

ENGL 7602

Prof. Courtney Santo

Mondays 5:30-8:30pm

Fiction Workshop

This graduate-level workshop devotes most of its sessions to reading and workshopping student work. Our focus is on bettering translations of story from a writer's head to the page. We will achieve this through peer critique, self-assessment, revision, traditional workshop methodologies, and by learning from other published authors by analyzing their approaches to plot, character, structure, timescape, setting, and identity disturbance. Our goal is to recognize the different possibilities available when constructing a narrative, so that students make informed choices when producing their own work. Students are expected to write a minimum of twenty-five pages of new material during the semester.

Our discussion theme for this workshop centers on **endings**. We will analyze a wide range of literary texts in order to explore the structure and tone of different types of endings. Is the state of literature as Ben Marcus has said that "the positive is already given, and what's left for writers is to depict the negative, the darkness, the bleakest possibilities" or is there a reason to depict joy?