

Texas A&M University-Central Texas
English 3343-110-Creative Writing (Fiction)
Fall 2022 16-Weeks: Tuesdays, 6pm-8:50pm
Founders Hall—Room 212
Writing Intensive Course
Web-Enhanced on Canvas

Instructor: Heather Chandler

Office Hours: Regularly available through email or by appointment on Tuesday afternoons.

Email: h.chandler@tamuct.edu

Course Description

The purpose of the course is to make you a better writer of fiction and get you excited about the creative process. You will submit your own stories to be criticized in a workshop setting. You will learn how to give valuable feedback to your peers on their work, and in so doing, become a better critic of your own work and a better writer. Our course will explore form, theory, and the practice of writing fiction. This course asks students to both analyze and critique both published writers and the work of their peers. Students will also be asked to produce their own original short story. Course work will include regular reading assignments on the culture of American short stories, as well as various works of modern fiction genres. Class will consist of weekly lectures and discussions, writing exercises, and critique/workshop sessions.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Understand and define the basic evolution and function of fiction, with a special emphasis on modern American short stories
- Understand and define the role of the fiction and fiction in American culture
- Understand and define essential story elements such as character, plot, description, the Hero's Journey, and genre
- Research and deliver a short presentation on a particular writer who has influenced their own creative work, while also providing a critique of their work and an imitative passage in the style of the chosen author.
- Participate in thoughtful analysis and critique of both established writers and the creations of their peers with both written and verbal evaluations.
- Produce a portfolio of fiction writing, including revised in-class writings, an original short story, and a reflection of their influences, style, elements, and subject matter

Creative works often cover vulnerable and controversial subjects. Students should be able to tolerate innovation, viewpoints different from their own, as well as creative and cultural diversity in the arts.

Required Texts

- 1) Brody, Jessica. *Save the Cat: Writes a Novel*. Ten Speed Press. 2018.
- 2) *Oxford Book of American Short Stories*. Edited by Joyce Carol Oates. Oxford University Press, 2012.

This course makes use of several other texts, essays, and poems. Links to these sources will be available on a weekly basis through Canvas or provided by the instructor.

Course Requirements

Regular Reading Assignments:

The readings in this course lay the foundation for all the discussions and work we will do. Therefore, these readings are essential to your success in the course. Please be sure that you have carefully read the required assignments before class and be ready to engage in conversation and debate on the topics, themes, and issues addressed in the readings.

Class Lectures:

Class lectures and discussions are the primary method of instruction and learning in this course. In addition to discussing and debating the issues and themes of our weekly reading assignments, we will be constantly engaging with a variety of short stories, poetry, and essays, some assigned before class, others read and analyzed together in class. I'm interested in an organic learning environment that naturally reflects and engages the interest of the class and will often introduce topics and writings related to our current discussions.

Gradable Requirements:

Participation in Class Discussions, Writing Exercises, and Workshops (25% of final grade):

Students are expected to attend every class and engage regularly and often in class discussion and workshops. We will have assignments in class and assignments you will complete at home, both written exercises and reading assignments. Your engagement with the course material benefits the entire class, and you will be graded on your thoughtfulness and your level of engagement with these materials and your classmates. **(One absence will be allowed without penalty. More than two absences may lower your overall participation grade for the course.)**

Class Presentation of Critique and Imitative Sample (20% of final grade):

Our first major assignment asks you to examine a writer who inspires your own work. You will offer a critique of their most recent work, examining their persona, style, process, and influence. You will also produce and share your own imitative piece written in response or in the style of your chosen author. You will present this to the class as a 10–15-minute presentation.

Written Critiques/Peer Review of Poems (25% of final grade):

Our second half of the semester will focus on writing workshops, where students will both write their own original work and provide written and verbal critiques on every short story submitted to the group. These written comments will be graded on the level of engagement and thoughtfulness of the critiques based on the formal and thematic aspects of the stories offered by each student.

Final Fiction Portfolio (30% of Final Grade):

Our final project for the class will be due at the end of the semester, where each student will submit a portfolio of one completed short story, a cover letter for publication, and a 1000-word essay that clarifies and describes how their writing process, voice, style, form, and subject matter has evolved over the semester.

Grading Computation

Final grades will be calculated using the following percentages:

Participation in Class Discussions, Writing Exercises, and Workshops = 25%

Class Presentations/Critiques and Imitative Writing Sample = 20%

Written Critiques/Peer Review of Short Stories = 25%

Final Portfolio and Essay = 30%

Late-Work/Make-up Policy/Extra Credit Policy

Neither late-work nor make up work will exist in this class. Assignments that fail to be submitted by the deadline will not be permitted (unless you have specific approval from me for unexpected and uncontrollable extenuating circumstances that occur before the due date). Likewise, I do not assign extra credit; therefore, students should focus on providing their best work on assignments throughout the semester.

