LITERARY EDITING – Spring 2015  
English 412 (CRN 32064)  
Tuesday & Thursday 4:00-5:20 in 204 Chapman  
John Witte  206 PLC  346-5935  jwitte@uoregon.edu  
Office Hours: MW&Th 1:30-2:30, and by appointment

TEXTS: Manuscripts of fiction or poetry downloaded from Narrative Magazine  
(narrativemagazine.com).  
A recently published book of poems or fiction of your choice, for review.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In the Literary Editing seminar we will explore the principles and practice of editing contemporary literature. Students will form editorial groups, read and evaluate submissions, and engage in the critical discussion of works being considered for “publication.” Each week will feature an Editing Roundtable with a visiting author, editor, agent, or publisher. We will develop over the course of the term viable methods of evaluation, and apply those methods to the hands-on editing of poetry and fiction. Students will acquire professional skills in editing and publishing, critical thinking, and consensus-building.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Reading closely the manuscripts being considered, and preparing written critical evaluations of them: due each Tuesday.

2. Weekly Editorial Reports: due each Thursday. A short (1 page) detailed report on the previous week’s editorial deliberations, addressing one or more decisions you particularly agreed or disagreed with.


GRADES:

Grades will be determined by preparedness for and participation in the seminar (30%), and by the written assignments (70%). Any unexcused absences will adversely affect your final grade.
ASSESSMENT:

The English Department's assessment procedure evaluates six learning outcomes:

1. The ability to read literary and cultural texts with discernment and comprehension;
2. to draw on relevant cultural and/or historical information to situate texts within their cultural, political, and historical contexts;
3. to perform critical, formal analyses of literary, cinematic, and other cultural texts;
4. to write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose;
5. to employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments;
6. to employ primary and/or secondary sources, with proper acknowledgment and citation.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND TEXTS

Fiction or poetry must be downloaded and printed from the archives of Narrative Magazine (narrativemagazine.com). Choose the pdf option. You don’t need to subscribe, but must create an account with a password.

March 31: Introduction and orientation.
April 2: The principles and practice of editing.

April 7:

FICTION:
   Elizabeth Bloom Albert, "Do You Have a Name?"
   Stuart Dybek, "For Woody"
   Darrach Dolan, "Riot"

POETRY
   Carl Adamshick, Four Poems
   Maram Al-Massri, Eight Poems
   Chris Abani, Four Poems
   John Balaban, Four Poems
   Marvin Bell, Two Poems

April 9:

Editing Roundtable: Gordon Sayre
April 14:

FICTION:
   Ann Pancake, “The End of the World in Slow Motion”
   Steve Kistulcentz, “Reykjavik the Beautiful”
   James Kaplan, “Blind Date”

POETRY
   Lillian-Yvonne Bertram, Two Poems
   Sherwin Bitsui, Four Poems
   Michelle Bitting, Three Poems
   David Bottoms, Four Poems
   Paul Breslin, Three Poems

April 16:

Editing Roundtable: Barbara Pope.

April 21:

FICTION:
   Charles Johnson, “Night Watch, 500 BCE”
   James D. Houston, “Daily Evangelism”
   Alicia Gifford, “Toggling the Switch”

POETRY
   Jon Davis, Four Poems
   Natalie Diaz, Three Poems
   Matthew Dickman, Three Poems
   Stephen Dobyns, Three Poems

April 23:

Editing Roundtable: George Rowe.

April 28:

FICTION:
   Louise Jarvis Flynn, “A Windfall”
   Allyson Armistead, “Girl In Red”
   Abby Frucht, “Is Glistening”
   Charlotte Forbes, “Parasols”

POETRY:
   Michael Dickman, Four Poems
   Norman Dubie, Five Poems
   S.G. Frazier, Two Poems
   Dan Gerber, Three Poems
   Eamon Grennan, Three Poems
April 30: **Book review due.**  
**Editing Roundtable:** Cecelia Hagen.

May 5:  
**FICTION:**  
David Corbett, “Sin Verguenza”  
Lisa Cupolo, “Bread”  
Lacy Crawford, “Refinement”  

**POETRY:**  
David Guterson, Three Poems  
Jim Harrison, Three Poems  
Wendell Hawken, Two Poems  
Laura Kasischke, Four Poems  
Shirley Kaufman, Two Poems

May 7: **Editing Roundtable:** Maxine Scates.

May 12:  
**FICTION:**  
Bridgett M. Davis, “Lagos”  
Elea Carey, “First Love, Last Love”  
Robert Olen Butler, “Little Fuckers”  

**POETRY:**  
Stephen Kuusisto, Three Poems  
David Lee, Three Poems  
Carol Moldaw, Three Poems  
Craig Morgan-Teicher, Five Poems

May 14:  
**Editing Roundtable:** Elizabeth Lyon.

May 19:  
**FICTION:**  
Janet Burroway, “Solly’s Corner”  
Chandler Burr, “You, or Someone Like You”  
Alexi Zentner, “Trapline”  

**POETRY:**  
Valzhyna Mort, Four Poems  
William O’Daly, Two Poems  
Dennis O’Driscoll, Four Poems  
James Richardson, Three Poems

May 21: **Letters of acceptance and rejection due.**  
**Editing Roundtable:** Miriam Gershon.
May 26:

**FICTION:**
- Wesley Brown, “Women from Mars”
- Heather Brittain Bergstrom, “Celilo Falls”
- Tom Barbash, “The Women”

**POETRY:**
- Alberto Alvaro Rios, Three Poems
- Jessica Roeder, Five Poems
- Ed Skoog, Two Poems
- Jennifer Tonge, Three Poems
- Christie Towers, Three Poems

May 28:

**Editing Roundtable:** Beverly Soasey.

June 2:

**FICTION:**
- Richard Bausch, “Sixty-Five Million Years”
- Nicky Beer, “The Word”
- Ann Beattie, “The Rock”
- Rick Bass, “Midland”

**POETRY:**
- Ryan Walsh, Three Poems
- Connie Wanek, Three Poems
- Dean Young, Two Poems
- Matthew Zapruder, Two Poems
- Ghassan Zaqtan, Eight Poems

June 4:

Editing overview and reflection.

**Final Paper Due.**