Course/Title: English 201-1/Introduction to Fiction Writing  
Professor: Stephen Schottenfeld  
Room: 020 Barret Library  
Class Times: MWF 10:00-10:50am  
Office Hours: MW 3-4:30pm  
Office Room: Palmer 305  
Office Phone: 843-3744  
Home Phone: 726-1899 (please do not call after 8pm)  
Email: schottenfelds@rhodes.edu  

Syllabus

F, 8/24  Homework: read Raymond Carver's "Cathedral"

M, 8/27  Introductions and Course Guidelines  
Discussion of Carver  
Homework: read Flannery O'Connor's "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" and "Good Country People"

W, 8/29  Discussion of O'Connor  
Discussion of Character and Setting  
Homework: read James Baldwin's "Sonny's Blues"  
begin writing a 2-3 pg. scene (use Elizabeth Tallent's "No One's a Mystery" as example) – due W, 9/5

F, 8/31  Discussion of Baldwin  
Discussion of Point of View  
Homework: read Richard Ford's "Great Falls" and Ernest Hemingway's "Hills Like White Elephants"

M, 9/3  LABOR DAY

W, 9/5  Discussion of Ford and Hemingway  
Discussion of Dialogue  
Homework: read Ethan Canin's "The Year of Getting to Know Us" and Beginnings handout

F, 9/7  Discussion of Beginnings and Immediacy  
Discussion of Canin (Narrative Structure)  
Homework: read Amy Bloom's "Silver Water" (handout) and Stuart Dybek's "We Didn't"

M, 9/10  Discussion of Bloom and Dybek  
Discussion of Plot and Complication  
Discussion of Rhythm and Sound  
Homework: read Anthony Doerr's "The Hunter's Wife" and "For a Long Time This Was Griselda's Story" (handouts)
W, 9/12  Discussion of Doerr  
Homework: read Bobbie Ann Mason's "Shiloh"

NOTE: THURSDAY, 9/13 ANTHONY DOERR READING 7:30pm  
(There may also be a Q and A earlier in the afternoon)

F, 9/14  Discussion of Mason  
Discussion of Detail and Resolution  
Homework: read Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried"

M, 9/17  Discussion of O'Brien  
Discussion of Workshop Protocol  
*First Workshop Stories Due  
Homework: read Amy Tan's "Rules of the Game" and Workshop Stories

W, 9/19  Workshop  
Discussion of Tan  
Homework: read Anton Chekhov's "The Lady with the Dog" and Workshop Stories

F, 9/21  Workshop  
Discussion of Chekhov  
Discussion of Irony  
Homework: read Margaret Atwood's "Death by Landscape" and Jamaica Kincaid's "Girl" and Workshop Stories

M, 9/24  Workshop  
Discussion of Atwood and Kincaid  
Homework: read Jill McCorkle's "Intervention" and Workshop Stories

W, 9/26  Workshop  
Discussion of McCorkle  
Homework: read Ralph Ellison's "King of the Bingo Game" and Workshop Stories

F, 9/28  Workshop  
Discussion of Ellison  
Homework: read John Cheever's "The Enormous Radio" and Workshop Stories

M, 10/1  Workshop  
Discussion of Cheever
Homework: read Nadine Gordimer's "A Soldier's Embrace" and Workshop Stories

W, 10/3
Workshop
Discussion of Gordimer
Homework: read Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" and Franz Kafka's "A Hunger Artist"

F, 10/5
Discussion of Jackson and Kafka
Discussion of Allegory
Homework: read James Joyce's "Araby" and David Leavitt's "Gravity" (handout)

M, 10/8
Discussion of Joyce and Leavitt
Discussion of Epiphany
Homework: read and John Updike's "A & P" and "Brother Grasshopper"

W, 10/10
Discussion of Updike
Homework: read Willa Cather’s “Paul’s Case” and Ursula K. Le Guin's "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"

F, 10/12
Discussion of Cather and Le Guin
Homework: read Ambrose Bierce's "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" and Philip Roth's "The Conversion of the Jews"

FALL RECESS

W, 10/17
*First Workshop Stories Due
Discussion of Bierce and Roth
Homework: read Richard Bausch's "The Man Who Knew Belle Starr" (handout) and Workshop Stories

F, 10/19
Workshop
Discussion of Bausch
Homework: read Amy Hempel's "In the Cemetery Where Al Jolson is Buried" and Workshop Stories

M, 10/22
Workshop
Discussion of Hempel
Homework: read William Faulkner's "Barn Burning" and Workshop Stories

W, 10/24
Workshop
Discussion of Faulkner
Homework: read Toni Cade Bambara's "Gorilla, My Love" and Workshop Stories

F, 10/26 Workshop  
Discussion of Bambara  
Homework: read Isaac Bashevis Singer's "Gimpel the Fool" and Workshop Stories

M, 10/29 Workshop  
Discussion of Singer  
Homework: read Alice Munro's "Royal Beatings" and Workshop Stories

W, 10/31 Workshop  
Discussion of Munro  
Homework: read Bharati Mukherjee's "The Management of Grief" and Workshop Stories

F, 11/2 Workshop  
Discussion of Mukharjee  
Homework: read Donald Barthelme's "Me and Miss Mandible" and Vladimir Nabokov's "Signs and Symbols"

M, 11/5 Discussion of Barthelme and Nabokov  
Homework: read Robert Coover's "The Babysitter" (handout) and Julio Cortázar's "A Continuity of Parks"

W, 11/7 Discussion of Coover and Cortázar  
Homework: read Holiday Reinhorn’s “Last Seen” (handout) and Gabriel García Márquez's "The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World"

F, 11/9 Discussion of Reinhorn and García Márquez  
Homework: read David Foster Wallace's "Forever Overhead" (handout) and Joyce Carol Oates's "How I Contemplated the World from the Detroit House of Correction and Began My Life Over Again"

M, 11/12 Discussion of Wallace and Oates  
Homework: read Frank O'Connor's "Guest of the Nation" and Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper"

W, 11/14 Discussion of O'Connor and Gilman  
Homework: read Andrea Barrett's "The Littoral Zone" and Eudora Welty's "A Worn Path"

F, 11/16 Discussion of Barrett and Welty  
*First Workshop Stories Due
Homework: read Workshop Stories

M, 11/19 Workshop
Homework: read Workshop Stories

THANKSGIVING BREAK

M, 11/26 Workshop
Homework: read Workshop Stories

W, 11/28 Workshop
Homework: read Workshop Stories

F, 11/30 Workshop
Homework: read Workshop Stories

M, 12/3 Workshop
Homework: read TBD

W, 12/5 Discussion of TBD

Portfolios may be handed in on the 5th (or by Friday 12/7, 5pm at latest). Portfolios should consist of all four of your stories (with my comments on them) and one revision.