

**ENGL 318: The Writing of Fiction: Writing ROME**  
**John Felice Rome Center**  
 Fall 2019  
 Tuesdays | 9:30-1230pm  
 Classroom: TBA & On Site  
 Prof. Elizabeth Geoghegan  
 Email: egeoghegan@luc.edu  
 Office Hours: Thursdays 12pm-1pm, by appointment

### **Course Description**

This On-Site, Writing Intensive, Core Course will discuss techniques of fiction writing and offer guidance in generating original fiction that utilizes the city of Rome as inspiration. Students will examine works of literature that reflect the city’s vast influence on Western creativity and culture throughout the ages while simultaneously navigating the Eternal City, itself. Students are encouraged to look beyond the veneer of the Rome depicted in travel guides and observe the ways that the Mediterranean city, so thoroughly rooted in history and the concept of “empire”, struggles with contemporary European issues such as immigration and social justice. On site classes take place amidst the quintessential intersection of the ancient, medieval, and modern world, inviting students to respond to, participate in, problematize, and incorporate Rome’s layered history and influence—as well as their own experience of it—into their prose. Through the studied practice of descriptive writing and the examination of the Rome setting as a vital literary component, students will produce their own fictional interpretations of the Eternal City. (Note: English 318 is an elective for non-English majors and English majors not in the CW Concentration & a requirement for English majors in the CW Concentration.)

**Learning Outcomes:** Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the technical vocabulary and critical skills necessary for discussing, analyzing and formulating arguments about fiction writing, and will produce a portfolio of their own original fiction. Through experiential learning, students will gain a deeper understanding of the multidimensional and ongoing influence of the city of Rome upon Western culture, history, art, and ideas and, in particular, literature and literary fiction

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| <b>Knowledge Area(s) satisfied:</b> | Artistic Knowledge                        |
| <b>Skill(s) Developed:</b>          | Critical Thinking & Dispositions, Writing |

### **Required Text / Materials**

- Writing Fiction: The Practical Guide from New York's Acclaimed Creative Writing School, Bloomsbury USA, ISBN 1582343306
- The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone, Tennessee Williams, New Directions, ISBN 9780811212494
- Assigned readings posted on Sakai

### **Attendance Policy**

Please note that course attendance is based on prompt class attendance, preparation and active participation in class discussions. In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student.

- For all classes meeting once a week, students cannot incur more than one unexcused absence.
- For all classes meeting twice a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.
- For all classes meeting three times a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.

This course meets once a week, thus a total of one (1) unexcused absence(s) will be permitted. Unexcused absences beyond these will result in a 1% lowering of your final grade after the “approved limit.”



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### **Assessment Components**

10% Participation / Preparedness / Attendance

10% Peer Reviews for Workshops (Conscientiousness of editing classmates' work)

10% Homework (Reader Responses & other assignments uploaded to SAKAI)

10% Free Writes (done in class) & Presentations (e.g. poem, lists, etc. all required for full credit)

60% Final Portfolio\*

\* Final list of portfolio contents TBA. In general, portfolios include polished original work (e.g. the postcard 15%) and polished revisions of the key assignments, such as the snapshot 15%, micro-fiction 15%, micro-story 15%, assignments may vary by semester.

\*\* Participation (in class & on site) writing assignments, reader response assignments, peer reviews of story drafts, and a final portfolio to include polished revisions and a process analysis for each piece.

### **Grading**

94-100: A

90-93: A-

87-89: B+

84-86: B

80-83: B-

77-79: C+

74-76: C

70-73: C-

67-69: D+

60-66: D

59 or lower: F

### **Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago's guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola's standards here: [http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg\\_academicintegrity.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml). You are responsible to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.

### **Late or Missed Assignments**

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor.

### **Accessibility Accommodations**

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.

## Course Schedule

**NOTE:** This schedule is an approximation and is subject to change due to the availability of scheduled museum visits, etc. A detailed overview of dates, assignments, and locations will be provided the first day of class.

