

# English (ENGL) 387

## Writing Speculative Fiction (Revision 3)

**Delivery Mode:** [Individualized Study Online](#) 

**Credits:** 3



**Areas of Study:** Arts, or Humanities (Non-Business)

**Prerequisites:** [ENGL 381](#) (or equivalent) and professor approval.

**Precluded:** None

**Challenge:** ENGL 387 is not available for Challenge.

**Faculty:** [Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences](#) 

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



## 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

## 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

## 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%
Short Story and Reflections: 2,000–2,500 words	15%
Short Story: 2,000–2,500 words	20%
Markup and Critique: 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: 3,000 word max, and 250 words of reflection	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

## Materials

### Materials

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

## Important Links

- › [Academic Advising](#) 
- › [Program Planning](#) 
- › [Request Assistance](#) 
- › [Student 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.

*Opened in Revision 3, July 9, 2020*

*Updated September 3, 2021, by Student & Academic Services*

View [previous revision](#) 

