

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.

**3. Book Review:** due **April 30**. Select a recently published book of poems or fiction and write a 4-6 page review of it.

**4. An acceptance letter and a rejection letter:** due **May 21**.

**5. Final Paper:** due **June 4**. Compose an essay of 5-8 pages describing the editorial process, reflecting on our methods of evaluation, and assessing the term’s accomplishments.

#### 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](http://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 Kistulentz, "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 Gershow.

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.**

