This will be the first ever synchronous online-fiction workshop.

It will be ran like a conventional workshop in that the class will meet once a week via Elluminate LIVE, for two hours a week, for the entire semester.

We will meet Tuesday Evenings at 7pm MST.

Students must be available for the time of the course and will be expected to appear to the rest of the class using video and audio. You must have a computer with a high speed internet connection, a camera, and a microphone. Headphones are also necessary.

Requirements for the course:

Stories.

Writers will turn in up to ten and at least three full-length, self-contained short stories, depending on rotational speed of the workshop and the size of the class. All short story forms are acceptable, micro fiction, flash fiction, short fiction up to 30 pages. Each week four stories will be distributed by the students, which will be discussed the following week live via Elluminate.

All pages must be numbered.

Genre fiction is not acceptable.

Do not turn in Science Fiction, Fantasy, Romance, or any other genre fiction. This is a class wherein we will hone our skills in the craft of literary fiction. This does not mean you cannot have weird things happen, like in Benard Malamud’s “The Jew Bird” which we will read for this class, wherein a bird can be Jewish and can talk. It simple means that I will not accept genre fiction.

Because literary fiction often has elements of genre fiction (see Cortázar, Poe, et al), this is often difficult for beginning writers to understand. Perhaps this link will help:

A general guideline is to not think of your story as science fiction, romance, etc.

All stories must be new, written for this class. If you are caught turning in a story that you workshoped in another class, it will be considered cheating.

All assignments are due at Midnight El Paso time on the day they are due. Late assignments will not be accepted.

NOTE: Your stories must be posted as Word Docs on the Discussion Board.

Class members WILL NOT post their comments on the Discussion Board, but will participate in the live workshop Tuesdays at 7pm MST.

Études.

These are creative assignments given three times during the semester. They will be based on techniques and ideas encountered in class discussion, such as dialogue, metaphorical possibility, time movement, image collage, as well as more solid techniques such as characterization, setting, and language. There are no page requirements to the études, and they can be parts of larger pieces, including the stories you’re turning in for workshop.

Post all your études on the due date into the Discussion Board. After all of them are posted, you have two weeks to go through them and add comments, start a dialogue. Études will not be workshoped during our live sessions, so all the discussion will be on Discussion Board.

Readings.
Readings are all provided as links under Web Links on the course menu on the left hand tool bar.

Flannery O’Connor’s “Parker’s Back”
Raymond Carver’s “Little Things”
Tina May Hall’s “Faith Is Three Parts Formaldehyde, One Part Ethyl Alcohol”
Julio Cortázar’s “The Continuity of Parks”
Sherwood Anderson’s “Hands”
Anderson’s “Nobody Knows”
Borges’ “The Library of Babel”
GK Chesterson’s “The Secret Garden”
Robert Louis Stevenson’s “Markheim”
Benard Malamud’s “The Jew Bird”
Malamud’s “The First Seven Years”
Anton Chekov’s “The Husband”
Chekov’s “The Lady with the Dog”

**Discussion Boards.**

You must respond to the assigned readings. You must show in your discussion that you have not only read the assigned stories but have thought about them, as a writer, and have considered the techniques and craft. You must not only contribute to these discussions with
your own thoughtful and original posts, but you must also have dialogue with the other writers, responding to their original posts.

Three times a semester you will respond to your peers’ Etudes on the DB. You will read their work and comment on it, emphasizing what is working well about their pieces. Do not criticize or tell others that you don't like their work. Only point out what is working in a given piece and why it works so well.

Participation on the Discussion Board is mandatory and you must do it within the week. They will be open only for a week, from Sunday to midnight (MST) Saturday.

Policies:

• Discussion Boards are open only for the week of that subject.
• They will close on Saturdays Midnight. MST.
• After that time you cannot enter that discussion and it will be considered as if you have not done the readings for that week.

Other Policies:

Cheating/Plagiarism Policy

Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to
the source of that information or wording; it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm for further information.

Disabilities Policy

I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please contact me via e-mail within the first two weeks to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Disabled Student Services Office in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks of classes. The Disabled Student Services Office can also be reached in the following ways:

Web: http://www.utep.edu/dsso/ Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY Fax: (915) 747-8712 Email: dss@utep.edu

Ordering Texts

Texts may be ordered from pretty much any source. Please make certain the source has the book currently in stock. Also, order as far in advance as feasible as texts can take some time for delivery.

How your final grade will be determined:

I'm using a percentage for each requirement. The cumulative percentage after the term will determine your grade.

Stories  75%
Discussion Board  25%
on Readings

• By the end of this course you will be able to identify the elements of a short story.
• You should be able to understand and show in your own fiction how language can reflect all aspects of form.
• You should pay more attention to the voice that tells a story.

Software Requirements

You will need the following software on your computers to efficiently work in this course. In some cases your computer may already have some of these programs installed.

◦ Adobe Acrobat Reader. You can get the program by going to http://www.adobe.com and then clicking on the icon on the center of the screen which says "Get Adobe Reader". Follow instructions to install the reader.
◦ Adobe Flash Player. You can get the player by going to http://www.adobe.com and then clicking on "Get Adobe Flash Player". Follow instructions to install the
Apple QuickTime Player. You can get this player by going to http://www.apple.com. Once there, click on the "Downloads" tab on the top of the page and then click on QuickTime "Download" and follow instructions.

Microsoft Office. I recommend buying this if you do not have any word processing software or presentation software. As students, you can generally buy this whole package for about $25, far less than the store price of approximately $400.

Email tool with file attachment capability. Please use your UTEP email account.

If you do not have a UTEP e-mail account, please get one immediately. Here is how:

- Go to https://newaccount.utep.edu/.
- Create your account (remember that your date of birth is in the form mm/dd/yyyy: two digits for the month, then day, then year).
- After you create your account, you must wait 48 hours, then go back to the site and click on "Check on existing account." Enter your UTEP Student ID Number (e.g. 80XXXXXXXX) and date of birth, and you will get your login name and password. Please let one of us know if you have any difficulty. You may also call the UTEP HELP desk at 1.915.747.5257.
- The HELP desk hours are given below:
  Mon-Fri 7:00am - 8:00pm (Mountain Time)
  SAT 9:00am - 1:00pm (Mountain Time)
  SUN CLOSED

Technical Support
If you have technical problems with the course, please contact the UTEP Helpdesk during the normal UTEP working hours at 915.747.4357 or you may call toll-free 1.866.747.5256. 
http://issweb.iss.utep.edu/techsupport/