

CRAFT OF FICTION

EN 6313/4313

Kardos

Spring 2012

Wed 5:00—7:30 PM

**Prerequisite: English 3903
or professor permission**

“Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it, and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light.”

– Joseph Pulitzer

“The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it.”

– Flannery O'Connor

“There are three rules for writing a novel. Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.”

– W. Somerset Maugham

Dr. Michael Kardos
Lee Hall 312F
mpk36@msstate.edu

Description

This class picks up where 3903 left off. It is a class for those who are interested in working to improve their writing of fiction through study, practice, and revision.

During the semester, you'll be writing and revising two stories. You'll also be writing a review of a recent book of fiction, as well as leading a discussion of one of the stories from this year's *Best American Short Stories* anthology.

Because the class will be structured as a workshop, much of the course material will be generated by the members of the class. We'll serve as one another's critical readers, discussing your stories as a group (using the so-called “workshop method”), and providing written critiques for one another so that you can work to improve your fiction through thoughtful revision.

Grades will be based on your writing portfolio, your book review, your written critiques, and your active participation in class.

Required Texts

3 X 33: Short Fiction by 33 Writers (Mark Winegardner, Editor)

Best American Short Stories 2011 (Geraldine Brooks, Editor)

Throughout the semester, I'll also be distributing additional stories, a smattering of relevant craft articles, author interviews, and other tasty treats.

