevant.</b></p>
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<p>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August</p> <p>What is a story?</p>	<p>Introductions Handing out handout and story for next class Signup sheet for workshop</p> <p>Main Elements of Fiction (if time allows)</p> <p><b>Homework:</b></p> <p><b>Readings for Tuesday's:</b> "A Tell-Tale Heart" Lamott's <i>Shitty First Drafts</i> -Write a list of eight things the story is about.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 2:</u> 21-23<sup>rd</sup> August</p> <p><i>Theme: Perspective and Narrative Point of View</i> <i>Discuss: First, Second and Third perspectives.</i> <i>Reliable/unreliable narration</i></p>	<p>Tuesday: Discuss the readings (<i>A tell-tale heart</i> and <i>Shitty first drafts</i>)</p> <p>Read "The Yellow Wallpaper" for class on Thursday</p> <p>Write a short reading response to "The Yellow Wallpaper" and upload it on Ecampus before class. I will provide a sample of reading response with instructive annotations.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 3</u> 28- 30<sup>th</sup> August</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Theme: Conflict/Plot/Arc</i></p>	<p><b>For Tuesday:</b> Read “A Temporary Matter” Watch <i>The Politics of Fiction</i> Tedtalk By Elif Shafak</p> <p><b>For Thursday</b> Workshop</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 4</u> 4- 6<sup>th</sup> September</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Theme: Showing vs Telling</i> <i>Descriptive Writing</i> <i>Setting</i></p>	<p><b>For Tuesday:</b> Watch Tedtalk <i>How to write descriptively</i> - Nalo Hopkinson Descriptive Exercise due on Ecampus before Read short story: “A Good Man is Hard to Find”</p> <p><b>For Thursday:</b> Workshop Do some in-class writing (depends on time)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 5</u> 11-13<sup>th</sup> September</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Theme: The craft of Character</i></p>	<p><b>For Tuesday:</b> Watch the video “The Conflict Within (Shoptalk by Brando Skyhorse)” Read “Leopard” (Story in <i>The New Yorker</i>) Read Excerpt from <i>The Ministry of Utmost Happiness</i> (in <i>The Guardian</i>) Read 25 Reasons I Hate Your Main Character</p> <p><b>For Thursday:</b> Workshop</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 5</u> 18-20<sup>th</sup> September</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Workshop Week</p>	<p><b>For Tuesday:</b> Workshop three student’s short stories</p> <p><b>Due: Craft Talk on Ecampus before Thursday</b></p> <p><b>For Thursday:</b> Workshop</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 5</u> 25-27<sup>th</sup> September</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>History/Background Story of a Character</i></p>	<p><b>For Tuesday:</b> <b>Quiz (will be discussed. Not certain yet)</b></p> <p>Read “Don’t Look Back: Problem with Backstory.”</p> <p>Read “I Wasn't Born Yesterday: The Beauty of Backstory” Read “The Approximate Size of my Favorite Tumour”</p> <p><b>For Thursday:</b></p> <p>Workshop</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 6</u> 2 to 4<sup>th</sup> October</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Writing about “The other” and other sensitive, controversial issues/themes</i></p> <p><b>Thursday, October 4 by noon—Mid-Semester Reports Due</b></p>	<p><b>For Tuesday:</b> “The Silence: The Legacy of Childhood Trauma” (The New Yorker) Watch Tedtalk “The Danger of a Single Story”</p> <p>In Class Writing Day</p> <p><b>For Thursday:</b></p> <p>In Class Flash Fiction (if time allows)</p> <p>Workshop</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 6</u> 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Craft Talk from Students (Theme subject to change) TBA</i></p>	<p><b>Tuesday:</b> Ted Talk, “How to make your story suspenseful?” Craft Talk from Students</p> <p><b>For Thursday:</b> Workshop stories</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 7</u> 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October</p>	<p><b>Tuesday:</b> In Class Writing Day</p> <p><b>Thursday:</b> Workshop</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 8</u> 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Theme: Suspense/Tension</i></p>	<p><b>For Tuesday:</b> Read 'Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?'</p> <p><b>Thursday:</b> Workshop</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 9</u> 30<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Writing Endings</i></p>	<p>Tuesday: TBA</p> <p>Thursday: Workshop</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 10</u> 6 November 8<sup>th</sup> November</p>	<p>Tuesday: No class (election holiday)</p> <p>Thursday: Workshop</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Week 11</u> 13<sup>th</sup> November 15<sup>th</sup> November</p> <p>Saturday, November 17 thru Sunday, November 25—Fall Recess</p>	<p>Tuesday: Workshop</p> <p>Thursday: Workshop</p>
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Week 11  
27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November

*Revisions Week / Compiling Portfolio/ Individual  
conferences till 6<sup>th</sup> December*

Final Portfolio Due: 6<sup>th</sup> December