

Syllabus

Barbarese

Office: Armitage 481

Phone: 856-225-6556

Hours: TTh, by appt.

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Required Texts:     A standard anthology of short fiction  
                          A poetry anthology  
Novel: Raymond Chandler, *The Long Goodbye*  
Non-Fiction: Erenreich, *Nickel and Dimed*  
Poetry (book): *t.b.a.*

The point of the workshop is to introduce you to the process of editing and producing a literary magazine, to stimulate your interest and experience in producing literary journalism, critical prose that is neither a consumer's report nor an academic essay, and to help sharpen your sense of what and when to publish. Your tasks will be both editorial and critical: they will involve reading and evaluating work coming into the portal of *StoryQuarterly* and sharing those evaluations week by week with the workshop, in open session. You will also write between 3 and 6 reviews during the term, initially of three assigned texts in the three major genres. Later on I will encourage you to review a book of your own choosing. Along the way we will discuss differences among the genres, with particular attention to that mythical entity, non-fiction, as well as sub-genres (flash fiction, the prose poem, poetic prose).

Assignments:

- Reviews: You will be required to produce five critical reviews of books—works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, a textbook or anthology, and two books of your choice. Each will be distributed to the class through the class listserve and selectively workshopped. A description of the reviews will be announced and circulated along with models that demonstrate the expected length and style.
- From the Slush: You will produce and post your reactions to stories that enter the *StoryQuarterly* portal. The work will come to you anonymized and will be sent to the workshop as gang-emails. You will be asked to read and comment on each in some detail.
- Style: You will produce two stylistic exercises during the course of the term based on models to be distributed later.
- Presentations: At some point you will be expected to lead a conversation about a particular magazine or journal you find especially suited to what you are writing.

**NB:** Assignments must be delivered either in hard copy to the workshop on the day of class or, preferably, twenty-four hours in advance, through the class listserv: [MFA-publishing@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:MFA-publishing@camden.rutgers.edu). Assignments and reviews should be available to the class with sufficient lead-time to permit perusal and printout before the next meeting.

My final assessment of your work will be based on the following proportions:

- 6 Reviews: 60%
- 5 Evaluations of *SQ* Slush: 30%
- 2 Stylistic Exercises 5%
- Presentations 5%

Additional expectations and procedures

- Comportment: Refrain from using laptops during class for any reason, including note-taking.
- Copying: You are responsible for the distribution of your assignments and original work prior to class. If for any reason you are unable to distribute the work electronically, bring hard copies.
- Lateness. Late work will be penalized.
- Attendance is expected at all sessions. Significant absences will affect your grade. Come prepared to participate.
- Academic Honesty. The strictures governing plagiarism and academic dishonesty will be in effect and strictly observed.

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Though the syllabus reflects as accurately as possible projected expectations and assignments, these expectations and assignments may be amended, extended or modified; so keep your syllabus handy.

## Session 1: 1 September

- Introductions
- *StoryQuarterly*: How it Works
- Reading/Review assignment #1 (due 22 September): Chandler, *The Long Goodbye*

Session 2: 15 September: The *SQ* Portal and *SQ* 43

- *SQ*43 (stories to be assigned)
- Assignment #1: From the Slush: Evaluating some unpublished stories from the slush (bring copies with you) (*gang email*)

Session 3: 22 September: *SQ*43 (cont'd)

- Review assignment #1 due (fiction)
- Presenters: \_\_\_\_\_
- Reading/Review assignment #2 (due 6 October): Barbara Erenreich, *Nickel and Dimed*

Session 4: 29 September: *SQ* 44

- *SQ* 44 (stories to be assigned)
- From the Slush, #2:
- Reading/Review assignment #3: a book of poetry (due 20 October)

Session 5: 6 October: *SQ* 44 (cont'd)

- Presenters: \_\_\_\_\_
- Review assignment #2 due (non-fiction)

## Session 6: 13 October: St. Augustine &amp; James Frey: Fiction and Non-Fiction

- Discussion: Truth, Truthiness, etc.
- From the Slush, #3

- Presenters: \_\_\_\_\_
- Reading/Review assignment #4: A textbook/anthology (due 3 November)

Session 7: 20 October: Reading for Style/Reading for Plot

- Discussion: Style & stylistics
- Presenters: \_\_\_\_\_
- Review assignment #3 due (poetry)
- Assignment: A stylistic “translation” (due 27 October)

Session 8: 27 October: Making Your Disgust Work As Well As Your Enthusiasm: Good Reviews of Bad Work

- Presenters: \_\_\_\_\_
- *Style Assignment 1 due*: Stylistic Translations
- From the Slush, #4

Session 9: 3 November: Flash Fiction, Prose Poetry, and Sub-Genres

- Presenters: \_\_\_\_\_
- Review assignment #4 due (textbook or anthology)

Session 10: 10 November: **Reading for Style/Reading for Plot II**

- Discussion: Style and Stylistics, again
- From the Slush, #5
- *Style Assignment 2 due*: Reverse Stylistic Translations
- Reading/Review assignment #5 (due 22 November): your choice
- Conference signup

Session 11: 17 November: **Conferences**

Session 12: Tuesday, 22 November: **Reviewing: Your Choice**

- Presenters: \_\_\_\_\_
- *Reading*: Choice
- Review assignment #5 due (Your choice)

<b>*** Thanksgiving Break Wed Nov 23-Sun Nov 27***</b>
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Session 13: 1 December

- Visitor: *t.b.a.*
- Review assignment #6 due (Your choice)

Session 14: 8 December

- Conclusions

<b>Session</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
1. Session 1: 1 September	<b>Introductions</b>	_____
2. Session 2: 15 September	<b>The SQ Portal and SQ 43</b>	#1: From the Slush
3. Session 3: 22 September	<b>SQ43 (cont'd)</b>	Review #1 due (fiction)
4. Session 4: 29 September	<b>SQ 44</b>	#2: From the Slush
5. Session 5: 6 October	<b>SQ 44 (cont'd)</b>	Review #2 (non-fiction)
6. Session 6: 13 October	<b>Fiction and Non-Fiction</b>	#3: From the Slush
7. Session 7: 20 October	<b>Reading for Style</b>	Review #3 (poetry)
8. Session 8: 27 October	<b>Reviews of 'Bad' Work</b>	Stylistics #1 #4 From the Slush
9. Session 9: 3 November	<b>Sub-Genres</b>	Review #4 (textbook)
10. Session 10: 10 November	<b>Reading for Style II</b>	#5 From the Slush Stylistics #2
11. Session 11: 17 November	<b>Conferences</b>	Show up
12. Session 12: <b>Tuesday, 22 November</b>	<b>Reviewing: Your Choice</b>	Review #5 (Choice)
13. Session 13: 1 December	<b>Reviewing: Your Choice</b>	Review #6 (Choice)
14. Session 14: 8 December	<b>Conclusions</b>	

Please correct or add any home email addresses or addresses for other locations where you may access your email. Add the information in the space after your name. Please print clearly, in your best 6<sup>th</sup>-grade roly-poly bubble script. Leave the space blank if there is nothing to add. You may add your name to this list if it does not appear here.

Session 2: 1

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