

Spring 2015
ENGLISH 4313/6313: Craft of Fiction
Professor: Becky Hagenston
T Th 11-12:15

*“I find that most people know what a story is
until they sit down to write one.”*

--Flannery O'Connor

This class will focus on the short story, both classic and contemporary.

Required Texts

The Best American Short Stories 2014, ed. Jennifer Egan

The 2015 Pushcart Prizes

2014 O. Henry Awards

The Seagull Reader: Stories, 2nd edition

This is a course for undergrads who have taken Intermediate Fiction Writing and for grad students who have experience with creative writing and are writing a creative thesis and/or are interested in pursuing an MFA or PhD in creative writing.

Course Goals and Objectives:

The central focus of this course is to encourage and support the writing, reading, and critiquing of fiction. You are expected to develop habits of responsible, constructive peer criticism, and to cultivate strenuous standards of self-criticism/analysis.

Student Responsibilities:

Write 20-30 pages of *new* fiction (2 or 3 short stories), read and discuss the required books and stories, read and discuss all student stories, and type end comments for each story. You will also be writing an essay on some aspect of craft, and in introduction for an anthology comprised of 5-10 stories from the above collections.

This class is a workshop, the primary texts of which are student manuscripts.

No horror, sci-fi, romance, erotica, or fantasy *genre* fiction. If you have any questions, please ask me.