Writing Romances WRITE0230 (570) Fall 1998 Course Outline

Instructor	Tracy Cooper-Posey
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Website	http://edmonton.shaw.wave.ca/~mposey/tracycp/tracy1.html. (Bio and
	writing credits can be found here.)
Phone	497-5346. Ask for Marilyn or Ann, who will be able to take a message for
	you.
Hours	7-9:30pm, Wednesdays.
	10 Wednesdays, beginning September 30, 1998 and finishing December 7,
	1998.
	No class, November 11, 1998
About the Course	This course has a high ratio of practical exercises and hands-on writing.
110000000000000000000000000000000000000	This includes weekly assignments, which are individually assessed and
	critiqued, with suggestions for future work, approaches, etc.
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	Each student is encouraged to <i>write</i> , and by the end of the course they will
	have course notes to compliment the sheaf of projects, ideas and
	experiments they will have completed themselves, which can be converted
	to commercially viable pieces of work.
Course Objectives	This course is intended to give the student an introductory overview of the
•	romance writing industry, and practice and guidance in the writing of
	romance.
	The course is designed to cater to both beginning writers and the more
	experienced writer who is considering writing romance for the first time.
	Accordingly the course is constructed so that you can individualise both the
	time you commit to it, and the benefits you gain from it.
	By adding in these additional components, you can tailor the benefits you
	want from the course:
Component 1	Acquiring and reading romances will give you a feel for what the romance
Reading romances	industry is currently publishing, and what romance readers want.
	Assiduous reading will also teach you how to judge what sort of writing
	works the most effectively for you as a reader, and therefore guide you on
	how to structure your own writing.
	Reading across the range of romance categories will guide you in choosing
	which category and market suits you as a writer.
Component 2	Assignments will be given each week for completion and return the next
Weekly	week. Each assignment will be edited and critiqued, and suggestions for
Assignments	improvement and possible markets for the completed piece will be given.

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	Completing the assignments will give those students who are keen to develop their own writing a chance apply the techniques discussed in class, and with the personalised feedback, they can then incorporate the techniques into their own writing projects.
Component 3 Short story project	Requirements of the short story are given below. This is a chance to bring together all the elements of creative writing as they apply to romance fiction, and showcase your new skills in a class magazine that will be a permanent memento of the course.
Component 4 Long term plan	For those students who use this course as a stepping stone to a new direction in their writing career, the completion of their next romance novel will be edited and critiqued by the instructor free of charge. Details will be available at the end of the course.
	By incorporating all the additional components of the course into your study, you will be automatically practicising those habits of a serious writer: Consistant reading, writing, market research, acquiring feedback on your work, and constant improvement.
	However, even if time prevents you, or you choose not to use these additional elements, you will still complete the course with a new appreciation for the most misunderstood writing genre in the world.
Recommended Reading	This course has no required reading or course text. However, it is strongly recommended that you obtain and read as many commercial romance novels as you can. There is a huge range available to suit all tastes, and this is a unique opportunity for you to experiment with some of the categories of romances you have not tried before.
	To keep costs down, students are encouraged to bring their finished novels to class to trade with other students.
Recommended Texts	Strunk and White, The Elements of Style, MacMillan © 1984 (and on)
	Phyllis Taylor Pianka, <u>How to write Romance</u> , Writers' Digest Books © 1994
	Various, Romance Writer's Source Book, Writers' Digest Books © 1996
<u>Project</u>	You are encouraged to, in your own time, work on a romantic short story of around 2,000 words, drawing on techniques and skills discussed in class. The story should conform to all the requirements of a publishable short story suitable for a women's magazine. Along with your completed short story manuscript, which should be formatted correctly, give details of the market you were aiming for: Name, type of publication (weekly, monthly, glossy), typical readership.
İ	The completed story will be edited and included in a class magazine to be

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	produced at the end of the course. Due date: Wednesday, 25 th November (Week 8).
Course details	
Every week	Exploration and discussion of one of the many sub-categories in romance. Writing exercises. Critiquing of student's work A weekly assignment (usually short) to be completed at home and returned the next week for assessment and critique by the instructor.
Week 1	What is a romance? Romance defined. Why write romances? A study of the romance industry worldwide Getting ideas for romances Manuscript format
Week 2	What's out there and why should you care? Markets and market research Mainstream vs. Category Short stories vs. Novels vs. Novellas Keeping a market database (or; how on earth do you remember all that stuff???) Sources of market information How to critique
Week 3	Plotting and conflict – the heart of the romance novel Romantic conflict Plotting Basic elements of a romance plot Romance plots – rule of thumb Plotting a romance
Week 4	Heroes and Heroines The romantic hero The heroine The no-no list
Week 5	Characters, and plotting part II Other characters Plotting, again.
Week 6	The Opening of your novel, and upping the stakes. Research Structure The opening of your novel Writing mechanics
Week 7	Depending on your point of view Point of View Emotional intensity again Setting
Week 8	Love scenes, amongst others Scenes and transitions

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	What is a scene?
	Love scenes
	The mechanics of writing
	Short story project due
Week 9	"Dialogue!" he swore.
	What's your niche?
	Dialogue
	The end.
	Sequels and series (sets)
	Editing and revision
Week 10	Submissions and marketing your work
	Sub-categories revisited.
	Marketing and submitting your manuscript
	Titles
	Copyright, plagiarism and other nasties
	Professionalism
	Certificates and course questionnaires.
Policy E3400	Students who will require accommodations in this course due to a disability
Students with	are advised to discuss their needs with Services to Students with
disabilities	Disabilities in the Counselling Department (497-5603), and to advise their
	instructors.