

Fiction Project

Writing fiction is the art of making stories out of imaginary event and people. All of the elements of craft, including voice, characterization, point-of-view, setting, plot structure, etc. are used by the writer to invent a world in which the events and characters in the story actually exist in the imagination of the reader. Our main goal, therefore, is to place our reader in this imaginary “dream” state, and through the craft of writing help them to believe that world and stay interested enough in it to see it to the end. Like any form of serious writing, the reader is looking for the writer to help them discover and uncover meaning in a seemingly disinterested universe, and in the process be entertained.

In this course, you’re required to submit at least one short story, with revisions as part of your Final Portfolio. Below are the requirements for the story:

1. Good Title
2. Presents a narrative stance between the story and reader—mood/message on the connotative level
3. Effective beginning, middle and end
4. Cohesive structure
5. Good settings: vivid imagery that uses all five senses
6. Logical transitions from scene-to-scene
7. Concise, perceptive diction (word choice—no clichéd phrases)
8. Proper use of metaphor/figurative language (original metaphors, or older metaphors/similes used in a unique way)
9. Effective use of dialogue
10. Varied punctuation/syntax
11. Concrete nouns
12. Active verbs
13. Correct grammar and spelling
14. Imaginative
15. Thoughtful
16. Goosebumps (physical reaction)
17. Six to twelve pages, double-spaced, 1 inch margins