

Syllabus for: (name of class) English 33 (Prose fiction)	
Semester & Year:	Spring 2013
Course ID and Section Number:	English 33 (Section E1795)
Number of Credits/Units:	3
Day/Time: Location:	F 1:15-4:25 in FM206
Instructor's Name:	David Holper
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: Life Science 100, MW 9-11 am or by appointment Phone: 476-4370 Email: david-holper@redwoods.edu
Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline): A study in the art of writing fiction, emphasizing communication, clarity, and development. Students read and analyze many types of stories while they generate, expand, critique, and revise their own and others' stories.	
Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline) :	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Recognize writing fiction as a process that involves inventing, drafting, revising, and editing. ◆ Differentiate between concrete detail and abstraction and apply this knowledge effectively in writing stories. ◆ Apply basic grammar and punctuation rules to clarify ideas. ◆ Effectively portray scene, dialogue, and time. 	
Special accommodations: College of the Redwoods complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. No last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments will be made. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability related services and may need accommodations, please see me or contact Disabled Students Programs and Services. Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS.	
Academic Misconduct: Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, computer misuse, fabrication or falsification, multiple submissions, complicity in academic misconduct, and/ or bearing false witness will not be tolerated. Violations will be dealt with according to the procedures and sanctions proscribed by the College of the Redwoods. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating on exams will receive an "F" in the course.	
The student code of conduct is available on the College of the Redwoods website at: http://www.redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/Ap5500.pdf	
College of the Redwoods is committed to equal opportunity in employment, admission to the college, and in the conduct of all of its programs and activities.	

English 33

Dave Holper

Office #: 707-476-4370

Email: david-holper@redwoods.edu

Website: <http://www.redwoods.edu/departments/english/instructors/holper/>

LS100:

Writing Center Hours:

College of the Redwoods
SYLLABUS

"It is only the story that can continue beyond the war and the warrior... It is only the story... that saves our progeny from blundering like blind beggars into the spikes of the cactus fence. The story is our escort; without it, we are blind. Does the blind man own his escort? No, neither do we the story; rather it is the story that owns us." Chinua Achebe

Course Description:

This course involves analysis of literary models, prose, and literary writing, primarily short fiction, with student and teacher critiques.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- ◆ Recognize writing fiction as a process that involves inventing, drafting, revising, and editing.
- ◆ Differentiate between concrete detail and abstraction and apply this knowledge effectively in writing stories.
- ◆ Apply basic grammar and punctuation rules to clarify ideas.
- ◆ Effectively portray scene, dialogue, and time.

Required Texts/Materials:

- 1) *Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamott. (This text is not on reserve at the library, nor is it in the Writing Center. You'll find it for sale in the bookstore.)
- 2) A class booklet.
- 3) A writer's notebook.
- 4) Enough 3 x 5 cards to do a synopsis during most of the weeks of the semester.

Triad:

Name: _____ Contact info: _____
Name: _____ Contact info: _____

Welcome to English 33! I'm excited to be your teacher, and I hope that each of us will enjoy and learn a great deal during this semester. This will be an intensive course because I will ask a lot of each one of you, but in return, I hope you will find this to be one of your most memorable writing classes. The primary goals of this course are to teach you how to develop your own distinct writing voice, to improve your creative writing skills in several different styles and forms, to learn how to critique other people's work fairly and in depth, and to find out how to submit your work for publication. Beyond that--and perhaps more importantly--I want you to learn to write more powerfully, passionately, and naturally.

Your Instructor: Dave has done a little of everything, including taxi driver, fire fighter, cook, soldier, house painter, and teacher. He took his BA in English at Humboldt State University, where he also studied journalism. After his graduation, he served for four years in the Army Military Intelligence Corps, then went on to take a Masters of Fine Arts in English at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he wrote a book of short stories. Since then, he has published a number of stories and poems. Currently he lives in Eureka and teaches full-time at CR.

Syllabus Calendar: This will be posted on the course website. Generally this will be posted on Thursday for the upcoming class session.

Required Reading: We will read approximately one-two sections a week from *Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamott and a story a week (from the class booklet). In addition, we will regularly do journals or exercises based on these readings. When we read stories, I'll ask you to write a synopsis of the story on a 3 x 5 card, which will be worth 5 points and is due at the start of the class session in which we'll discuss the story. You are strongly encouraged to mark up your books, save quotes in your writer's journals, and make notes all over the writing that you read.

PDFs and Printing: This semester the readings will be provided as PDFs or Word documents through the class web calendar. You'll need to find these documents, print them, and read and prepare for class.

Required Writing: We will do an exercise for each week of class (except when we are writing stories or revisions of stories). These exercises can be between 2-4 pages. They are worth 20 pts. each and are due as posted on the syllabus. In addition, there are two stories required for the semester, each worth 100 pts. Also, you will be expected to revise each of these stories at least one time: the revisions are worth 100 pts. apiece. A revision is more than correcting spelling errors; a revision should show significant progress in your approach to the narrative. If you turn in a revision that is generally the same as the earlier draft, you may get the second draft back as no credit (with a request that you accomplish a substantive revision). At the end of the semester, you will be required to submit one polished piece of work for the class booklet, which will be between 5-20 pages of writing, and will be worth 100 pts. This last piece of writing should be the best quality work you've produced all semester.

