

CRWRI-UA 9818 Writers in Paris: Fiction Workshop Syllabus

Instructor: Helen Schulman

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Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays: 3:30 - 6:00

Office Hours: by appointment on the days we meet

In the first week and a half of this four-week course, students will be given writing exercises designed to generate new material. In the second 2 and a half weeks, they will be expected to work on a full-length story, handing in first draft according to the schedule below, and revisions due the final day (or for those who are workshopped on July 22nd by email).

All written homework must be printed out in a professional manner, double-spaced, with your name on it, page-numbered etc. Please have the program office make 10 copies to distribute in class.

ALL STORIES SHOULD BE XEROXED AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE CLASS THE SESSION BEFORE THE DAY THEY ARE WORKSHOPPED. (This is so we will have time to read and edit 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.

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

Class #1 Monday July 1

INTRODUCTION

In class reading, Mark Leyner, Tallent and Ordan

Openings Writing Assignment

Reading Homework for Wednesday: John Cheever (Goodbye My Brother) James Baldwin (Sonny's Blues)

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

Class #2 Wednesday July 3

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.

Discussion: generating stories!

Class #3 Monday July 8

In Class Writing Assignment (characters continued)

Reading Homework for Wednesday: J.D. Salinger (A Perfect Day for Bananafish), Ernest Hemingway (Hill Like White Elephants)

Writing Homework: 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 July 10 (1st draft stories due in class, to be discussed Monday July 15)

- 1.
- 2.

Writing Homework for Monday: Find a story in the world!!! Use your eyes, ears and tastebuds!! Bring it back to us in the form of a short-short or scene sequence!

Reading Homework: Tim O'Brien (The Things They Carried, Love)
Jamaica Kincaid (Girl)

Class #5 Monday July 15

Reading Homework for Wednesday July 11th: (The Beginnings of Grief) ZZ Packer (Drinking Coffee Elsewhere)

Writing Hwk: Work on stories

(Stories due in class, to be discussed Wednesday July 11th)

- 1.
- 2.

Class #6 Wednesday July 17

Reading Homework for Monday July 16th Denis Johnson (Work), Jhumpa Lahiri (Once In A Lifetime)

Writing Homework: Work on First Drafts or Revisions

First Drafts due, to be discussed Monday 7/16th

- 1.
- 2.

Class #7 Monday July 22

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

Writing Homework: Work on First Drafts or Revisions

First Drafts due, to be discussed Wednesday 7/18th

- 1.
- 2.

Class #8 Wednesday July 24 All revisions due today. One copy only, for the teacher. (Except for those workshopping first drafts today.)

Last set of revisions due. Please send to me by email by Monday July 29th.