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## ENGL 201-02, Introduction to Fiction Writing, Fall 2004

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Course/Title: English 201-2/Introduction to Fiction Writing  
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### Syllabus

- W, 8/25      Introductions and Course Guidelines  
                  Homework: read Flannery O'Connor's "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" and Raymond Carver's "Cathedral" and "Character and Setting" in *Talking about Fiction* section (xxiii)
- F, 8/27      Discussion of Character and Setting  
                  Discussion of Tone  
                  Discussion of O'Connor and Carver  
                  Homework: read James Baldwin's "Sonny's Blues"  
    write a 2-3 pg. scene (use Elizabeth Tallent's "No One's a Mystery" as example)
- M, 8/30      Discussion of Baldwin  
                  Discussion of Point of View  
                  Homework: read Richard Ford's "Great Falls" and Ernest Hemingway's "Hills Like White Elephants"
- W, 9/1      Discussion of Ford and Hemingway  
                  Discussion of Dialogue  
                  Homework: read Alice Munro's "Prue" and Beginnings handout
- F, 9/3      Discussion of Beginnings and Immediacy  
                  Discussion of Munro  
                  Homework: read Amy Bloom's "Silver Water" and Stuart Dybek's "We Didn't"
- M, 9/6      LABOR DAY
- W, 9/8      Discussion of Bloom and Dybek  
                  Discussion of Plot and Complication  
                  Discussion of Rhythm and Sound  
                  Homework: read Bobbie Ann Mason's "Shiloh"

- F, 9/10      Discussion of Mason  
 Discussion of Detail and Resolution  
 Discussion of Workshop Protocol  
 \*First Workshop Stories Due  
 Homework: read Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried" and  
 Workshop Stories
- M, 9/13      Workshop  
 Discussion of O'Brien  
 Homework: read Amy Tan's "Rules of the Game" and Workshop  
 Stories
- W, 9/15      Workshop  
 Discussion of Tan  
 Homework: read Anton Chekhov's "The Lady with the Dog" and  
 Workshop Stories
- F, 9/17      Workshop  
 Discussion of Chekhov  
 Discussion of Irony  
 Homework: read Margaret Atwood's "Death by Landscape" and  
 Jamaica Kincaid's "Girl" and Workshop Stories
- M, 9/20      Workshop  
 Discussion of Atwood and Kincaid  
 Homework: read Barry Hannah's "Testimony of Pilot" and  
 Workshop Stories
- W, 9/22      Workshop  
 Discussion of Hannah  
 Homework: read Ralph Ellison's "King of the Bingo Game" and  
 Workshop Stories
- F, 9/24      Workshop  
 Discussion of Ellison  
 Homework: read John Cheever's "The Enormous Radio" and  
 Workshop Stories
- M, 9/27      Workshop  
 Discussion of Cheever  
 Homework: read Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" and Franz Kafka's  
 "A Hunger Artist"

- W, 9/29      Discussion of Jackson and Kafka  
 Discussion of Allegory  
 Homework: read James Joyce's "Araby" and David Leavitt's  
 "Gravity"
- F, 10/1      Discussion of Joyce and Leavitt  
 Discussion of Epiphany  
 Homework: read Herman Melville's "Bartleby, the Scrivener" and  
 John Updike's "A & P"
- M, 10/4      Discussion of Melville and Updike  
 \*First Workshop Stories Due  
 Homework: read Willa Cather's "Paul's Case" and Workshop  
 Stories
- W, 10/6      Workshop  
 Discussion of Cather  
 Homework: read Ursula K. Le Guin's "The Ones Who Walk Away  
 from Omelas" and Workshop Stories
- F, 10/8      Workshop  
 Discussion of Le Guin  
 Homework: read Ambrose Bierce's "An Occurrence at Owl Creek  
 Bridge" and Workshop Stories
- M, 10/11     Workshop  
 Discussion of Bierce  
 Homework: read Philip Roth's "The Conversion of the Jews" and  
 Workshop Stories
- W, 10/13     Workshop  
 Discussion of Roth  
 Homework: read Amy Hempel's "In the Cemetery Where Al  
 Jolson is Buried" and Workshop Stories
- F, 10/15     Workshop  
 Discussion of Hempel  
 Homework: read William Faulkner's "Barn Burning" and  
 Workshop Stories

FALL RECESS

- W, 10/20      Workshop  
                   Discuss Faulkner  
                   Homework: read Sherwood Anderson's "I Want to Know Why"  
 and Workshop Stories
- F, 10/22      Workshop  
                   Discuss Anderson  
                   Homework: (And now for something completely different...) read  
 Donald Barthelme's "Me and Miss Mandible" and Vladimir Nabokov's "Signs  
 and Symbols"
- M, 10/25      Discussion of Barthelme and Nabokov  
                   Homework: read Robert Coover's "The Babysitter" and Julio  
 Cortázar's "A Continuity of Parks"
- W, 10/27      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, 10/29      Discussion of Reinhorn and García Márquez  
                   Homework: read Frank O'Connor's "Guest of the Nation"
- M, 11/1        Discussion of O'Connor  
                   \*First Workshop Stories Due  
                   Homework: read Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow  
 Wallpaper" and Workshop Stories
- W, 11/3        Workshop  
                   Discussion of Gilman  
                   Homework: read Thom Jones's "The Pugilist at Rest" and  
 Workshop Stories
- F, 11/5        Workshop  
                   Discussion of Jones  
                   Homework: read Alice Munro's "Royal Beatings" and Workshop  
 Stories
- M, 11/8        Workshop  
                   Discussion of Munro  
                   Homework: read Bharati Mukherjee's "The Management of Grief"  
 and Workshop Stories

W, 11/10      Workshop  
 Discussion of Mukherjee  
 Homework: read Stephen Crane's "The Open Boat" and Workshop  
 Stories

F, 11/12      Workshop  
 Discussion of Crane  
 Homework: read Eudora Welty's "A Worn Path" and Workshop  
 Stories

M, 11/15      Workshop  
 Discussion of Welty  
 Homework: read Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Birthmark" and  
 Workshop Stories

W, 11/17      Workshop  
 Discussion of Hawthorne  
 Homework: read Isaac Bashevis Singer's "Gimpel the Fool" and  
 Mark Twain's "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County"

F, 11/19      Discussion of Singer and Twain  
 Homework: read Andrea Barrett's "The Littoral Zone" and Toni  
 Cade Bambara's "Gorilla, My Love"

M, 11/22      Discussion of Barrett and Bambara  
 \*First Workshop Stories Due  
 Homework: read Workshop Stories

#### THANKSGIVING BREAK

M, 11/29      Workshop  
 Homework: read Workshop Stories

W, 12/1        Workshop  
 Homework: read Workshop Stories

F, 12/3        Workshop  
 Homework: read Workshop Stories

M, 12/6        Workshop  
 Homework: read Workshop Stories

W, 12/8      Workshop

Portfolios may be handed in on the 8th (or by Friday 5pm at latest).  
Portfolios should consist of all four of your stories and one revision.