Course Description and Rationale
This course will serve as an introduction to the writing of original short fiction. We will read and discuss a selection of stories in order to familiarize ourselves with works of publishable merit, to study craft elements such as voice, plot, character, dialogue, and to practice workshop techniques in approaching this material as well as our own. We will complete writing exercises that will help us develop craft skills, and we will eventually draft and revise a short story to submit to the workshop where we will learn to offer constructive criticism. At the end of the quarter each student will submit a portfolio of revised material and a reflective essay for a final grade. By the end of this course you should have a deeper understanding of fiction and the craft of writing, a growing sense of your own voice and aesthetic interests, a small body of your very own creative work, and of course, an ability to read as a writer does—with care, precision, and creative vision.

Required materials:
- Writing notebook and folder.
- A budget for making multiple copies of your work for workshops.

Course Components and Procedures

Attendance and participation: 30% of grade
This includes attendance, punctuality, involvement in readings and discussions, and attending at least three readings in the Creative Writing Program.

Absences: Just come to class. After two absences, your grade will go down by 1/3 of a letter grade for each day missed. Because it disrupts our discussion and workshop, frequently arriving late will result in a similar penalty. Please note:
- Your participation will be limited if you have not done the assigned readings. I expect insightful contribution on a frequent basis; consistently poor or meager feedback when responding to others’ work will result in additional deductions from your participation grade.
- If you have perfect attendance I will add two percentage points to your final grade.

Workshop: Workshop is a big part of this class. This is the place where we give constructive feedback and critiques to other writers. You are required to make copies of your work for everyone at least one class before your workshop. Missing a workshop for which you are scheduled to be “up” will result in a reduction of your grade by 1/3 of a letter grade. If you are unable to attend class on the day of your workshop you must notify me ahead of time. The homework before each workshop will be to carefully read the work and annotate it as you see fit, and also type up a letter analyzing the project, discovering the value in it, i.e. what you think works and doesn’t work (support with reasons and references to the workshoped text), and finally, offering strategies for revision. If you are not “up” for workshop, continue to work and revise your own work, including your writer’s notebook.
Written Critiques: 15%
For every story that is up for workshop, you will hand a 1-2 page critique to the author and to me. Critiques should be typed, dated, and have your name and the author's name, and title of the work at the top of the page.

Assignments: 20%
Included in this grade is the first draft of your story, in-class or weekly out-of-class exercises based on craft lessons/readings.

Final Portfolio: 35% of grade
In addition to a revised story each student will compile selected drafts and revised editions in order to complete a final portfolio. This should also include an author's statement outlining aesthetic values and goals of the final project and portfolio, as well as reflections on the revision process.

Grading
• Please be aware that letter grades are not awarded until the end of the quarter. You can, however, talk to me about your performance at any time.

Conferences
I may require you to schedule a conference to discuss your writing and progress with me. Additionally, feel free to e-mail me at any time, or speak to me before or after class, or during office hours.

Reading Series
A complete schedule of the Creative Writing Department’s Reading Series events is available at: http://creativewriting.stanford.edu/. These are truly extraordinary opportunities to hear visiting writers read from, and talk about their work. You can also attend a Poet’s House or Art of Writing workshop in lieu of one of the readings.

Academic Integrity
For questions regarding proper classroom and student conduct, please refer to the Stanford Student Honor Code: http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/judicialaffairs/policy/honor-code

Students with Documented Disabilities
Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the OAE as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone: 723-1066, URL: http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/oac).

Laptops, cellphone
Will not be used in any capacity.