

Graduate Fiction Workshop 6130

Instructor: Camille Bordas

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Course meeting times & locations: Monday, Periods 9-11 (4:05 pm-7:05 pm), synchronous sessions via Zoom

Office Hours: by appointment, afternoons preferred

Course website: Canvas

About Our Class

Required Texts: Other than your own pieces, we might read published fiction over the course of the semester. I will decide this week to week, and send you the material as we go. We will, however, mainly focus on your work. Discussion of published stories, if it occurs, will do so after we're done with the workshop part of the class.

Discussion: Apart from in-class exercises, which I may or may not assign, workshop is 100% discussion-based. You must participate in discussion. Disagreements will arise during discussions, as they should. However, personal attacks will not be tolerated. You must conduct yourself in a manner that at all times respects the members of the workshop.

The Fiction of Others: Every week, you will come to class having read one student story. You must read every story at least twice. You must line-edit each student-story and write a deeply considered critique-letter to its author, which you will send to him via email **after workshop** on the day his story is being critiqued. The line-edits should also be sent to the author.

Even though this class is taught online, I still strongly encourage you to print the stories that are up for discussion, and line-edit them by hand. If you do choose to line-edit a story using the Word commenting tool, I would still like you to print a copy of it before class. The reason for this is that I want us to look at each other during our Zoom meetings, not have our screens split between Word and the "classroom."

I don't usually look at the letters students write to each other, but I reserve the right to ask to see them at any time if I sense the workshop is not proceeding optimally. Please keep a copy of every letter you write until the semester is over.

Your Fiction: Over the course of the semester, you must turn in 2 stories. Their due-dates will appear on the calendar I will post on Canvas by the end of the first week. You may not turn your stories in late. Your story should be posted on the class's Canvas page before class starts on the day that it is due (the day it is due is always the Monday preceding the Monday on which it will be critiqued). **Please email your story to me on the day that it is due, and I will post it on Canvas.**

All stories **MUST** be

1. typed in 12-point Times or Times New Roman font
2. double-spaced with reasonable margins
3. PAGE-NUMBERED
4. titled
5. by-lined (as in, have your name on it)

Conferences: I will confer one-on-one with each of you about your work. We will do this immediately after class on the day your work is discussed. The conferences aren't optional—they're part of the class.

Attendance/Punctuality

Attendance is mandatory. Barring very extreme circumstances, you will automatically fail the course if you miss more than one class. If you are more than twenty minutes late to class, you will be marked absent.

Plagiarism

Will lead swiftly to failure and lots of embarrassment.

