LITERARY EDITING – Fall 2011

English 412 (CRN 36420)/512 (CRN 36421)
Tuesday & Thursday 4:00-5:20 in 125 McKenzie
John Witte 206 PLC 346-5935 jwitte@uoregon.edu
Office Hours: MW&F 1:30-2:30, and by appointment

TEXTS: The Whole Story: Editors on Fiction, or Spreading the Word: Editors on Poetry.
Manuscripts of fiction or poetry 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. You will acquire professional skills in editing and publishing, critical thinking, and consensus-building.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Reading closely the manuscripts being considered, and preparing written critical evaluations of them.

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

Book Review: due May 5. Select a recently published book of poems or fiction and write a 4-6 page review of it.

Final Paper: due June 2. 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 (40%), and by the weekly reports, book review, and final paper (60%).
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.

Mar. 29: Introduction and orientation.
Mar. 31: The principles and practice of editing.

April 5:

FICTION:
Elizabeth Bloom Albert, “Do You Have a Name?”
Stuart Dybek, “For Woody”
Darragh 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 7:

Editing Roundtable: Miriam Gershow, author.

April 12:

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 14:

Editing Roundtable: Cecelia Hagen, editor and author.
April 19:
  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 21:
  Editing Roundtable: Charles Goodrich and Paul Hunter, poets.

April 26:
  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 28:
  Editing Roundtable: Ben Saunders, author.

May 3:
  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 Kasirschke, Four Poems
  Shirley Kaufman, Two Poems

May 5: Book review due.
  Editing Roundtable: Paul Calandrino, playwright.
May 10:

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 12:

Editing Roundtable: Amanda Powell, translator.

May 17:

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 19:

Editing Roundtable: Alice Tallmadge, journalist.

May 24:

FICTION:
Wesley Brown, “Women from Mars”
Heather Brittain Gergstrom, “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 26:

**Editing Roundtable:** Mary Braun, Acquisitions Editor, Oregon State University Press.

May 31:

**FICTION:**
- Richard Bausch, “Sixty-Five Million Years”
- Nicky Beer, “The World”
- 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 2:

- Editing overview and reflection
- Final Paper Due