

English 436.03, Fiction: Short Stories and Microfictions (Winter 2021)
Instructor: Suzette Mayr (smayr@ucalgary.ca)

Brief Description: This course involves the practice and theory of writing fiction, with particular attention to the craft and technique of microfiction and short fiction writing, and with some movement toward a short fiction collection. This class is conducted as a workshop in which students are required to read and critique one another's work over the course of the semester. Students will also present one stylistic analysis to class, and should be prepared for extensive reading and writing.

Prerequisites: Consent of the instructor. A fiction-writing course at the 200- and/or 300-level is ideal preparation for this course, although not required.

Pedagogy and Workload: The course is conducted primarily as a workshop, with students handing in fiction on a regular basis. Students are expected to read and write a great deal, and should be prepared for intensive creative and critical work. Students are expected to read their classmates' work with care and to discuss this writing with constructive, informed, and intelligent criticism. In addition to regular submissions, specific assignments and exercises in writing, reading, and listening will be assigned, including attendance at local readings. Class participation is always required.

Application Requirements: In order to be considered for a place in this course, potential students must email smayr@ucalgary.ca by **November 16th, 2020**:

- a) a completed application form on the reverse of (or following) this sheet, and
- b) a portfolio of 10-15 pages (12-point font and double-spaced) for evaluation. Please do not exceed this amount – submitting more than 15 pages does *not* make a good impression! As this is a fiction writing course, your portfolio should consist of fiction, not poetry or drama or essay writing. If you believe other genres enhance your portfolio, you may include selections, but fiction is primary and I will read no more than 15 pages total. It is to your advantage to include your best possible work. You do not necessarily need to submit completed short stories to your portfolio; you might include different sections that demonstrate your range.

By Dec. 7th, the English Department and the Registrar's Office will have a list of all students who have been accepted into this class. You will be notified via e-mail. If you have been granted permission to register, you can easily do so at that time. You should, however, register in your second-choice course to avoid disappointment if you do not gain admission to English 436.03.

Students **MUST** fill out the form on the following page.

ENGLISH 436.03: Short Stories and Microfictions Application Form

Name: _____

Student ID#: _____

Email: _____

List previous English courses that may relate, and course instructor:

List all previous Creative Writing courses (including non-credit), and instructor:

Your reasons for wishing to enroll in this course:
