

Courtney Santo
4603
Fiction Workshop

This is a writing workshop. The focus is on student work in prose fiction. Students will be expected to read the work of their peers and to comment on its effectiveness or lack of it as fiction. Discussion will center on various aspects of the craft of fiction: characterization, setting, plot, dialogue, exposition, irony, dramatic irony, scene, and the prose line, the use of language to give forth stories that matter. Because this is not an introductory fiction class, these discussions will explore more than the definition of these terms and examples of their use.

Over the course of the semester, students will be expected to submit two fiction pieces for review, as well as to write weekly letters of response for peers' manuscripts. Attendance and participation are mandatory. End-of-the-semester portfolios will comprise a revised copy of one of the fiction pieces submitted to the class. By the end of the course, the students should develop the terminology and the critical skills for revising fiction, and should develop a good understanding about issues and trends in the genre.

This term the supplemental readings will focus on contemporary fiction.

Books:

The Paris Review Interviews (Book 1): 978-0312361754

The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Short Stories: 978-0-679-74513-6

Writers Notebook (9x11 Moleskin or similar)