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ENLT 410.01: Advanced Creative Writing - Fiction

Kevin Canty

The University Of Montana

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ENGLISH 410: ADVANCED FICTION WRITING

Kevin Canty
Office & hours: LA 130
Tuesdays & Thursdays 1-3:00
Wednesdays 1-2
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This is an advanced workshop in fiction writing. By the time you've gotten this far, you should know how the workshop works; I hope that each of you will emerge from this class with a manuscript that represents the best work that you are capable of at this point in your life.

To that end, I expect that you will produce a substantial quantity of new work; that you will use the workshop to revise the best of your existing work; and that you'll take advantage of office hours (or make an appointment, if they aren't convenient) to go over your stories with me in conference.

GRADING: A minimum of three stories / 36 pages of new work, plus a final project for which you will revise one of the workshop stories. Everybody starts with a B -- your grade goes up for outstanding work, responsible commentary, participation (brilliant, if possible) in class discussion, and full adherence to class requirements (see below). Your grade goes down for bad work, meanness, sketchiness, inattention or reading the Kaimin in class. No vampires, rocket ships, talking bunny rabbits, etc. "No tricks," as Raymond Carver put it. Students may not maim or kill more than one character per semester.

REQUIREMENTS: (1) Show up for class. More than 2 absences will knock your grade down one letter grade per absence. (2) Do the work, especially the written comments on other peoples' stories. (3) Why anybody would plagiarize in a creative writing class is beyond me, but it happens. You fail if I catch you, obviously. (4) Two conferences with me outside of class, at your convenience & your arrangement. (5) Be kind -- not mushy, but "kind" as in remembering there's a human being on the other end of the

story with high hopes for it. Maybe "civil" is a better word. Critical but decent. Remember: it's your turn, soon enough. (6) Readings: each of you will read at least one collection of short stories this semester; pick a story, photocopy it, and present it to the class.

ENCR 514 "Techniques of Modern Fiction" Fall 2001
Instructor: Kevin Canty / 243-5162 / canty@selway.umt.edu

ALL MASTERPIECES NO WAITING

We will read five to eight of the greatest short stories ever written in English (sez me) per week. Written responses will be in the form of parodies or imitations which will be workshopped, briefly, in class. We may read author-by-author or we may read technique-by-technique, i.e., first person this week, third person next week, conventions of narration after that. I'm open to suggestions.

Please: use the particular editions of Chekhov, Babel, O'Connor, Carver, Nabokov & Munro (at least) in the UC Bookstore.

Chekhov "Stories"
Joyce "Dubliners"
Hemingway "Complete Stories"
Babel "Collected Stories"
O'Connor "The Complete Stories"
Brodkey "First Love and Other Sorrows"
Carver "Where I'm Calling From"
Cheever "The Stories of John Cheever"
Nabokov "The Stories of Vladimir Nabokov"
Munro "Selected Stories"