WR 241 Fiction (F2018 CRN 2294)

**\*\*\***[**Individual Due Dates**](https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/1434364/pages/individual-due-dates)**\*\*\***

**Welcome to WR 241: Creative Writing Fiction**Instructor: Karelia Stetz-Waters  
[Office & Office Hours: NSH 212 (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](http://cf.linnbenton.edu/artcom/english/stetzwk/web.cfm?pgID=3714)

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**The Class**

In this class we will study the craft of story writing, with an eye to learning more about ourselves, the human condition, and the world around us.

**Needed for Class:**

* One composition notebook
* Several good pens
* Internet
* Ability to print about 30, double-sided pages a week

**Assignments**

* Story first draft 20 %
* Peer review session 10%
* Story second draft 20%
* Self-reflection 5%
* Peer review letters (3) 30%
* Annotations 15%

**Participation & Attendance**

Active participation in class is expected and will be measured by your annotations and peer review letters. You must be present in class (on time and present for the entire period) to receive credit for turning in a peer review letter or an annotation.

Food and drink are permitted in class but please do not bring anything sticky, smelly, otherwise off-putting.  Do not bring a giant steak and onion sandwich to class.

Contrary to popular opinion, being angry and depressed does not make you a great writer. For that reason, I want our class to be a safe, fun, friendly environment where all students, from all walks of life, feel comfortable sharing their work and their idea. Be kind and respectful and bring your true and best self to class. **Being genuinely or intentionally mean to your classmates (after having been clearly warned about this behavior) will result in a failing grade in the class.**

**Guidelines for Stories**

* Stories must be original (i.e. written for this class).
* Stories must be between 10 and 15 pages, double-spaced with reasonable fonts/margins.
* Second drafts must track changes in Word. (I’ll explain how.)
* If you are stuck trying to think of an idea for your story, consider this prompt. Choose a word from the [Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](http://www.dictionaryofobscuresorrows.com/). Write a story that captures the feeling or spirit of this word.
* Genres may vary. All genres (science fiction, horror, romance, young adult) are welcome. Literary fiction is welcome. See me if you are having trouble thinking of what to write.

Content restrictions for stories written 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 (although sexual content is okay with a trigger warning)
* No stories about people in our class (or fictional characters similar to people in our class)
* **Please put a content warning on stories that are appropriate for the class but may upset some people**. If you have a content concern, talk to me. You are not required to read stories you find personally upsetting (unless you find everything upsetting in which case this class probably isn’t for you.)

What if Karelia doesn’t like my story?

* 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, attentive and intelligent revisions, and self-reflection.

**Peer Review Letters**

* You will be assigned three stories to critique.
* Peer review letters should be real letters addressed to your classmates and consisting of about 1000 words. Letters much answer these questions:
  + What do you think the author was trying to accomplish in this story?
  + What specific words, phrases, ideas, images, organizational patterns, themes etc. worked to accomplish this goal?
  + What were the most effective features of this story?
  + If this writer were to work on one thing in this story, what would it be? (If you say “mechanics” include a content-related item as well.)
* To receive credit for your peer review letters you must be in class on the day the work is reviewed. If you miss that deadline because of unforeseeable calamity (illness, sudden death etc.) you make make-up the assignment by doing the **next** round of peer reviews.  If you miss that round, you miss that assignment.

**Annotations**

* You will be responsible for printing each story and bringing the printed copy to class.
* Print with reasonable margins so as to leave room for your annotations. Double spaced is fine.
* Include one – two substantive comments in the margins of each page of the story. Comments like “great” or “nice detail” do not count although you are encouraged to include them.
* Include a brief summary of your thoughts on the final page of the story. Focus on what features of the story helped the writer accomplish their goals.
* To receive credit for your annotations you must be in class on the day the work is reviewed.
* Annotations will be given to the writers so write neatly and be courteous especially when offering constructive criticism.

NOTE: Everyone in the class **MUST** **read, print, and annotate** every short story presented. If I sense that someone has not read, printed, or annotated the day’s stories, I reserve the right to assign additional peer review letters…for the whole class. Police your colleagues!

**Fine Print from the College**

**Incompletes**

If you have completed 80 percent of the course work by the end of the term but are unable, for reasons that are generally not your fault, to complete the rest, I will grant you an incomplete.

**Disability Services**

If you have a documented disability, I will help you in any way I can.  Talk to me during the first week of class.  If you think you might have a disability, but you are not sure, contact Disability Services, 917-4789.  [Here is a lot more useful information about Disability Services and LBCC's disability policies. (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/disability-services)

**LBCC Non-Discrimination Policy**

 Everyone is welcome at LBCC, regardless of whether they are black, white, Latino, native, gay, straight, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, male, female, transgender, married, disabled, a veteran, a non-English speaker, an immigrant, or any number of other catagories not listed here.  [For the official nondiscrimination policy click here. (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/about-lbcc/policies/equal-opportunity)     What is more, LBCC sees our differences as a source of strength and an important part of education.