

Preliminary schedule for Kevin Chong's Fiction/Prose Narrative Class

Day One

Part 1 *(each part is approximately 50 minutes, followed by a 10 minute break)*

Story: Aristotle's theory

Why do we like certain stories? Kurt Vonnegut. Pixar rules. What is a story? Where do you find stories?

Part 2 Workshop student writing

Part 3 What is a short story? What makes a good beginning? Action vs. world-building. Types of prose. The reading

Part 4 Workshop student writing

Day Two

Part 1 What is a plot? Interior vs. Exterior Conflict. What is decisive action? Tension. Beats

Part 2 Workshop student writing

Part 3 Structure. How do you write flashbacks? Past perfect tense Outlining

Part 4 Workshop student writing

Day Three

Part 1 Finding characters. The pitfalls of the autobiographical protagonist. The first person POV. Rich minor characters. Indirect exposition and telling detail.

Part 2 Workshop student writing

Part 3 Writing Scenes. Scene tips. Why use dialogue? How not to write dialogue. Dialogue conventions. Indirect Discourse. Dialogue as conflict. Dialogue Pitfalls. Subtext. The Reading.

Part 4 Workshop student writing

Day Four

Part 1 Going beyond first person. Psychic distance.

Part 2 Workshop student writing

Part 3 Verb tenses. Voice: syntax, tone, diction

Part 4 Workshop student writing

Day Five

Part 1 Stories working two ways. What is the theme? How action can be united by theme. How imagery/symbolism can enhance a story.

Part 2 Workshop student writing

Part 3 Setting. Unreliable narrators. What makes a good ending?

Part 4 Workshop student writing