“Art makes the familiar strange so that it can be freshly perceived. To do this it presents its material in unexpected, even outlandish ways: the shock of the new.” – Viktor Schlovsky

**Introduction**

ENGL 4363 “Elements of Craft” (3 credits) typically meets twice each week in 75-minute segments, three times a week in 50-minute segments, or one night a week in 150-minute segments, for 15-weeks, and includes a 2-hour final examination. Students are assigned substantial readings in contemporary published creative writing, either prose or poetry. They are required to write two craft analysis papers (roughly 10 pages total), give a presentation on one of the assigned texts, write two short stories or essays (2000-4000 words each, roughly 30 pages) or a body of original poetry (approximately six-ten poems), and participate in both a midterm and final exam, which may be critical or creative. These activities average at a minimum 6-9 hours of work each week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

The purpose of Elements of Craft is to help writers improve their writing by training them to actively engage with texts—to read as a writer, rather than as a reader. In this course, we will be reading and discussing fragments from novels and nonfiction works, short stories and essays, poems, as well as a number of films and film clips; and while we will be discussing all of the elements that make up a piece of narrative art—setting, dialogue, characterization—the main thrust of this particular course is to make us stronger on a microcosmic level.

**Texts**

All texts will be provided by your instructor.

**Assignments**

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<td>First Analysis</td>
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<td>Second Analysis</td>
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<td>Mimesis One</td>
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<td>Mimesis Two</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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**Attendance Policy:** Mandatory. You are allowed three (3) absences. Your fourth absence will result in a half-letter grade reduction. Your sixth absence will result in a failing grade. I take roll within five minutes of the beginning of class.

**Decorum**

Immature behavior—texting in class, falling asleep, etc.—will not be tolerated.

**Note:** Unless you and I have come to an agreement, assume the following: I do not accept late work. I do not accept emailed work. I expect all work to be done when I have asked for it to be done, and turned in at the time I ask you to turn it in. **Straying from these assumptions will result in negative consequences.**

**Analysis and Mimesis**

We will go into the particulars of these assignments later. The general idea here is that you will write an annotation—a close reading of an aspect of a work—for two of the works we read.

**Presentation**

From the works we read, you will be assigned one (along with one other student). The selections will be made by your professor. The selections will be arbitrary. You and your partner will be expected to begin class discussion for the week(s) we will be discussing the work at hand.

**Final Paper**

Your final paper will be an amalgamation of formal academic criticism and personal response to the works. Which is to say, it will be a well-articulated and researched personal essay.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the
accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students.

Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

**Schedule**

Week of Aug. 26
Introduction to the Course

Sept. 2
*The Corrections*
“Point of View”

Sept. 9
“Language”
Is this fiction or nonfiction?

Sept. 16 – 27
Continuation of Language Discussion
Mimesis One Due

Sept. 30
The Poetics of Prose, and Vice-Versa
Oct. 7
Mimesis Two Due

Oct. 14 – 31
White Noise
Autofiction
First Analysis Due

Nov. 4 – 11
Endings

Nov. 18 – 29
Analysis Two Due

Dec. 2
Conferencing

Dec. 11
Final Due