

5CRWRI-UA 818 Writers In New York: Fiction Workshop Syllabus

Instructor: Helen Schulman

Office Hours: Mondays 1-2:30 in room tk (by appointment, please email me beforehand)

During the first two weeks of this four-week course students will be given writing exercises designed to generate new material. During the second 2 weeks they will be expected to work on a full-length story, the first draft due according to the schedule below, and revisions due the final day (or for those who are workshopped on June 21st and 23rd by email Sunday June 27th).

All **written homework** must be printed out in a professional manner, double-spaced, with your name on it, page-numbered etc. If you are participating in person please bring in tk copies to distribute in class. Those of you joining by Zoom please email them to the class ahead of time and to Joanna Yas Joanna.Yas@nyu.edu so we can have hard copies in the class room

During the 3rd and 4th week of class **ALL STORIES SHOULD BE EMAILED TO THE CLASS THE DAY BEFORE THEY ARE TO BE DISCUSSED, BY 4PM AT THE LATEST** (earlier is even better). This is so we will have time to read them before we come into class to workshop them.

Also, active participation is a must (unless this is extremely hard for you—then please speak to me privately). No late submissions, please. Since this is a four-week intensive, attendance is mandatory. If you must miss class, call the office or email me directly.

Lastly, grading: all students will receive one grade for the entire program, it will be a reflection of your performance in workshop and in craft class, as well as your attendance at evening events.

*For the first class please read Lorrie Moore's story (How To Be A Writer)

Class #1 Wednesday 6/2 2:30-5

(Please note NO CLASS Monday May 31st, Memorial Day)

INTRODUCTION

In class reading, Mark Leyner, Tallent and Ordan

Openings Writing Assignment

Reading Homework for Friday: John Cheever (Goodbye My Brother)

James Baldwin (Sonny's Blues)

Writing Homework for Friday: Dictionary of Personal Language (3-5 examples) and if we don't finish in class, openings assignment.

Class #2 **FRIDAY** 6/4 (make-up for Monday)
Descriptions Writing Assignment in class
Reading Homework for next Monday: Flannery O'Connor (The Displaced Person)

Visual Homework: Please bring in a photo or ad or postcard of a person who interests you enough for you to want to write about him or her. If you see this person on the street, all the better, but make sure you have his or her permission before taking the picture.

Writing Homework: Bring in a detailed character sketch of this person (it can be a detailed description, it can be a scene that captures their essence, it can be a short short). Please write it either from the 1st person or the 3rd person POV.

Class #3 Monday 6/7
In Class Writing Assignment (characters continued)
Reading Homework for Wednesday: J.D. Salinger (A Perfect Day for Bananafish) Ernest Hemingway (Hills Like White Elephants)
Writing Homework for Wednesday: Go out: to a café, a museum, a club, a store and EAVESDROP. Use the dialogue you have found to create a scene or short short.

Class #4 Wednesday 6/9
In class writing assignment, beginnings and endings
Discussion: Stories, generating them, finding them out in the world around us.
Writing Homework for Monday: Work on your stories. Bring in an outline of a story you found in the world.
Reading Homework: Tim O'Brien (The Things They Carried, Love) Jamaica Kincaid (Girl)

Class #5 Monday 6/14
(1st draft stories due Sunday morning before by email and workshopped in class)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Reading Homework for Wednesday: Adam Haslett (The Beginnings Of Grief) ZZ Packer (Drinking Coffee Elsewhere)
Writing Homework for Wednesday: Work on your stories! Work on expanding the stories you found in the world

Class #6 Wednesday 6/16 Second Set of First Drafts (1st draft stories due Tuesday by 4pm at the latest to be workshopped in class)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Reading Homework for Monday: Denis Johnson (Work), Jhumpa Lahiri (Once In A Lifetime)

Writing Homework: Work on First Drafts or Revisions. Work on stories.

Class #7 Monday 6/21 (stories due Sunday morning by email for workshopping in class)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Reading Homework for Wednesday: David Schickler (The Smoker) Julia Slavin (Swallowed Whole)

Writing Homework: Work on First Drafts or Revisions

Class #8 Wednesday 6/23 (Stories due by email at the latest 4pm Tuesday)

All revisions due today (except for those who hand in today or last Monday)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Party!

Revisions due by email by Sunday 6/3