This class is both a craft seminar and a workshop, and will cover some very technical aspects of fiction writing (characters, plot, setting, etc.) as well as provide a critical forum for student stories.

I use a certain technique for editing stories which I'll explain in the first few classes. Most of the discussion during the semester will draw on that technique, at least as a starting point.

Most classes will begin with a craft discussion and discussion of the assignments (see below), followed by a free-form workshop of student work during the second half of the period.

**Assignments:**

*Reading/Writing Tasks:* Most weeks I'll assign a short story and a short homework task related to the discussion for that week: a short response, a reflection, etc. All of those responses must be emailed (i.e., no longhand) and are mandatory.

*Original Fiction:* Each student must turn in at least 25 pages of original short fiction during the course of the semester, consisting of no less than 2 separate stories or chapters. No revisions will count toward this requirement. I will read and return, in addition to this requirement, one revision of a piece submitted to the class.

**Grading/Attendance:**

This class is a workshop--participation is essential. Unexcused absences will lower a student's grade by one letter per absence. Every student is expected to offer commentary in the workshop setting on every piece of student work discussed.

Grading weight:

- Attendance: as stated above
- Weekly tasks completed: 50%
- Workshop Participation: 50%

The student's grade will be weighted as shown above, then any unexcused absences will be deducted from the total. Unexcused absences include any absence without prior notification, if possible. Remember, missing one class means missing a week of class. Students missing class for any reason are responsible for gathering the materials required for the subsequent class.

**Conferences:**

I strongly urge every student to meet with me once during the semester, and I can generally accommodate times outside my office hours with advance notice. There is no requirement for a conference, unless a student submits a revised piece, in which case we'll discuss the piece in conference.