Creative Writing Fiction: WR 241
Spring 2020

## **Class in a snapshot:**

* We will meet online via Zoom on Mondays and Wednesday, 2:30 - 3:50. Attendance is enthusiastically encouraged. Lectures will be recorded.
* Assignments and discussion take place on Canvas at <https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/A3NR8P>
* I will fail you if you are mean to your classmates
* Work includes small group discussions online and three writing assignments.
* There is no textbook

## **Logging In To Canvas**

I’ll be holding the class on Canvas not Moodle. That means **I will be your tech support**, not the Help Desk. Don’t worry. I’ll never hold a computer glitch against you.

Because LBCC doesn’t officially use Canvas, I’ll be using the free version. To access Canvas, do the following:

1. Bookmark this link: <https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/A3NR8P> This link will take you to our class. If you have an OSU account, our class will not show up in that account.
2. If you have a Canvas account, use it to log into this course. If that doesn’t work, create a new account. (I apologize for the extra hassle, but I hope the ease of using Canvas versus Moodle will make up for your trouble.)
3. If you do not have a Canvas account, the system will prompt you to create one.
4. Log in and familiarize yourself with the course. I am building it as we go, but you can at least look at the first week.

You must log in to Canvas by Friday of Week 1 or I will drop you from the class. Email me if you have any problems whatsoever. I look forward to getting to know you!

##

## **Instructor Information and Availability**

Instructor name: Karelia Stetz-Waters

Phone number: 541-917-4556

E-mail address: stetzwk@linnbenton.edu

I check and answer all emails once a day. Please put WR 241 in the subject line.

## **Prerequisites:**

WR 121

## **Needed for Class:**

* Internet access
* Access to Canvas (<https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/A3NR8P>)
* Zoom (if possible)

## **Assignments**

* Three short creative writing assignments. There are eight options. You must pick three. One must be completed before Week 5. To receive credit, the work must be shared with your small group (60%)
* Participation in small group discussion online (40%)

## **Writing Guidelines**

Writing assignments vary in length and type. They must be

* Written specifically for this class
* Submitted in PDF format on Canvas

Content restrictions for writing assignments in this class follow industry standards. Including the following:

* No work that promotes or glorifies torture, rape, or sex abuse of any kind.
* No work that promotes or glorifies bigoted ideologies (racism, sexism, homophobia etc.)
* No work that defames people living or dead.

Additionally, I ask the following:

* No pure erotica
* No stories about people in our class (or fictional characters similar to people in our class)
* No torture
* No rape
* No one dies in the story and no stories end with the imminent death or possible death of a character. (I’ll explain why in class.)

Please put a content warning on work that may deeply upset some people. If you have a content concern, talk to me.

**What if Professor Stetz-Waters doesn’t like my work?** Happily my liking/disliking of your story doesn’t matter. Nor does your like/dislike of your classmates’ stories matter. (We’ll get into why later.) Your grade will be based on effort and self-reflection.

## **Discussion Guidelines**

During the course of the term I will put you into two or three different discussion groups. These will meet online.

Discussions require that you post your work, respond to your group members’ work, and then respond to their comments to you. Ideally, this means you will log in three times during the week. Please try **very** hard not to leave all your posting to Sunday night.

For each discussion, you will have to do the following:

* Post your own work to share
* Analyze your classmates’ work by answering critique questions that I provide
* Respond to to your classmates’ feedback
* Ideally, your discussions will go beyond the required posts. I’d love to see people form real friendships and have meaningful dialogue online.

Discussion rules:

* Be kind!
* Be patient with people if they meant well but made a mistake
* Tell someone if they hurt your feelings; apologize if you hurt someone else's
* Never make personal attacks (Example: You must be a real sexist to have written this.)
* Don’t make negative comments about other people in the class (Example: Did you read John’s story. What a piece of crap!)
* Don’t be snarky in your criticism (Example: That plot seems really familiar. It’s like, “Hello, Return of the Jedi! Done that.”)
* Remember that humor does not always translate in online communication. Be careful using humor.
* Right click to access the emoji menu. Use emojis to convey emotion, but keep it simple.
* Never engage in racist, sexist, homophobic, anti-Christian, anti-Muslim, antisemitic, transphobic or other bigoted dialogue.
* Respect each other’s political differences and don’t talk politics unless political themes are at the center of a writer’s work.

