

Writing 2218G: To Make a Long Story Short (Introduction to Short Fiction)

Course Descriptions and Objectives:

The course is a mixture of lecture and workshop modes. Lectures will address the various aspects of the short story, and students will workshop their own and others short stories. Students will develop not only fiction writing ability, but also critical reading skills by reading and discussing published short stories and the stories of their peers at the same time that they write two of their own stories. Based on professional models, instructor guidance and class discussion, students will produce two stories of 1500-3000 words in length. Although this course contains lecture elements, it is, at base, a discussion, reading and workshop course, and as a result students must be prepared to participate in the workshop process: peer evaluation, editing, drafting, discussion topics, etc. In a writing workshop, one learns to write for others besides oneself—to respect one's readers, their time and insights. For this reason, attendance is mandatory.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have demonstrated the ability to

1. identify the fundamental elements of the short story;
2. generate ideas for and produce finished pieces of short fiction;
3. analyze and respond critically to published writing and the work of their peers;
4. identify and correct errors in composition, grammar, and mechanics; and
5. incorporate feedback into revisions.

Required Textbooks:

- *After Realism: 24 Stories for the 21st Century*, ed. André Forget. Vehicule Press, 2022.

Assignments:

Story 1:

Draft (10%): Due the class after the class in which it is workshopped

Final (30%): Due week 7

Story 2:

Draft (10%): Due the class after the class in which it is workshopped

Final (40%): Due Last Day of Class
Technique Talk (10%): Due Weeks 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11