Work Format: All work must be typed and labeled (whether it's an exercise, a story draft, or a polished piece of work). Word processors are available in the Writing Center through English 152 (this is 1/2 unit lab). No cover sheets are necessary, nor are any type of folders, paper or plastic. Type your name, draft #, and date in the upper left-hand corner; also please include titles for your stories. Please remember to number your pages. Do not use scratch paper that has already been printed on, nor type on the front and backs of pages: use only one side of the page. Remember to double space your work, so your instructor can edit it.

Late Work: If you miss a class, you should make up the work before the next class and put it in the instructor's box. Don't wait until the next class to turn it in. If you fall behind several weeks, coupled with absences (see below), this pattern may result in the instructor no longer accepting late work at all, which may result in your failing the course.

Attendance/Promptness: Students at the College are expected to attend all sessions of each class in which they are enrolled. Students may not miss more than two weeks of class. For example, if a class meets once a week, students should not exceed 2 absences for the semester. If a student exceeds the limit on absences before week 11 of the semester, an instructor will notify the student that he or she has been dropped. After week 10, excessive absences will likely result in failure.

In addition, I strongly discourage your coming more than 10 minutes late or leaving more than 10 minutes without first clearing it with me. Such practices are disruptive for you and everyone else. If you do come late or leave early (more than 10 minutes) or unprepared that will count as ½ an absence. If you miss a class, please remember, it is your responsibility to find out from another student what you missed by calling someone on the phone list.

Before Census (Week 3): Be aware that if you've missed two classes and have not turned in work, your name will be cleared from the class roster following in Week 3 (Census Week). If you're in this boat and haven't talked to Dave yet about your situation, you should do so as soon as possible. It's fairly easy to be reinstated if you're accidentally dropped, but it's easier still to avoid being dropped in the first place.

Conferences and the Final: To encourage you to participate in both these activities, there are 20 pts. for the midterm conference; there are 50 pts. for the final.

Your Portfolio: Please save all your work (and drafts) this semester so that you can see what happened this semester, as well as have stories or exercises to revise; and, in case I accidentally do not record the grade, you'll have a copy of the graded work. More importantly, you'll probably want to look back on this work later, so save, save, save; backup, backup, backup.

Grading

This is one of the few CR courses that may be taken for pass/no pass rather than for a grade. You are encouraged to take advantage of this option to free yourself to write without worrying about a grade. For a grade of pass, you must apply in the Admissions & Records office before (TBA) for the credit/no credit option. Not completing the credit requirements described would result in a no pass grade if you had applied for the pass option. If you had not applied for this option, it would mean a grade of D or F.

If you do not apply for the pass/no pass option, your grade will consist of

- 1) Weekly exercises: 20 pts. each
- 2) Stories drafts: 100 pts. each
- 3) Revised story drafts: 100 pts. each
- 4) Conferences: 20 pts. each
- 5) Polished piece for class booklet: 100 pts. each
- 6) Attendance at final: 50 pts.

Note: This syllabus may be modified during the course of the semester, as needed. If there are corrections or additions, these will be posted on the syllabus calendar, which can be found on the course website.

Guidelines to Sharing Fiction & Critique

For the Writer:

- 1) Once you've read your story or had your story read, please listen attentively and do not interrupt the other class members or instructor.
- 2) Do not rebut the criticisms either during or after a discussion.
- 3) Just because it's true is not enough.
- 4) If you get criticism about poorly typed or edited copy, that's a clear sign to you that you need to spend more time preparing your texts for class.
- 5) It is a good idea to take notes on a copy of the story so that you don't forget what is being suggested.
- 6) You have the right to stop the discussion if it becomes too personal or painful; however, you should not use this right lightly. Once you have stopped a discussion on a story, it may not be discussed again in class.
- 7) Revise while the ideas are still fresh.
- 8) If there are too many different ideas on how to revise, you might treat the ideas like a shopping list--buy what appeals to you. If you can't decide what to do, come see the instructor for a personal conference.

For the Class Participants:

- 1) Comment always with the mind to help. It's best if your responses are given out of a loving sense of trying to help.
- 2) Look for something good first.
- 3) It is not necessary to have the perfect or longest response to a story. Often times it's better to listen carefully and comment selectively, no matter how much you feel you know. A balanced discussion will be better for all of us than a discussion dominated by a few.
- 4) Everyone is entitled to an opinion in this class, even if you don't agree with another person.
- 5) Don't interrupt one another.
- 6) Don't attack one another's responses.
- 7) Don't use humor or sarcasm as a weapon.
- 8) Avoid name calling at all costs.
- 9) If you see someone become discouraged by a critique, go up to that person afterwards and encourage him/her.
- 10) Don't use comparison to published work as a means to show someone the "right way"; the writer must find his/her own way.