Classroom Conduct and Discussion

Students should behave in the classroom as in any other professional setting or workplace. **Please turn off and put away cellphones and other devices before class begins.**

When participating in discussion, keep in mind that the university classroom is one of the most diverse spaces within our society. You will need to understand that there will be several people in the classroom with whom you disagree with or who may disagree with you. This is fine. In fact, it is welcome. It is only through considering the beliefs and ideas of those with whom we disagree that we can truly decide on what we believe, so feel free to disagree, just be sure to do so with kindness and respect. Anyone who shouts, engages in discrimination or vulgarity, or who is disrespectful in any way towards the classmates or instructor will be promptly dismissed and an absence will be recorded for the day.

WARRIOR SHIELD

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt-out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer. Log on to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [https://tamuct.instructure.com/] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [https://tamuct.onecampus.com/]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal. Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu. Phone: (254) 519-5466. [Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [http://hdc.tamu.edu] *Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed, and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalties for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University-Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student’s academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, working with others in an unauthorized manner, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student’s

work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](#).

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services, and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717>]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from the US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html>]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. Tutor.com tutoring **will not offer writing support** beginning August 1, 2019, but will continue to offer other tutoring support.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other questions, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online-only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M- Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance and may take place on Skype or in person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group workspaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, who are exhibiting concerning behaviors, or individuals causing a significant disruption to our community, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concerns shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

Copyright Notice

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Copyright. 2021 by Heather Chandler at Texas A&M University-Central-Texas, Humanities Faculty; 1001 Leadership Place, Killeen, TX 76549; h.chandler@tamuct.edu.

English 3343: Fiction Course Calendar, Fall 2022

Week 1 (8/23): Introduction to course; discussion of syllabus and texts; individual introductions; Short Story; First Essay assigned.

Week 2 (8/30): *Save the Cat! Writes a Novel*, Introduction and Chapter 1 (pp. 1-21) Character Driven Stories (All assigned reading to be completed before class meets)

Short Stories from the *Oxford Book of American Short Stories* to be read before class: Edgar Allan Poe, "The Tell-Tale Heart," pp. 67-72; Kate Chopin, "The Storm," pp. 147-153; Lorrie Moore, "How to Become a Writer," (pp.806-813)

Poems found in Canvas, "7 Elements of Storytelling" in Canvas

Week 3 (9/6): Read before class: *Save the Cat! Writes a Novel*, Chapter 2 "The Save the Cat! Beat Sheet (pp. 22-78); Plots, Places, and People; Imitation Writing and Presentations Assigned.

Short Stories from the *Oxford Book of American Short Stories*

Flannery O'Connor, "A Late Encounter with the Enemy" (pp.514-524)
Jhumpa Lahiri, "Hell-Heaven" (pp. 835-855)

Assigned Readings in Canvas

Assorted poems; Anne Lamott, "Shitty First Drafts"

Week 4 (9/13): Saves the Cat! Writes a Novel, Chapters 3-4 “Not Your Mother’s Genres” and “Whydunit” (pp.79-102)

Short Stories from the *Oxford Book of American Short Stories*

Joyce Carol Oates, “Heat,” (pp. 619-631)

Assigned Readings in Canvas

Edgar Allan Poe, “Murders in the Rue Morgue,” Assorted Poems

Week 5 (9/20): *Save the Cat! Writes a Novel, Chapters 5-7 (pp. 103-159) “Rights of Passage,” Institutionalized,” and “Superheroes”*

Short Stories from the *Oxford Book of American Short Stories*

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper,” (pp. 191-207)

Assigned Readings in Canvas

Week 6 (9/27): Presentations begin

Save the Cat! Writes a Novel, Chapters 8-10 (pp.160-209) “Flaws, Fools, and Friends”

Assigned Readings in Canvas

Week 7 (10/4): Presentations continued *Save the Cat! Writes a Novel, Chapters 11-13 (pp. 210-263) “Monsters, Madness, and Women in the Attic”*

Short Stories from the *Oxford Book of American Short Stories*

Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery” (pp. 464-474)

H.P. Lovecraft, “The Rats in the Walls” (pp. 296-316)

Poems assigned on Canvas (provided by Instructor)

Week 8 (10/11): Presentations concluded; How to Workshop; In-Class Writing.

PHASE TWO: WORKSHOPS

Week 9 (10/18) Workshop 1-A

Week 10 (10/25) Workshop 1-B

Week 11 (11/1) Workshop 1-C

Week 12 (11/8) Workshop 2-A

Week 13 (11/15) Workshop 2-B

Week 14 (11/22) Workshop 2-C

Week 15 (11/29) Writing Cover Letters and Getting Published (Final Revisions)

Week 16 (12/6) Final Essay and Poetry Portfolio Due