

Spring 2024-- ENGL 212

Professor Parravani

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to Fiction Writing is a course centered on creative expression and curiosity. In 212, students will draft two original, full length short stories, and a series of shorter works based on instructor prompts. Week-to-week, we will study several modes of fiction: realism, fantasy, and autofiction. Through student stories and outside readings, we'll endeavor to understand what makes various elements of fiction shine: sound; punctuation; line construction; point of view; intuition; narrative arc; characterization; place; risk; thematics, tonality; intent vs delivery; aesthetic structure; and effect. And editing. The most important part! Some of the writers we'll read: Shirley Jackson, James Baldwin, Carmen Maria Machado, Zora Neale Hurston, Rebecca Curtis, Ray Bradbury, Angela Carter, David Means, Jesmyn Ward, Emma Cline, Donald Antrim, and Joyce Carol Oates. This course will culminate in a final portfolio of student-generated work.