Instructor Information:
- Instructor: Deirdre McNamer
- Office: LA 116
- Email: Deirdre.mcnamer@mso.umt.edu
- Phone: 243-6975
- Office hours: 2:30-3:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays; 2:30—4 p.m., Wednesdays.

Course Description:
In this course we will examine the ways in which your work, in its early, formative stages, can become shaped, focused, compelling – and finished. We will begin at the micro level: words and sentences that can be changed, limited and made fresh; scenes that are undeveloped or begging to be axed. Issues related to grammar, tedium, rhythm and bloat will be raised and discussed. You will practice precision and speed. You will develop your ear for powerful and beautiful language.

From there, we will investigate ways in which your writing can be re-visioned, or seen anew. Would the choice of a different point of view infuse your material with new energy? Should you begin the piece with that paragraph at the bottom of p. 5 of your drafted version? Are your characters pulling their weight in terms of advancing the story or lending it necessary texture or relief?

Finally, we’ll examine issues of temperament. How can writers become patient with waiting, patient with a work’s gestation? How can we learn to ignore that naysaying, undermining editor we all seem compelled to create in our heads? How can we summon the attitudes, and create the practices, that make writing more likely to become literature?

Learning Outcomes:
1. That you leave the class with a new sense of your ability to re-fashion your writing in such a way that achieves its highest potential.
2. That you produce the proof of that in a piece of your own work.

Required Textbooks:
None. I will direct you to published work that you will use as the basis of writing exercises and critical responses.

Required Assignment and Tests:
- A weekly written analysis (2-4pp) of work by published writers, in both draft and revised versions.
- Participation in a weekly workshop in which writing by students in the class will be discussed and critiqued, with an emphasis on revisions that might improve it.
- “Editor’s notes” on all the workshopped pieces, including your own, with copies given to both the writer and to me.
- Two revisions of the work you submit for workshopping.
Course Guidelines and Policies:
Because you are graduate students in a highly selective program with a strong studio component, you are presumed by me to be invested, motivated, talented, learn-by-doing adults. You will get a high grade if you do the assignments, come to class, and demonstrate, through your critiques and revisions, a grasp of how to employ certain techniques of rewriting and re-seeing. If, at any time, you want my assessment of what your grade is precisely ---and why --please talk to me.

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<th>Grade By Letter</th>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>B</td>
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Student Conduct Code
Please familiarize yourself with the Student Conduct Code site: http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php

Attendance
Do not come to class late. Missing more than two classes during the semester will lower your final grade by two letters.

Course Withdrawal
Sept. 15 is the last day on which you can drop the course on Cyberbear. Oct. 27 is the last day you can drop with the consent of your advisor and instructor, with a $10 fee.

Disability Modifications
The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration among students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability that could adversely affect your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406-243-2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.