In Creative Writing 210, Introduction to Fiction, you will learn to render your most imaginative, expressive modes of thought onto the page, as stories. You will write short stories. No novel excerpts, please. In this class, you must first learn to write a piece that stands on its own. You will read many short works by published, beyond-competent authors, both classic and contemporary. You will not have a textbook. These stories, collectively, are your textbook. You will read these stories closely in order to better understand the basic mechanics which most effectively communicate imaginative thought as part of the greater cultural conversation. You will use what you learn from these authors as well as class discussion to write compelling and structurally sound stories of your own making, which we will evaluate during in-class “workshop” discussions.

Grading Policy
Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. You may miss up to three (3) days before absences begin to count against your final grade. Each subsequent absence will result in a dropped letter grade.

Requirements: We will spend most of the semester reading and responding to short stories. I will hand these out at the end of class, and you will be required to read and respond to this story in a typewritten, 300 word response which must be emailed to me (and I would simply recommend you bring a copy of your response (though you must, must, must bring a copy of the actual story being discussed) into class so as to help you as we discuss the piece as a group).

Workshops: Each of you will be required to submit two pieces of your own creative work, between 1,500 and 4,500 words, give or take. You will be responsible to distribute hard copies of your work to your peers one week in advance of your scheduled workshop. ***Workshops are 50% of your grade***. I do not “grade” creative work, because that doesn’t make sense and subverts freedom of expression. If I suspect an obvious lack of effort, TLC and attention to detail in your piece, I will count off. Each piece you turn in counts for 25% of your grade.
***Participation is 50% of your grade***. This mainly includes your 300 word responses to short stories as well as 300 word workshop responses, which just involves responding to your peers’ work in the same manner you’d respond to, say, Ernest Hemingway. However, I will also take into account your willingness to engage in open discussion.

**Course Policies**

**Workshops:** If your story is to be workshopped you will be expected to solicit copies to your peers during class, one week in advance. Come prepared.

**Late Assignments:** You may make up late assignments but you must talk with me first in order to assign a new date.

**Formatting:** This is hugely important: All manuscripts must have a title; all manuscripts must be written in 12 pt. Times New Roman font, DOUBLE SPACED, with one inch margins. And, hey, don’t forget your name.

**General Information**

**Plagiarism:** See the University Catalog.

**Deadlines:** Before this course has begun or during the first three (3) weeks of the semester you can drop this course on CyberBear.

**Students With Disabilities:** Qualified students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course. Please come see me during my office hours and provide a letter from your DSS coordinator.

**Finals:** We will meet during finals week on the assigned date.

SYLLABUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE