





English (ENGL) 387

Writing Speculative Fiction (Revision 4)

Status:

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode:

Individualized study online 

Credits:

3

Areas of study:

Arts or Humanities

Prerequisites:

ENGL 381 (or equivalent) and professor approval.

Precluded:

None

Challenge:

ENGL 387 is not available for challenge.

Faculty:

[Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

Overview

ENGL 387 develops speculative fiction (SF) writing skills through a combination of strategic study and writing activity. Students learn key definitions, important history, traditions of the field, essential features of SF, and principles and standards of fiction writing in general. Strategic reading throughout the course, along with analysis of professional working methods, contributes and reinforces insights. Students will learn to perform expert critiques and write informed revisions. Above all, they will write and revise short SF with increasing skill and confidence.

Outline

Introduction


- Unit 1: What Is Speculative Fiction?
- Unit 2: Preparing to Excel at Speculative Fiction
- Unit 3: Elements of Story and Special Problems of Character
- Unit 4: Worlds and Wonders
- Unit 5: Themes and Tropes of Speculative Fiction
- Unit 6: Critique
- Unit 7: Final Draft

Evaluation


To **receive credit** [↗](#) for ENGL 387, you must achieve a minimum grade of 50 percent on each assignment and a composite grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [↗](#). There is no final examination. The weighting of the assignments is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Analysis: 400–500 words	10%

Activity	Weight
Short Story and Reflections: 2000–2500 words	15%
Short Story: 1000–1250 words	20%
Short Paper on Self-Editing: 250–300 words plus markup	10%
Short Story Introduction: 600–800 word	10%
Story Revision: 250 words, plus revision	10%
New Short Story Final Draft: 3000 word max, and 250 words of reflection	25%
Total	100%

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University’s [online Calendar](#) .

Materials

This course either does not have a course package or the textbooks are open-source material and available to students at no cost. This course has a [Course Administration and Technology Fee](#) , but students are not charged the Course Materials Fee.

Delaney, Samuel R. *About Writing: 7 Essays, 4 Letters & 5*

Interviews. Wesleyan University Press, 2005.  (eBook)





Wilhelm, Kate. *Storyteller: Writing Lessons and More from 27 Years of the*

Clarion Writers’ Workshop. Small Beer Press, 2005.  (eBook)

Other Materials

All other materials are available online. They include an extensive study guide, short stories, and resources on writing.

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) 
- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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View [previous revision](#) 
