**GROSSMONT COLLEGE**

**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD**

Curriculum Committee Approval: 05/18/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 06/15/2021

**ENGLISH 175 – NOVEL WRITING I**

1. **Course Number Course Title Semester Units**

ENGL 175 Novel Writing I 3

**Semester Hours**

3 hours lecture 48-54 total hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours 144-162 total hours

2. **Course Prerequisites**

None

**Corequisite**

None

**Recommended Preparation**

A “C” grade or higher or “Pass” in English 126 or equivalent.

3. **Catalog Description**

The first in a four-course sequence, this class is designed to familiarize students with the study, analysis, and application of fundamental tools, techniques, and forms used by established and contemporary novelists**,** memoirists, literary journalists, and other long-form authors. By composing and submitting original chapters, scenes, and/or excerpts, students use the writers' workshop to develop their skills as critics and emerging writers. Opportunities for publication and public readings of their own work. Students may enroll in this class without having to enroll in the other courses in the sequence.

4. **Course Objectives**

The student will:

1. Distinguish, both orally and in writing, the fundamental tools, techniques, and forms used by professional practitioners of long-form writing such as novel, memoir, and literary journalism, including plot, construction, point of view, setting, description, characterization, dialogue, and theme;
2. Identify and employ basic techniques of invention;
3. Write scenes, chapters and/or excerpts utilizing fundamental tools, techniques, and forms;
4. Evaluate benefits of criticism of their own work and demonstrate application in consequent revisions;
5. Develop ability to critique other students’ scenes, chapters and/or excerpts, both orally and in writing;
6. Cultivate aesthetic criteria for long-form writing;
7. Practice performatively reading their own writing;
8. Practice competency in college-level grammar, punctuation, and mechanics used in novel writing and other types of long-form writing.

5. **Instructional Facilities**

Standard Classroom

6. **Special Materials Required of Student**

1. Access to a computer, the Internet, and word processing with capacity to save/export as Portable Document Format (.pdf) and/or Microsoft Word (.doc, .docx).
2. Collegiate dictionary and thesaurus.
3. Writing materials and copies of poems for workshop.

7. **Course Content**

1. Invention, composition, and revision of novel scenes, chapters and/or excerpts amounting to approximately 12,000 words per semester.
2. Fundamental elements and techniques of the craft of long-form writing, including plot construction, point of view, characterization, setting, dialogue and theme.
3. Written and oral critical commentary of peers’ original novel writing.
4. A diversity of novels or novel excerpts by emerging, established, and contemporary novelists, in print and online.
5. In-class writing exercises.
6. Critical essays on the discourse of novel writing.
7. Strategies for performatively reading novel excerpts.
8. Practice in assembling a portfolio of novel scenes, chapters, or excerpts.
9. Introduction to publishing.

8. **Method of Instruction**

1. Lecture by instructor, visiting writers, media.
2. Writers’ workshop: Students convene in groups. Selected writer reads original scene, chapter, or excerpt aloud and discussion follows. A student may be designated by the instructor to commence discussion for each work. Workshopped writers do not speak until work has been discussed by peers and addressed by instructor. Once a work is workshopped, the writer has the opportunity to respond and ask questions. Lastly, manuscript with written commentary is made available to its author. Cycle repeats with next selected writer.
3. Discussion and writing exercises based on tools, techniques, and types of long-form writing.
4. Discussion and reading aloud of excerpts by emerging, traditional, and/or contemporary long-form authors.
5. Individual conferences.

9. **Methods of Evaluating Student Performance**

1. Student writing and revision of scenes, chapters and/or excerpts.
2. Participation in writers’ workshop, both orally and in writing.
3. Participation in class discussion and writing exercises such as modeling based on published authors..
4. Completion of novel or other long-form writing portfolio as a final project.
5. Final performative reading of original works composed for the class presented as part of a final examination.

10. **Outside Class Assignments**

1. Reading and studying of work by emerging, established and/or contemporary novelists.
2. Composing and revising novel scenes, chapters and/or excerpts.
3. Reading and writing critiques of classmates’ original works of long-form writing.
4. Researching material for long-form writing.
5. Craft and imitation exercises.
6. Attending and/or participating in campus and community literary events and readings.
7. Submitting manuscripts to the Grossmont College literary journal, *Acorn Review*, as well as researching online and print publication opportunities.

11. **Representative Texts**

a. Representative Texts:

1. *Acorn Review Literary Journal. 2018-2019.*  Grossmont College.
2. Bradburn, Richard. *Self-editing for Self-publishers: Incorporating—A Style Guide for Fiction.* Reen Publishing, 2020.
3. Eckstut, Arielle and David Henry Sterry. *The Essential Guide to Getting Your Book Published: How to Write It, Sell It, and Market It,,,Successfully*. Workman Publishing Company, 2015.
4. Gardner, John. *John Gardner on Writing: On Becoming a Novelist*, *On Writers & Writin*g, and *On Moral Fiction*. Open Road Media, 2013.
5. Weiland, K. M. *Structuring Your Novel Box Set: How to Write Solid Stories That Sell (Helping Writers Become Authors)*. PenForASword Publishing, 2016.

b. Supplemental texts and workbooks:

1. Browne, Renni, and Dave King. *Self-Editing for Fiction Writers: How to Edit Yourself into Print.* HarperResource, 2004.
2. Harris, Jill. *Novel Writing Blueprint: A Storytellers Guide to the Craft*. Narrative Beats, 2017.
3. Lycan, William G. *Philosophy of Language: A Contemporary Introduction*. 3rd Edition. Routledge, 2018.
4. *Scrivener 3.* Novel Writing Software. Literature and Latte, 2017.
5. Smith, Darian. *The Psychology Workbook for Writers: Tools for Creating Realistic Characters and Conflict in Fiction*. Wooden Tiger Press, 2015.
6. Teppo, Mark. *Finish Your Novel: A Writer Productivity Guide*. Firebird Creative, 2018.

**Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

a. Identify and employ fundamental elements of novel and long-form writing and use specific details from memory, imagination, knowledge, and research to invent, draft, revise, and reflect upon novelsor other works of long-form writing.

b. Use the writers’ workshop to evaluate their own manuscripts as well as the manuscripts of others (both orally and in writing) and to develop skills as critics and writers.

c. Discuss the content and form of works by emerging, established and/or contemporary authors.