Short Story Intensive
Writer’s Studio, Winter 2021

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE
Short Story Intensive
CODE & SECTION
WRIT32277 21W1
LENGTH OF COURSE

COURSE SCHEDULE
DAYS: Class meets January 28, February 18, and March 11.
TIMES: 6-8:30pm
CLASS LOCATION
Online

INSTRUCTOR
Stephanie Friedman
PHONE: 773-702-5012
EMAIL: sfriedmn@uchicago.edu

GRAHAM SCHOOL INFORMATION

PHONE: 773.702.1722
WEBSITE: https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Students will focus on developing a particular story-in-progress, submitting multiple drafts for peer and instructor comments. You will need to bring a draft of the story you intend to work on, plus a published story you would like to use as a model, to our first class session. This is an ideal course for students who have completed a previous course in fiction writing, such as Fiction Writing Essentials or Story-A-Day: A Generative Practice of Flash Fiction.

Note: This class will be held online. It takes place every three weeks, with online meetings on January 28, February 18, and March 11, to allow students time to respond to each other’s drafts and revise their own work substantially. Class does not meet during the off weeks, only on the three dates above. Please note, however, that students will be expected to comment on other student’s story drafts in the week after the final class session and post their comments online.

HOW THE COURSE WORKS

- We’ll look at published short stories we would like to emulate, as well as our own emerging works-in-progress, asking ourselves: What essential elements of character, voice, action, and detail bring the story to life? What question drives the story and engages the reader? What structural elements best lead the reader through it?
- Within a few days after the first session, students will turn in up to ten pages of a short story draft. The instructor and fellow students will return comments that students can draw upon as they revise their draft for the second session. Excerpts of the revised stories will be shared and discussed in the second session. Then the cycle repeats itself for the third class session.
• You story drafts will be turned in and commented on in our course site on Canvas (in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format).
• All submitted story drafts should be typed, double-spaced, in 10 or 12-point font with one-inch margins. Your name should appear on every page of each draft, as should page numbers.

A NOTE ABOUT PEER REVIEW AND WORKSHOP DISCUSSION
Our primary focus will be on the story’s strengths that can be built upon in revision, in light of what this draft wants to be when it grows up, and how it might get there. This doesn’t mean you can’t bring up some aspect of the story that seems to be working at cross-purposes to the rest of the story – indeed, this sort of information is crucial to a writer of an early draft – but take a macro rather than a micro approach as much as possible. Don’t get too caught up in the small stuff right now, and try to think about what the writer seems to want to do with the material, rather than what you might want to do with it.

COURSE SCHEDULE
Pre-class Assignment: Find a story that you’d like to emulate in revising your story and "bring" a copy to the first class session (meaning you’ll need to have your own copy on hand to consult during class). Be ready to discuss what about this published model will help you as you revise your own story-in-progress.

Session 1 – January 28
Introductions
Overview of Course Goals and Structure
Discussion of Story Drafts and Published Models
• First story draft submission due: January 30 at 11:59 pm.
• Instructor and student comments returned: February 6 at 9:00 am.

For sessions 2 and 3, please be prepared to do the following in class:
• Read aloud a one-page excerpt of your revision.
• Discuss what you focused on during the revision process, as well as what you think still needs further development.
• Share your insights about the draft when a story you peer reviewed is under discussion.
• Be an active participant in the conversations that ensue about each story.

Session 2 – February 18
Process Discussion
Discussion of Story Drafts
• Second story draft submission due: February 17 at 11:59 pm.
• Instructor and student comments returned: February 27 at 9:00 am.

Session 3 – March 11
Process Discussion
Discussion of Story Drafts
• Third story draft submission due: March 10 at 11:59 pm.
• Instructor and student comments returned: March 22 at 9:00 am.
CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE
As we may be addressing controversial topics in our class discussions, we expect students to be respectful and considerate of others.

DISABILITY INFORMATION
The Graham School of Continuing Liberal and Professional Studies abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act (see [http://www.ada.gov/pubs/adastatute08.htm](http://www.ada.gov/pubs/adastatute08.htm)), with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (see [http://www.dol.gov/oasam/regs/statutes/sec504.htm](http://www.dol.gov/oasam/regs/statutes/sec504.htm)), and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (see [http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html)) and will provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities covered by law. If you have a disability for which you may require accommodations, please contact Charnessa Warren, Director of Student Disability Services, at 773.702.6000 or charnessa@uchicago.edu in advance of the first class meeting.

This syllabus is a summary of course objectives and content, not a contract. All information in this syllabus is subject to change, with sufficient advance notice provided by the instructor.