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ENGL 201-01, Introduction to Fiction Writing, Fall 2007

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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

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Home Phone: 726-1899 (please do not call after 8pm)

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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.