HON-H 232  Meaningful Writing: Reading and Writing Contemporary Fiction
Stacey Brown
TuTh 1:00-2:15 p.m.
WH 118

The art of storytelling is as ancient as language itself, and the desire to create and communicate characters, worlds, and ideas is, for many people, an imperative. In this class, we will be immersing ourselves in the study of fiction, learning how to read as writers: studying stories in terms of their characters, settings, plot developments, points of view, and themes so that we may borrow these strategies and incorporate them into our own writing. Our study of these stories and concepts will be enacted with an eye toward examining how these individual elements work together to create a cohesive and effective narrative whole.

Your work for this class will consist of reading chapters and individual assigned stories in Writing Fiction and completing exercises from each chapter. These exercises will be included in your Exercise Folder, which will be collected twice during the semester. In addition to reading the chapters and stories, you will be responsible for the creation and significant revision of two stories, both of which will be due in your Final Portfolio, along with statements of explanation about your intentions for each story and the choices you made while revising. Each story will be workshopped in class, and students will meet with me for individual conferences twice during the semester.

**Reading:** Burroway, Janet. Writing Fiction (8th edition); supplemental reading from handouts and .pdfs.

**Assignments:** In addition to regular attendance and participation in class discussions (20% of final grade), students will also be asked to complete exercises from each chapter assigned in Writing Fiction (30% of the final grade). Each student will write two short stories (at least 15 pages each) to be workshopped in class and substantially revised for the Final Portfolio, which will be worth 50% of the final grade. In-class writing and additional exercises and assignments will also be made throughout the semester.