

ENGL 3830 Narrative Writing. M/W 10:10-11, Goldwin Smith 348

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Office Hours: most mornings. Please make an appointment.

Thanks for taking English 3830. This class is an intermediate level fiction workshop. The structure is very simple, and should be familiar to you by now: each week, we'll discuss two or three of your stories, along with one story from the anthology (*Best American Short Stories 2011*). I will also assign other pieces of outside reading, and experimental writing prompts. Here are the requirements:

- Each student must hand in **three complete, polished and rewritten stories** by the semester's end. There's some wiggle room here—you could hand in ten short-shorts, or one novella, or some combination of lengths. **Let's shoot for 40 pages.** Some of you may be more sparing with your words than others, so confer with me about what is expected of you. The results of the experimental writing prompts may be counted towards this number, and you should feel free to expand them into full-fledged stories, if you wish.
- Each student must sign up to **lead discussion** of a story from the anthology, at least once. This means that you should be prepared to present a mini-lecture, maybe 5 minutes, pointing out noteworthy things in the story that you think we should talk about.
- Each student has to **show up every week, speak in class, and provide written comments** to his/her peers.
- Each student must have **at least one conference** with me, to discuss his/her work.
- There is no exam, and I am not going to be doing final portfolios. Final drafts must be handed in by the last day of class, but can be handed in any time before that, as well, and should. If you hand in all your drafts during the last week of classes, they will not get the level of attention you want—so please plan ahead.

All that's not so hard to accomplish. **Your A is not guaranteed**, however. For an A, you should do **serious revisions** of your work, give and receive advice with **maturity and respect**, and come **well prepared** for class discussions.

Class Website. The syllabus, workshop and discussion signup sheet, assignments and outside readings are always available at www.jrobertlennon.com. Choose the “Cornell” main menu option and then select our class from the drop-down menu.

Sharing Manuscripts. If you're up on the chopping block for a Monday, please **email the story to everyone else by Friday at 5pm**. If you're up on a Wednesday, **email the story by Monday at 5pm**. Please save files as .doc, not .docx. (You may also mark up your peers' manuscripts digitally, if that's how you prefer to edit.)