

**Center for the Writing Arts**  
**Application for fall-quarter 2008-FRESHMEN**

*All applications are confidential and processed according to the University's Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.*

The workshop to which you are applying will be offered only in Fall Quarter 2008. Only fifteen students will be chosen for this special workshop. The Center for the Writing Arts offers workshops like this with different visiting writers in residence for the art of writing fiction, non-fiction, or poetry each year. Please see our website for more details at:

**[www.northwestern.edu/writing-arts/](http://www.northwestern.edu/writing-arts/)**

Please return, by email, your completed application, writing sample, and essay to:

**The Center for the Writing Arts**

**Email: [words@northwestern.edu](mailto:words@northwestern.edu)**

**Attention: Stacy Oliver, Assistant Director**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2008 by 5PM**

*ACCEPTED APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY E-MAIL BY SEPTEMBER 16, 2008. THEY WILL BE GIVEN A PERMISSION NUMBER TO REGISTER.*

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**301-0 The Art of Fiction**

**Sefi Atta      Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00-3:20 pm**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Campus Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Area(s) of General Writing Interest (poetry, fiction, nonfiction, playwriting):

**Writing Prerequisite:** Please let us know what writing-intensive course(s) you took in high school:

**Writing Sample:** Please attach 5-10 pages of a complete, original short story or an excerpt from a longer fiction or nonfiction piece. List title here:

**Personal Essay:** Please attach an essay, no longer than 400 words, describing (a) what you hope to learn by attending this class, and (b) what you will bring as a participant to the class.

## Writing 301

**THE ART OF FICTION**  
with Visiting Writer in Residence Fall Quarter 2008  
**SEFI ATTA**  
Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00-3:20 pm



SEFI ATTA

Sefi Atta was born in Lagos, Nigeria. She was educated there, in England and the United States. Her short stories have appeared in *Los Angeles Review* and *Mississippi Review* and have won prizes from *Zoetrope* and Red Hen Press. Her radio plays have been broadcast by the BBC. She is the winner of PEN International's 2004/2005 David TK Wong Prize and in 2006, her novel *Everything Good Will Come* was awarded the inaugural Wole Soyinka Prize for Literature in Africa.

**Application available online at: [www.northwestern.edu/writing-arts/](http://www.northwestern.edu/writing-arts/)**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is open by application only to undergraduates.

This course is designed for students who want to learn the craft of writing fiction. Students will present their work for critique and will participate in critiquing each other's work. In addition to required texts, the instructor will provide handouts periodically and recommend further reading.

The handouts will be essays on elements of craft and interviews with a variety of writers discussing their works and writing processes. I will encourage and expect all students to participate actively in the workshops and to submit their work on time. We will pay attention to the main elements of craft, such as voice, story form, characterization, showing versus telling, point of view, setting, simile and metaphor. Students will write and revise a short story or a portion of a novel and will also complete very brief writing assignments. A final revision of the short story or novel excerpt will be due at the end of the quarter.