**If you are mean to your classmates, I will warn you twice. If you’re mean again, I will fail you for the class. Don’t doubt me. I have done it before!**

##

## **Attendance**

**Online**

* Ideally, I’d like you to be “in” class via Zoom on Mondays between 2:30 - 3:50 when I will be delivering a lecture. (I’ll explain how to get on Zoom later).
* When you are attending a class on Zoom, focus on the class. Turn off your phone unless you are expecting an emergency call. Do not multitask.
* If technology, work, or family issues prevent you from being in the Zoom session, you can watch a recorded version. That’s not as much fun though, so try to be with me on Mondays!
* **If you have a significant personal problem that is interfering with your ability to complete the class, please let me know so that I can help you.**

##

## **Grades**

All work will be graded on effort. (I know. That’s kind of weird for college.)

I will assess effort in the following ways:

* Did this assignment/discussion come in on time?
* Did this assignment/discussion follow the instructions?
* Was the assignment/discussion an appropriate length?
* Does this assignment/discussion show that the writer clearly understood the concepts covered in the lecture?
* Was the writing clear and concise?
* Was the document well proofread?

Grades will be posted in Canvas.

**Late Assignment Policy**

I do not accept late work in this class. However, you only need to complete three of the nine assignments. If you get started early, that gives you flexibility if something happens later on.

I will drop your lowest discussion board score which means you can miss one discussion without penalty.

# **College Policies**

## **LBCC Email and Course Communications**

You are responsible for all communications sent via Moodle and to your LBCC email account. You are required to use your LBCC provided email account for all email communications at the College. You may access your LBCC student email account through Student Email and your Moodle account through Moodle.

## **Disability and Access Statement**

Use one of three approved syllabus statements located on the [Center for Accessibility Resources Faculty Resources](https://www.linnbenton.edu/current-students/student-support/center-for-accessibility-resources/faculty-resources) webpage.

## **Statement of Inclusion**

To promote academic excellence and learning environments that encourage multiple perspectives and the free exchange of ideas, all courses at LBCC will provide students the opportunity to interact with values, opinions, and/or beliefs different than their own in safe, positive and nurturing learning environments. LBCC is committed to producing culturally literate individuals capable of interacting, collaborating and problem-solving in an ever-changing community and diverse workforce.

## **Title IX Reporting Policy**

If you or another student are the victim of any form of sexual misconduct (including dating/domestic violence, stalking, sexual harassment), or any form of gender discrimination, LBCC can assist you. You can [report](https://linnbenton-advocate.symplicity.com/public_report/index.php/pid073717) a violation of our sexual misconduct policy directly to our Title IX Coordinator. You may also report the issue to a faculty member, who is required to notify the Coordinator, or you may make an appointment to speak confidentially to our Advising and Career Center by calling 541-917-4780.

## **Public Safety/Campus Security/**[**Emergency Resources**](http://www.linnbenton.edu/public-safety-emergency-planning)**:**

In an emergency, call 911. Also, call LBCC Campus Security/Public Safety at 541-926-6855 and 541-917-4440.

From any LBCC phone, you may alternatively dial extension 411 or 4440. LBCC has a [public safety app](http://lbccpublicsafety.mobapp.at/landing/Desktop) available for free. We encourage people to download it to their cell phones. Public Safety also is the home for LBCC's Lost & Found. They provide escorts for safety when needed. Visit them to learn more.

# **Changes to the Syllabus**

I reserve the right to change the contents of this syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances. You will be given notice of relevant changes in class, through a canvas announcement, or through LBCC e-mail.