| Week  | Weekly Readings and Assignments  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Date &amp; Meeting Point</b></p> <p>For suggested routes to site visits see Sakai</p>             | <p>Where indicated, assignments are to be uploaded to Sakai no later than 930am on class meeting days. Late assignments will not be accepted. Short stories are available on Sakai.</p>  |
| <p><b>Week 1:</b> Meeting Point: JFRC</p>   | <p>Class Intro: Descriptive writing &amp; learning to 'read' stories &amp; Looking at "Micro-fiction"</p>  |
| <p><b>Week 2</b></p> <p>Meeting Point: Antico Caffè del Teatro Marcello, Via di Teatro Marcello, 42</p> | <p><b>Homework:</b> Read Ch. 1 Fiction &amp; 2 Character (WF) &amp; Read "Roman Fever" (Wharton, Sakai) &amp; "Twin Beds in Rome" (Updike, Sakai); be prepared to discuss. Please bring a copy to class for our discussion. <b>Reader Response 1)</b> Focusing on "characterization", write a 1-2¶ (paragraph) response for EACH story using Ch. 2 as your guide. Strive to analyze the stories from a writer's POV.</p> |
| <p><b>Week 3:</b></p> <p>Meeting Point: Bar Gusto Massimo</p> <p>SNAPSHOT DUE</p>                       | <p><b>Homework:</b> Read Ch. 3 Plot &amp; Ch. 5 Description (WF) Stories, TBD be prepared to discuss. Consider how the setting (time frame, etc.) might influence the plot and descriptions in the story. Consider whether the stories are descriptive or not and how the two different writers approach or employ both plot and description.</p>  |
| <p><b>Week 4:</b> Meeting Point: JFRC</p> <p>Workshop for Snapshots</p>                                 | <p><b>Homework:</b> Peer Reviews of Snapshots (See Guidelines)</p>   |



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| <p><b>Week 5: Tues. 10/2 Meeting Point:</b></p> <p>Tiber Island (Trastevere)</p> <p>Caffe Tiberino, Via Ponte Quattro Capi 17</p> | <p><b>Homework:</b> Ch. 4 POV, Ch. 8 Voice &amp; Stories TBA</p> <p><b>Reader Response 2:</b> Write a 3-page response to the stories discussing the role of voice and point-of-view.</p> <p><b>Print &amp; bring</b> "Hills Like White Elephants" (Hemingway, Sakai) with you to class.</p> |
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| <p><b>Week 6 Meeting Point</b></p> <p>Pepy's Bar, Piazza Barberini 53, 00187 Roma (Metro A to Barberini) Bring €13 for Palazzo Barberini</p> | <p><b>Homework:</b> Read Ch. 6 Dialogue &amp; Ch. 7 Setting &amp; Pacing &amp; Stories TBA <b>Reader Response:</b> Write a 2-page reader response comparing the way the author uses dialogue, setting, and pacing in her stories and why you prefer her technique in one or the other. (Due on Sakai by class time).</p>         |
| <p><b>Week 7</b></p> <p>Meeting Point: Caffè Piccarozzi, Piazza della Repubblica, 63.</p> <p><b>ROMAN STORIES DUE</b></p>                    | <p><b>Homework:</b> Write the first draft of your Roman Story (see guidelines)</p>   |
| <p><b>Week 8 BREAK</b></p>   |  |
| <p><b>Week 9: JFRC Workshop</b><br/>Group 1: TBA</p>   | <p><b>Homework: Group 1 Story Critiques</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Week 10: JFRC Workshop</b> Group 2: TBA</p>  | <p><b>Homework: Group 2 Story Critiques</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Week Meeting Point:</b> Piazza de Spagna</p> <p>Bring €5 for Keats-Shelley Museum</p>  | <p><b>Homework</b> Read Ch. 9 Theme &amp; <i>The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone</i> (Williams); be prepared to discuss it. Please bring book to class.</p> <p><b>Reader Response 3:</b> Discuss a key theme contained within Williams's novella &amp; analyze how the author's style helps exemplify that theme: 3-pages. Sakai.</p> |



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| <p><b>Week 12:</b> Meeting Point: Non-Catholic Cemetery; OUTSIDE entrance, Via Caio Cestio, 6, €3 Entrance fee / Donation POSTCARDS DUE + Selected Poem due (bring 1 copy to present on site)</p> | <p><b>Homework:</b> On your own time, research John Keats, Percy Bysshe Shelley or Gregory Corso &amp; read a few poems by each, then select a poem to share in class. <b>Microfiction 3 "Postcard" Due.</b> See guidelines.</p>   |
| <p><b>Week 13: Meeting Point:</b><br/><br/>Friends Café, Via delle Coppelle 34</p>  | <p>Week 12: Ch. 10 Revision (WF) <b>Homework:</b> DUE IN CLASS &amp; PRESENTED IN CLASS: Write a List of 10 things you hate about Rome &amp; 10 things you love about Rome. Bring copy to class &amp; include in portfolio.</p>  |
| <p><b>Week 14: Meeting Point JFRC</b><br/><br/>MICROFICTIONS DUE + PORTFOLIOS DUE<br/><br/>Please submit electronically via Sakai</p>   | <p><b>Week 14 Microfictions Due (to be presented in class) Portfolios due;</b> Guidelines on SAKAI. No late portfolios. No exceptions.<br/><br/><b>Extra Credit Reader Response</b> for Portfolios. Read "La Ragazza" by Andrea Lee &amp; write a 2-3 page response exploring her portrayal of the contemporary issues of immigration, cultural bias and/or gender bias.</p> |
| <p><b>Week 15: Exam Week</b></p>  | <p>WRITING ROME, READING ROMA<br/><br/>Class reading on Arts Night</p>   |