**Southern Arkansas University**

**Course Syllabus**

**Spring 2014**

**Course Number and Title:** English 4513 Creative Writing Fiction **Format:** F-to-F (0-24% online)

**College or Department:** Dept of English and Foreign Languages **Weeks in length:** 15

**Instructor:** Dr. James Ulmer **Class Meetings per term:** 30

**Contact Number:** 870-235-5085 **Hours per class meeting:** 1.5

**Email:** jkulmer@saumag.edu **Credit hours awarded:** 3

**Office Hours & Location:** Wilson 328, MWF 12-2, TR 1-3 **Course Time & Location:** Wilson 316**,**

or by appointmentTR 11-12:20

**Credit Hour Description**

For every course credit hour of a 15-17 week semester, the typical student should expect to spend approximately 45 clock hours per term of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time engaged in class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning.

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**University Mission Statement**

The mission of Southern Arkansas University is to educate students for productive and fulfilling lives in a global environment by providing opportunities for intellectual growth, individual enrichment, skill development, and meaningful career preparation. The University believes in the worth of the individual and accepts its responsibility for developing in its students those values and competencies essential for effective citizenship in an ever-changing, free, and democratic society. Further, the University encourages and supports excellence in teaching, scholarly, and creative endeavors, and service.

**College Mission Statement**

A liberal education is the best preparation for life and for students’ future careers in a modern changing global society. The College of Liberal and Performing Arts seeks to foster students’ ability to think critically, become tolerant of diversity, adhere to ethical values, communicate effectively, and become responsible citizens. In addition, the college seeks to inculcate in each student an appreciation of literature, music, theatre, and art, and to provide the campus and region with opportunities for participation in these disciplines.

**Department Mission Statement**

The program in English serves both non-specialists and students planning to do graduate work in English by promoting clear writing and critical reading of English, American, and world literature. The program prepares students for careers in teaching as well as literary and linguistic scholarship; it also provides a background for such professions as the ministry, journalism, editing, scientific or creative writing, counseling, advertising, salesmanship, and law.

**Learning Goals and Course Content**

**University Learning Goal:** LG 1--Effective Communication and LG 3--Critical Thinking

**Department or Program Learning Goal:** Students will demonstrate their ability to communicate in writing and to effectively analyze the work of their fellow students and of published writers.

**Course Description:** This upper-division workshop focuses on the study and practice of short fiction. Course time will include readings and discussion of form and theory, but the course will emphasize the production of original works.

**Course Learning Goals** (Optional):

1. The student will become more aware of the creative process.

2. The student will become more aware of the basic elements in the genre of fiction.

3. The student will engage in constructive criticism of the works of published writers and of writers in the class.

4. The student will undertake creative literary exercises in order to explore his or her own feelings and ideas.

5. Through the acts of reading, writing, and criticism, the student will gain a more profound appreciation for the art of storytelling.

**Couse Learning Objectives** (Optional):

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to read write, and critique fiction from a more informed perspective.

**Needed Resources:**

**To successfully complete this course, you will need the following required texts:**

John Clayton, ed. *Introduction to Fiction.* Sixth Edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000.

**Grading Policies and Procedures**

**General Rules:**

Attendance Policy: Any student with more than three unexcused absences can expect to receive an automatic WF for the course. Any make-up work will be at the discretion of the instructor and will not ordinarily be allowed for unexcused absences. Work may be made up after an excused absence if it is done promptly, excluding quizzes. Excuses should be presented in writing to the instructor upon the student's return to class. When extenuating circumstances for absence exist, the student should discuss the matter with the instructor at the earliest possible moment.

**Grading Policies:**

Course Requirements:

1. The student will read all material assigned and be willing to discuss it in class.

2. The student will turn in all writing assignments on time and be ready to present them in class when due.

3. The student will write a minimum of two short stories. A third will be optional.

4. The student will prepare a final portfolio consisting of two short stories and at least a thorough revision of one story or a third story, plus a brief self-analysis.

The student’s grade will be based on participation and the quality of his or her writing. Specifically, each story will count 20%, participation will count 30%, and the final portfolio will count 30%. If a student elects to write a third story, the instructor will count his or her two highest grades.

**Grading Scale:**

When essays are given letter grades, these will be converted to numerals for averaging. The conversion scale is as follows:

A= 90-100 (A- =90/A=95)

B= 80-89 (B- =80/B=85/B+=87)

C= 70-79 (C- =70/C=75/C+=77)

D= 60-69 (D- =60/D=65/D+=67)

F= 50

**Additional University Policies**

**Disability Support Services:** It is the policy of SAU to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law, state law, and the University's commitment to equal education opportunities. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact the Office of Disabilities Support Services, Nelson Hall, Room 203, 870-235-4154.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** Academic integrity at SAU is an organizational and individual responsibility to honesty in all learning experiences. Any act of dishonesty in academic work constitutes academic misconduct and is subject to disciplinary action. Acts of dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

A. Plagiarism--the act of taking and/or using the ideas, work, and/or writings of another person as one’s own.

B. Cheating--an act of dishonesty with the intention of obtaining and/or using information in a fraudulent manner.

C. Fabrication--faking or forging a document, signature or findings of a research project.

Any student committing any of these acts will be required to complete and pass the Academic Integrity Workshop before he or she can register for any subsequent classes.

**Supplemental Information**

**Class Calendar**

The following schedule is subject to change.

**Week 1:** Introduction to the class. The elements of fiction.

**Week 2:** Clayton, “Introduction: On Fiction,” pp. 1-35.

Updike, “A&P.”

**Week 3:** Jackson, “The Lottery” and Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily.”

Wharton, “Roman Fever.”

**Week 4:** FIRST STORY DUE: T, 2/4.

Cheever, “The Country Husband.”

O’Connor, “A Good Man is Hard to Find.”

**Week 5-7:** Workshop. Selections from the text as needed.

**Week 8:** Workshop. Selections from the text as needed.

SECOND DUE: R, 3/6.

**Week 9-15:** Workshop. Selections from the text as needed.

**Week 16:** Final Exam. FINAL PORTFOLIOS DUE.