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English 618

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Mark Brazaitis, ENGL 618, Spring 2005, Grad

Writing Workshop

Professor Mark Brazaitis

Office: 458 Stansbury

Office telephone: 293-3107 ex. 33402

Office Hours: Tuesday (11:30-12:30), Thursday (11:30-12:30) and
by appointment

Email: MarkBraz@excite.com

Class Hours: Thursdays 4-6:50

Class Location: 46 C Stansbury

Objective : In this class, you will learn to become a better fiction
writer. To become a better fiction writer, you must dedicate
yourself to both writing and reading fiction, and this class will allow

you to do both.

Requirements : Over the course of the semester, you will read selections from three collections of short stories (Junot Díaz's *Drown*, Beth Helms' *American Wives*, and Edward P. Jones's *Lost in the City*) and one novel (Amy Bloom's *Love Invents Us*). You will also write at least two of your own short stories (or novel excerpts).

Grades : Grades in this class will be based on the effort you put into the class, both in terms of your own writing and how you respond to the work of other students. Attendance is critical. More than one absence is a problem; more than two is a serious problem.

Submitting Work : Your stories (or novel excerpts) are due a week before they are critiqued and will be handed out in class. You should make photocopies for everyone in the class and your instructor. If you fail to hand in your story on time, it's your responsibility to get your story to your instructor and your classmates well ahead of the next class. If you miss a class during which stories are handed out, they will be available in a box outside my office.

Class Schedule and Day-to-Day Assignments

Thursday, January 13 Get acquainted

Thursday, January 20 Read: "Ysrael" and "No Face" by Junot Díaz, "Oysters" by Beth Helms, and "The Store" by Edward P. Jones.

Thursday, January 27 Read: "Drown" by Junot Díaz, "American Wives" by Beth Helms, and "Lost in the City" by Edward P. Jones.

Workshop of stories.

Thursday, February 3: Read: "Fiesta 1980" and "Aurora" by Junot Díaz. Workshop of stories.

Thursday, February 10 Read: "Men in Italy" by Beth Helms. Workshop of stories.

Thursday, February 17 Read: "The Store" by Edward P. Jones. Workshop of stories.

Thursday, February 24 Read: "Aguantando" by Junot Díaz and "An Orange Line Train to Balston" by Edward P. Jones. Workshop of stories.

Thursday, March 3 Read: "Once" by Beth Helms. Workshop of stories.

Thursday, March 10 Read: "Negocios" by Junot Díaz. Workshop of stories.

March 12 to March 20 Spring recess—Enjoy!

Thursday, March 24 Read: "Young Lions" by Edward P. Jones. Workshop of stories.

Thursday, March 31 Read: "Collected Stories" by Beth Helms. Workshop of stories.

Thursday, April 7 Read: "The Sunday Following Mother's Day" by Edward P. Jones. Workshop of stories.

Thursday, April 14 Read: "Gospel" by Edward P. Jones. Workshop of stories.

Thursday, April 21 Read: Part One of Love Invents Us. Workshop

of stories.

Thursday, April 28 Read: To the end of Love Invents Us.
Conversation on publishing.

A Note on Your Work: I am committed to reading carefully everything you submit for class. Unfortunately, I will not be able to look at any additional writing you may have. I simply do not have the time—and I would not want to disappoint you with a sloppy and incomplete critique of your work.

Core Values/Social Justice at West Virginia University

The following core values establish the foundation for Social Justice at West Virginia University.

Every person has intrinsic worth and dignity;

Respect for the law is fundamental;

Freedom from fear is universal;

A climate of opportunity, mutual respect, and understanding engenders a feeling that the future should be shared by all community members;

There is an absence of discrimination and harassment based on age, color, disability, ethnic origin, marital status, pregnancy, race, religious beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, and veteran status; and

The rich diversity of people, their cultures, and the bonds that tie people together are appreciated and celebrated.

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