

ENG 2305: Introduction to Fiction  
Instructor: Sara C. Rolater

In this course, our purpose is to improve skills in critical thinking, literary analysis, composition, and style via reading and discussing fiction. Specifically, we will investigate how fiction represents individual and collective identity. Fiction is as valuable a historical artifact as anything that really happened; we will analyze and compare the unique generational and national representations that have been constructed with the tools of plot, character, point of view, structure, and so on. What we have to say about the works we read will pay special attention to what these works have to say about *us*, the times we live in, and how we got here. Along the way, we'll talk about ways in which the texts incorporate ideas about sex, race, class, politics, history, technology, crime, capitalism, the global distribution of power—even the mystery of existence itself.

While we will focus on shorter fiction, we will also read at least one novel. Expect to read fifty to two hundred pages a week, and to participate actively in discussion. You'll also post regularly to a course blog about the readings and write two critical essays, one of five pages at the midterm, and a ten-page final paper.

Reading list includes:

The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction, Seventh Edition. Richard Bausch and R.V. Cassill, eds.

The Corrections. Jonathan Franzen.