Moberly Area Community College

Common Syllabus

LAL115 Introduction to Fiction Writing

Current Term

Instructor: 
Office number: 
Office hours: 
Contact information: 
Classroom number: 
Class days and time: 

Catalog Description: LAL115 Introduction to Fiction Writing (3-0-3)
LAL115 is a study of techniques of fiction writing through historical and contemporary short story writing in order to develop publishable student work. Focus is on invention, execution, and revision of stories through a variety of examples and assignments. (FA)

Prerequisite: None

Text(s): Title: Method and Madness: The Making of a Story – A Guide to Writing Fiction
Author: Laplante
Edition: 2010
Publisher: Norton

Other Required Materials: Per instructor’s policy

Purpose of Course: In this class we will learn to write effective, compelling stories. We will learn how to analyze and discuss them. We will learn to edit and improve them.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

• Write short stories—with conventional plot structures, postmodern structures, as well as experimental structures;
• Recognize, identify and use, various point of views;
• Diagram a short story’s plot;
• Conduct a peer critique of texts;
• Identify and use elements of form and content in a story;
• Recognize types of stories according to their purpose;
• Gain knowledge of the short story tradition;
• Collaborate with peers in order to develop artifacts of narration;
• Recognize current trends in fiction;
• Turn ideas into stories;
• Compile a collection of short stories in a portfolio.
Course Content:

1. Elements of Fiction--The Short Short
2. Plots--Beginnings and Endings
3. Making Fiction out of Nonfiction
4. Point of View
5. Dialogue
6. Postmodern Storytelling
7. Collaboration
8. Synthesis

Assessment of Student Learning: Per instructor’s policy

Grading Scale:
A – 90-100%
B – 80-89%
C – 70-79%
D – 60-69%
F – 0-59%

Expected Study Time Commitments: Students should expect to spend approximately 2 to 4 hours per week studying, reading, and working on assignments for each registered credit hour. For example, 6 to 12 study hours per week may be expected for a 3 credit hour class.

Description of Major Assignment(s)/Project(s): Per instructor’s policy

Schedule of Student Assignments/Activities: Instructors will identify a Student Assignment/Activities schedule. Instructors have the prerogative to construct the schedule by class periods, weeks, or an overview of topics to be covered.

Statement to Connect Course with General Education Outcomes: In compliance with MACC’s General Education Outcomes, the student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Valuing: Students will demonstrate the ability to understand the moral and ethical values of a diverse society; and to appreciate the values of diversity, equity, and sustainability.

College / Instructor Policies:

Academic Dishonesty: MACC board policy is as follows: “Academic dishonesty by students damages institutional credibility and unfairly jeopardizes honest students; therefore, it will not be tolerated in any form.” Forms of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to the following: violations of copyright law, plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, collusion, and other academic misconduct. Incidents of dishonesty regarding assignments, examinations, classroom/laboratory activities, and/or the submission of misleading or false information to the College will be treated seriously. The procedure
for handling academic dishonesty is outlined in the Student Handbook (Policy Handbook, M.010). In cases of alleged academic dishonesty, the burden of proof is on the student, not on the instructor.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend all class sessions for which they are enrolled. The College reserves the right to drop or withdraw students from courses due to lack of attendance.

Students need to be aware that dropping/being dropped from a course and their last date of attendance in the course may impact their financial aid.

MACC faculty are required to track attendance and report lack of attendance. An instructor must complete the appropriate steps to drop a student within one week following the student’s violation of the attendance policy. Additionally, a student’s attendance rate will be calculated based upon the first day the academic session begins (not the student’s date of enrollment in the course). If a student does not attend a course as defined below, the student will be dropped as “Never Attended.”

**Term Length Drop Calculations**

- **16-week:** Any student who misses two (2) consecutive weeks of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

- **8-week:** Any student who misses one (1) consecutive week of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

- **4-week:** Any student who misses two (2) consecutive days of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

- **Intersession:** Any student who misses one (1) day of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

Acceptable justification may include, but is not limited to, family emergencies, illness or injury, college-approved co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and religious holidays.

**Definition of Course Attendance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Seat Course</th>
<th>Physically attending scheduled, face-to-face, class meetings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Course</td>
<td>Being present, via appropriate platform, for scheduled class meetings/activities</td>
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### Hybrid Course

Physically attending scheduled, face-to-face, class meetings and active participation in the online portion of the course which may include any or all of the following:

- Completion of quizzes or exams during class meetings and online
- Submission of assignments during class meetings and online
- Participation in discussions during class meetings and online

### Online Course

Active participation in an online course includes the following:

- Completion of quizzes or exams
- Submission of assignments
- Participation in threaded discussions

Simply logging into the Learning Management System (Canvas) and/or accessing the course and course related material does not constitute active participation for the online component of hybrid courses or for online courses. (*Policy Handbook*, I.090 & M.095)

**Tardiness:** Per instructor’s policy

**Make-up and late work:** Per instructor’s policy

**Extra-Credit:** Per instructor’s policy

**Student Email:** MACC Mail is the official student email system at MACC. Official college communication is sent via this email system. Students are responsible for checking their MACC Mail account regularly. Students may also receive notifications and reminders from MACC through the online learning platform. However, students should remain aware that the online learning platform messaging system and MACC Mail (student email) system are two separate systems.

**ADA Statement:** Students who have disabilities that qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act may register for assistance through the Office of Access and ADA Services. Students are invited to contact the Access Office to confidentially discuss disability information, academic accommodations, appropriate documentation and procedures. For more information, please call either the Moberly office at (660) 263-4100 x 11240 or the Columbia office at (573) 234-1067 x 12120, or visit our web page at [http://www.macc.edu/index.php/services/access-office](http://www.macc.edu/index.php/services/access-office).

**Title IX Statement:** MACC maintains a strict policy prohibiting sexual misconduct in any form, including sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, and sexual violence. All MACC employees, including faculty members, are considered mandated reporters of sexual misconduct and as such are expected to contact the Title IX Coordinator when they become aware, in conversation or in writing, of an incident of sexual misconduct. For more information on this policy or to learn about support resources, please see [http://www.macc.edu/sexual-misconduct-policy](http://www.macc.edu/sexual-misconduct-policy) (links to an external site) or contact Ms. Cheryl Lybarger, MACC’s Title IX Coordinator, at 660-263-4110, ext. 11369 or CherylLybarger@macc.edu.