

EN 6779 3.0 Seminar-Workshop in Creative Writing: Fiction

Instructor: Pasha Malla
E-mail: pmalla@yorku.ca
Phone: 416-736-2100 x20347
Office: Room 628, Atkinson Building
Term: Winter 2023-24
Seminar: Tuesdays 2:30-5:30
Office hours: By appointment/request (in person and online)

Course Description

This course contextualizes literary prose writing within the industrial, professional, cultural, and aesthetic conventions that shape its production and dissemination, with a focus on how—and why—writers might challenge, resist, or reject these conventions. Assigned readings will comprise short stories, novel excerpts, literary criticism, theory, and craft essays to help students learn to “read and think as writers,” such that they might apply relevant techniques, strategies, approaches, and concepts to their own creative work. Students will write and share, for group critique, original works of fiction that conscientiously engage with the themes of the course, and they will also submit weekly critical analyses of their classmates’ work. Finally, students will, in small groups, present a close reading of one of the assigned texts that analyzes its approach to craft (dialogue, character, plotting, structure, style, etc.) and what lessons it might offer to developing writers.

Course readings will include two assigned books, *Literature Class*, a collection of lectures by Julio Cortázar, and the novel *Mona*, by Pola Oloixarac, short stories by André Alexis, Samuel Beckett, Marie-Claire Blais, Jorge Luis Borges, Nikolai Gogol, Heinrich von Kleist, Gary Lutz, and Diane Williams, among others, and critical writing by Hélène Cixous, bell hooks, William Gaddis, David Grossman, Thomas King, Adrienne Rich, Edmund Wilson, as well as other writers and critics.

Required Texts

- *Literature Class*, Julio Cortázar
- *Mona*, Pola Oloixarac
- all other readings provided on eClass

Evaluation

The final grade for the course will be based on the following rubric:

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| • Workshop story | 20% |
| • Critiques | 20% |
| • Group Presentation | 20% |
| • Participation | 15% |
| • Revised workshop story | 25% |