

ENGLISH 130 SECTION 2
TTH 10:30-11:45
FALL 2014

FICTION WRITING WORKSHOP
BBC 122
ALWAYS BE ON TIME!!!!

JOHN ENGELL P 1
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FO 218 TUESDAY 12:30-14:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a workshop class. You will spend a majority of in-class time workshopping short stories written by you and your classmates. In addition, you will read a number of published American short stories written between the early 19th century and the present. We will spend some time discussing these stories, and I will give occasional, unannounced reading quizzes on stories assigned from the only required text in the course. All reading assignments are included on the schedule at the end of this syllabus. I've also included partial explanations of your required fiction-writing and fiction-critiquing assignments. All of your written work for this workshop class will be included in an end-of-the-semester Portfolio. You will write two complete stories and revise both. Each story should be at least eight double-spaced pages in length. The final drafts of the two stories combined must constitute at least 20 pages of revised fiction. The first story you write will be told in the first-person. The second story will be told in the third-person. We will discuss these two kinds of story-telling at length in class. Point-of-view, voice, and style are as important as plot, character, and setting in the making of a successful story. Final drafts of all stories should be nearly error-free, as they would be if you were sending a story or stories to an agent or to a publication. Professional readers have no interest in stories containing grammatical and technical mistakes. This workshop class should be fun, but it also needs to be rigorous. In order to improve as a writer, each of you needs to be open to suggestions and helpful criticism, both from fellow students and from me. Of course suggestions and criticism should always be expressed in a helpful and courteous way. We are all involved in this workshop class in order to improve our fiction writing and to help others improve theirs.

PREREQUISITES: Passage of the WST; upper-division standing

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH & COMPARATIVE LITERATURE:

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, rhetoric, or film.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches in British, American, and World Literature.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, context, and nature of the subject.
4. Students will demonstrate the ability to develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to articulate relations among culture, history & texts.

DEPARTMENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES COVERED ARE LISTED NEXT TO ASSIGNMENTS

ASSESSMENT: All student writing shall be assessed for grammar, clarity, conciseness, and coherence. In accordance with the approved assessment plan, the course coordinator/department chair will summarize the assessment result for English 130 sections according to the standard procedure.

REQUIRED TEXT:

THE OXFORD BOOK OF AMERICAN SHORT STORIES, 2ND EDITION. Ed. Joyce Carol Oates. Oxford University Press, 2013. [Be absolutely certain you buy the 2nd EDITION!!!!]

IMPORTANT: BRING THIS BOOK TO EVERY CLASS!!!!

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: Writing assignments include two short stories of at least eight double-spaced pages in length each and at least twenty double-spaced pages total. Rough drafts of each story workshopped in class; the writer must provide a copy to each class member a week before the workshop session. I will provide each student with a worksheet to fill out for each story workshopped. Both stories workshopped must be rewritten in fully revised draft. The end-of-semester Portfolio will include both stories in both forms: workshopped rough draft and fully revised draft. The Portfolio will also include all worksheets filled out by class members and by me for the rough drafts of the two stories. Remember, the first story must be written in the first person, the second story in the third person. All stories workshopped must be original work written for this class and for no other class. In addition, the occasional unannounced in-class quizzes on assigned reading will also be included in the Portfolio.

GRADING:

Occasional unannounced in-class quizzes on required reading assignments	20%
Rough Draft of First Story (first-person)	20%
Rough Draft of Second Story (third-person)	20%
Portfolio (especially full revisions of first and second story)	40%

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS [ALL READINGS FROM REQUIRED TEXT]:

AUGUST

- T 26 DISCUSSION & LECTURE: Class Syllabus (handout); Workshop Story Evaluation Worksheet (handout); Reading & Writing in this class; Signup for dates when first-person stories will be workshopped
 READING: Poe. "The Tell-Tale Heart"
- TH 28 DISCUSSION & LECTURE: The first-person story. Types of first-person; Voice; Style; Discussion of assigned readings
 READING: Stowe. "The Ghost in the Mill"
 Gilman. "The Yellow Wallpaper"

SEPTEMBER

- T 2 DISCUSSION & LECTURE: The first-person story. The relationship of first-person voice and style to plot, character, and setting; discussion of assigned first-person readings
 FIRST-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 9 SEPTEMBER DISTRIBUTED.
 READING: Lovecraft. "The Rats in the Wall"
 Welty. "Where Is the Voice Coming From?"
- TH 4 DISCUSSION & LECTURE: Workshopping first-person stories: what to look for and why
 FIRST-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 11 SEPTEMBER DISTRIBUTED
 READING: Ellison. "Battle Royal"
 Malamud. "My Son the Murderer"
- T 9 FIRST WORKSHOP SESSION: FIRST-PERSON STORIES
 FIRST-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 16 SEPTEMBER DISTRIBUTED
 READING: Baldwin. "Sonny's Blues"
- TH 11 SECOND WORKSHOP SESSION: FIRST-PERSON STORIES
 FIRST-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 18 SEPTEMBER DISTRIBUTED
 READING: Barthelme. "The School"
- T 16 THIRD WORKSHOP SESSION: FIRST-PERSON STORIES
 FIRST-STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 23 SEPTEMBER DISTRIBUTED
 READING: Roth. "Defender of the Faith"

