

Spring 2011 Fiction Workshop
Mondays, 12-3
Office Hours: Mondays, 3-4, Location TBA

Professor David Ebershoff
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Course Requirements

The focus of this workshop is writing. Every week we will discuss 3-4 students' work, analyzing each story/chapter as an editor would, articulating its strengths, its potential, and its possibilities for revision. Each student must make four submissions to the class. Three submissions should be approximately 15-20 pages and have no editorial guidelines. They should be the novel chapters or stories you want to work on. They should not be pages you have shown in other workshops, whether at Columbia or elsewhere. The fourth submission is more experimental and is a chance for each student to try something new. I'm calling it the Genre Submission. It should be 10-15 pages in length and should be your take on a standard genre (mystery, fantasy, science-fiction, procedural, thriller, romance, chick lit, adventure, sea story, spy story – or any other genre or genres you want to explore). This isn't about mimicking a genre but, rather, playing with it, perhaps inverting it, and seeing if the rules of a particular genre can unleash something new within your fiction.

In addition to your writing, I expect you to edit your colleagues' work closely, returning each submission to its author with marginal notes and an editorial memo. In class you must participate in the editorial conversation about each submission. Finally, I would like to see each of you during my office hours at least twice, after your first and final submission. You are of course welcome to meet with me more than twice. Appointments can be arranged.

January 31 – 3 submissions
February 7 – 3 submissions
February 14 – 3 submissions
February 21 – 3 submissions
February 28 – 4 submissions
March 7 – 4 submissions
March 14 – No class/University Holiday
March 21 – 4 submissions
March 28 – 4 submissions
April 4 – 4 submissions
April 11 – 4 submissions
April 18 – 4 submissions
April 25 – 4 submissions
May 2 – 4 submissions