NYU Fall 2009

Carol Zoref

Reading & Writing the Short Story

cpz1@nyu.edu

Reading requirements: 17 assigned master stories

28 workshop stories by other students

Writing requirements: 8 exercises

2 workshop stories

28 workshop story critiques

Attendance: Attend all classes; arrive promptly.

Optional: Kevin Wilson reading on Sept. 24th
Syllabus
(subject to change as needed)

1. Sept 14
   In-class writing exercises

2. Sept 21  Plot
   Reading -- "Tunneling to the Center of the Earth" by Kevin Wilson
   (hand-out)
   Writing Exercise -- Name exercise: Creating Characters
   Three students readers

   **Sept 24 Thursday 7:00 P.M.**  Kevin Wilson in Conversation
   NYU Lillian Vernon Creative Writers House
   58 West 10th St. (between 5th & 6th Aves.)

3. **Sept 27**  Characterization
   MAKE-UP CLASS MEETS ON **SUNDAY 11:20 A.M. -- 1:30 P.M.**
   Reading -- "Dead Man's Path" by Chinua Achebe (anthology)
   Writing Exercise -- Childrens Games For Adult Players:
Hyperbole

Three student readers

*Sept 28*  
No class -- *Yom Kippur*

4. Oct 5  Theme

Reading -- "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson (anthology)

"The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas" by Ursula LeGuin (anthology)

Writing Exercise -- Idealism Gone Amuck: When Good Characters Go Wrong

Three student readers

5. Oct 12  Setting

Reading -- "To Build A Fire" by Jack London (anthology)

Writing Exercise -- Orchestration by Ritual: Events As Organizing Principles

Three student readers

6. Oct 19  Style

Reading -- "

Writing Exercise -- Physicality: Sensory Experience In Stories

Three student readers
7. Oct 26  Meaning
   Reading -- "Araby" by James Joyce (anthology)
   Writing Exercise --
   Two student readers

8. Nov 2  Imagery
   Reading -- "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" by Flannery O'Connor (anthology)
   " " by Wells Tower (hand-out)
   Writing Exercise -- Epiphanies: Did I Or Did I Not See The Light?
   Two student readers

9. Nov 9  Point-Of View
   Reading -- "Sonny's Blues" by James Baldwin (anthology)
   Writing Exercise -- Metaphors & Similes
   Two student readers

10. Nov 16 Dialogue & Monologue
    Reading -- "A Clean, Well Lighted Place: by Ernest..."
Hemingway (anthology)

"Why I Live At the P.O." by Eudora Welty

(anthology)

Two student readers

11. Nov 23 -- Plot

Reading -- "Happy Endings" by Margaret Atwood (anthology)

Writing Exercise -- Liar, Liar: The Unreliable Narrator

Two student readers

12. Nov 30 -- Magic Realism

Reading -- "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

"The Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka

Two student readers

13. Dec 7 -- Realism

Reading -- "Shiloh" by Bobbie Ann Mason (anthology)

"A Small Good Thing" by Raymond Carver

(anthology)

Writing Exercise -- The Possible Impossible
Two student readers

14. Dec 14 -- Language

Reading -- "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston (anthology)

One student reader