- TH 18 FOURTH WORKSHOP SESSION: FIRST-PERSON STORIES
FIRST-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 25 SEPTEMBER DISTRIBUTED
READING: Erdrich. "Fleur"
- T 23 FIFTH WORKSHOP SESSION: FIRST-PERSON STORIES
FIRST-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 30 SEPTEMBER DISTRIBUTED
READING: Jin. "Children as Enemies"
- TH 25 SIXTH WORKSHOP SESSION: FIRST-PERSON STORIES
FIRST-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 7 OCTOBER DISTRIBUTED
READING: Lahiri. "Hell-Heaven"
- T 30 SEVENTH WORKSHOP SESSION: FIRST-PERSON STORIES
STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 9 OCTOBER DISTRIBUTED
READING: Diaz. "Edison, New Jersey" [This is the final first-person story I will assign.]
- OCTOBER
- TH 2 REVISION AND WRITING DAY: NO CLASS.
- T 7 EIGHTH WORKSHOP SESSION: FIRST-PERSON STORIES
FIRST-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 14 OCTOBER DISTRIBUTED
READING: [This is the first third-person story I will assign.] Irving. "Rip van Winkle"
- TH 9 NINTH WORKSHOP SESSION: FIRST-PERSON STORIES
FIRST-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 16 OCTOBER DISTRIBUTED
READING: Hawthorne. "The Wives of the Dead"
- T 14 TENTH WORKSHOP SESSION: FIRST-PERSON STORIES
THIRD-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 23 OCTOBER DISTRIBUTED
READING: Jewett. "A White Heron"
- TH 16 ELEVENTH & FINAL WORKSHOP SESSION ON FIRST-PERSON STORIES
THIRD-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 28 OCTOBER DISTRIBUTED
READING: Chopin. "The Storm"
- T 21 DISCUSSION & LECTURE: Types of third-person narration; Voice; Style; Relationship of third-
person voice and style to plot, character, and setting; discussion of third-person readings
READING: Freeman. "Old Woman Magoon"
Chesnutt. "The Sheriff's Children"
- TH 23 FIRST WORKSHOP SESSION: THIRD-PERSON STORIES
THIRD-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 30 OCTOBER DISTRIBUTED
READING: Wharton. "A Journey"
- T 28 SECOND WORKSHOP SESSION: THIRD-PERSON STORIES
THIRD-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 4 NOVEMBER DISTRIBUTED
READING: London. "In a Far Country"
- TH 30 THIRD WORKSHOP SESSION: THIRD-PERSON STORIES
THIRD-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 6 NOVEMBER DISTRIBUTED
READING: Fitzgerald. "An Alcoholic Case"
- NOVEMBER
- T 4 FOURTH WORKSHOP SESSION: THIRD-PERSON STORIES
READING: Hemingway. "Hills Like White Elephants"
- TH 6 FIFTH WORKSHOP SESSION: THIRD-PERSON STORIES
THIRD-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 13 NOVEMBER DISTRIBUTED
READING: Cheever. "The Country Husband"
- T 11 NO CLASS. UNIVERSITY CLOSED. VETERANS' DAY.

- TH 13 SIXTH WORKSHOP SESSION: THIRD-PERSON STORIES
THIRD-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 20 NOVEMBER DISTRIBUTED
READING: O'Connor. "A Late Encounter with the Enemy"
- T 18 SEVENTH WORKSHOP SESSION: THIRD-PERSON STORIES
THIRD-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 25 DECEMBER DUE
READING: Carver. "Are These Actual Miles?"
- TH 20 EIGHTH WORKSHOP SESSION: THIRD-PERSON STORIES
READING: Richard Ford. "Under the Radar"
- T 25 NINTH WORKSHOP SESSION: THIRD-PERSON STORIES
THIRD-PERSON STORIES TO BE WORKSHOPPED ON 2 AND 4 DECEMBER DUE
READING: Tobias Wolff. "Hunters in the Snow"
- DECEMBER
- T 2 TENTH WORKSHOP SESSION: THIRD-PERSON STORIES
READING: Boyle. "Filthy with Things"
- TH 4 ELEVENTH & FINAL WORKSHOP SESSION ON THIRD-PERSON STORIES
READING: Amy Hempel. "Today Will Be a Quiet Day"
- T 9 LAST DAY OF CLASS
READING: Moore. "How to Become a Writer"

PORTFOLIOS ARE DUE IN MY OFFICE ON THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER (DEAD DAY) BETWEEN 10:00 AND 2:00. THEY MUST BE TURNED IN ON TIME OR FACE A VERY SUBSTANTIAL GRADE PENALTY. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU BRING YOUR PORTFOLIO TO MY OFFICE ON 11 DECEMBER DURING THE HOURS I HAVE JUST INDICATED. IF YOU WISH TO TURN IN YOUR PORTFOLIO EARLIER, PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME.

YOU MAY PICK UP YOUR PORTFOLIOS AT THE BEGINNING OF SPRING SEMESTER—YOU SHOULD MAKE AN APPOINTMENT BEFORE DOING SO—OR YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE INDIVIDUAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME TO RECEIVE YOUR PORTFOLIO BACK EARLIER.

READ TO WRITE. WRITE TO READ.