

OUR STORIES

abilities for your needs.

DELUXE WORKSHOP

WRITER

JOHN DOE

INSTRUCTOR

ALEXIS E. SANTÍ

Standard Workshop Syllabus

Overview:

At *Our Stories* we believe in the process of writing, not so much in the immediacy of success of the final product but the process that it takes to achieve the final product through the dedication of rewriting. An *Our Stories Writer* communes with this process and their success is through the commitment that it takes to work through the redrafting of their story. The weight of a writer is not what they do with a single draft but what they accomplish after five or ten drafts and they must have the courage and desire to reach that end.

William Faulkner, author of “The Sound and the Fury” had this to say about the writing process:

At one time I thought the most important thing was talent. I think now that the young man or the young woman must possess or teach himself, training himself, in infinite patience, which is to try and to try until it comes right. He must train himself in ruthless intolerance--that is to throw away anything that is false no matter how much he might love that page or that paragraph. The most important thing is insight, that is to be--curiosity--to wonder, to mull, and to muse why it is that man does what he does, and if you have that, then I don't think the talent makes much difference, whether you've got it or not.



Expectations:

The Our Stories Workshop series is committed to developing stories through the workshop mode. Your commitment must be towards putting the time and effort into work that you are proud of yet are willing to develop and be open to rethinking your story over three to eight weeks. It is not enough to submit great work—you must be committed to working with multiple drafts of your writing.

Deluxe Workshops:

- ✓ You must have three stories that you would like to work with.
- ✓ Must have a willingness to work through three drafts of every story.
- ✓ Communicate with your instructor and participate in video or phone conferencing.
- ✓ Undertake a final project revising three short stories by the end of week 8.

Notes on the schedule:

The basic principle behind the schedule is that every Friday a draft of a story is sent to your instructor and by the following Wednesday your instructor sends it back. By Monday afternoon after their clarification email is sent, the writer should be ready to move onto the next story.

Clarification Emails:

While our workshops are an open dialogue between instructor and author of the story, Clarification Emails are a guide to utilize time appropriately for each story. In Deluxe Workshops these time slot suggestions for videoconferences. The goal is that after feedback is given after a story should be digested first, read and pondered and then—naturally—questions will arise and more details are called for. If a review needs clarification then it is highly suggested that the author send an email to the instructor *during* the week that a story is being workshopped while the work is pertinent, fresh and “alive” not only for the instructor’s sake but for the sake of the author who can immediately turn this instruction into their next rewrite.

Schedule

Date	Assignment	Completion
Week 1		
Friday 3/4	1 st story is handed in by author	
Wednesday 3/9	Instructor returns feedback to author	
Thursday 3/10	Clarification email is sent by author	

Week 2

Friday 3/11	2 nd Story is handed in by author	
Wednesday 3/16	Instructor returns feedback to author	
Thursday 3/17	Clarification email is sent by author	

Week 3

Conference Call Regarding first two stories (tentative)

Sunday, March 20th

Friday
3/18 3rd Story is handed in by author

Wednesday
3/23 Instructor returns feedback to author

Thursday
3/24 Clarification email is sent by author

Week 4

Friday
3/25 1st revision of 1st story is handed in

Wednesday
3/30 Instructor returns feedback to author

Thursday
3/31 Clarifications email is sent by author

Week 5

Friday
3/26 1st revision of 2nd story turned in by author

Wednesday
3/29 Instructor returns feedback to author

Thursday
3/30 Clarifications email is sent by author

Week 6

4/1-4/7

Revision Week.
I'll be in Colorado this weekend. All assignments are
pushed back a week.

Week 7

Friday 4/08	1 st revision of 3 rd story turned in by author
Wednesday 4/13	Instructor returns feedback to author
Thursday 4/14	Clarification email is sent by author

Conference Call 2 Sunday, April 17th

Review of all three stories discussion

Week 8

4/18-
4/27 Author works final project. Typically the author takes at least a full week to prepare *four* manuscripts for final review.

Due Saturday - 5/7

Week 9

4/27 Revisions of all three stories due
Friday, April, 27th

Week 10

Final assessment and revisions of stories returned to author. Typically the instructor takes at least a full week to prepare all *four* manuscripts to be returned.

Stories returned by 5/11

Final clarifications due before videoconference call scheduled for Sunday of 5/15

Final Project:

Your final project will consist of the revisions of any of your *three* stories and must be turned in by the end of the 9th week. The three stories should contain changes in the stories. While it may seem like “a bit much” to turn in three revisions by the end of 1 week, you should always be simultaneously working on your rewrites as you receive them.

Final assessment:

Your instructor will return your revisions with an additional final track changed copy of all of your short stories. Summary thoughts on your work, development, suggestions for further study including short story collections and suggestions on where to submit the story will all be included in your final assessment.