Writer’s Studio
Winter 2022
FOCUS ON FICTION
Sarah Terez Rosenblum
strosenblum@gmail.com

COURSE INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CODE &amp; SECTION</th>
<th>LENGTH OF COURSE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus on Fiction</td>
<td>WRIT32406 22W1</td>
<td>8 Weeks January 6-24</td>
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<tr>
<th>COURSE SCHEDULE</th>
<th>CLASS LOCATION</th>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>DAYS: Thursdays</td>
<td>Remote/Zoom</td>
<td>EMAIL: <a href="mailto:strosenblum@gmail.com">strosenblum@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>TIMES: 130-4</td>
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GRAHAM SCHOOL INFORMATION

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

Course Description:
This course will advance your understanding of fiction writing through lecture, discussion, eclectic readings, in-class and at-home writing exercises, as well as discussions of your own and your fellow students’ written work. With a strong emphasis on drafting and strengthening the creative process, this class builds on the techniques and tools discussed in Basic Writing.

Homework:
Each week, both reading and writing homework will relate to the specific craft elements highlighted in class. You are not required to submit writing homework; however, if you want the instructor’s feedback, you are welcome to submit one assignment over the course of the term. You will then receive light feedback via track changes. To receive feedback, your piece must be typed (12-point font), double-spaced if prose, with at least one-inch margins on all sides. If you choose to turn in homework, it is due anytime before Feb 20th at noon. When submitting homework, send as a Word document attachment to strosenblum@gmail.com

Experiments/Presentations:
Over the course of class you are asked to skim 'Now Write' to find at least two exercises to try out on your own. The object here is to experiment and be discerning. You will choose one exercise that you found beneficial or found detrimental in in preparation for a casual 5-10 min class discussion/presentation. Two days prior to your presentation please email the instructor the title and page number of the exercise you chose so we can follow along as you discuss your experience. (See Document Module for presentation schedule.)

Workshop:
Once per term, each student has the opportunity to receive feedback from the group on a piece of fiction. You must keep track of your workshop and submission dates. (See Workshop Module for specifics). Submit work by sending as a Word document attachment to strosenblum@gmail.com. Your classmates will then access your workshop via a module on Canvas. Workshop pieces must be saved as word docs or docx. They must be 2-10 pages, double-spaced (Times New Roman 12-point font). Page numbers are required.
Required Text: *Now Write! Fiction Exercises From Today’s Best Writers and Teachers* (Penguin Group)
ISBN: 978-1-58542-522-8 Other readings will be available on Canvas.

**FLUID WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>READINGS &amp; ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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| Week 1  
Date: January 6 | Intro/Character/Writing Practice |
| Week 2  
Date: January 13 | Whose Truth/POV and Focalization/Drafting |
| Week 3  
Date: January 20 | Tools for Tension/Dialogue/Presentations |
| Week 4  
Date: January 27 | Tools for Tension/Mood and Atmosphere/Workshops/Presentations |
| Week 5  
Date: February 3 | Plot and the Question of Outlines/Lived Experience to Fiction/Presentations/Workshops |
| Week 6  
Date: February 10 | Object Coherence/Flashbacks/Flash Fiction/Workshops/Presentations |
| Week 7  
Date: February 17 | Nonlinear Structure, Flash Forwards/Workshops/Presentations |
| Week 8  
Date: February 24 | What’s Next/Workshops |

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.

**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**
As we may be addressing controversial topics in our class discussions, we expect students to be respectful and considerate of others. In this course, each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute. Please take care to respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by students and staff involved in this course. We welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, citizenships, disabilities, sexes, education levels, ethnicities, family statuses, genders, gender identities, geographical locations, languages, military experiences, political views, races, religions, sexual orientations, socioeconomic statuses and work experiences. It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students’ learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. Please advise me of any name or pronoun changes so I can help create a learning environment in which you, your name, and your pronoun are respected.

**DISABILITY INFORMATION**
The Graham School of Continuing Liberal & 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/oaasam/regs/statutes/sec504.htm](http://www.dol.gov/oaasam/regs/statutes/sec504.htm)), and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) 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.