

Thursdays Spring 2019

The Short Stories of Raymond Carver

Temple Beth El

Thurs 10:00-12:00 noon

March - May 2019

Fee: \$50.00

Class Size Limit: 20

Despite a turbulent upbringing in an alcoholic family, and his own struggles in overcoming alcoholism, according to the New York Times Raymond Carver was “The most influential writer of the short story in the second half of the twentieth century” credited with reviving the short story genre.

This course welcomes you to the world of people, animals, occupations, living arrangements, and the constant struggles of living on the edge, all in a strange and off-beat and humorous and upside-down way. At times shocking until one realizes, well yeah that’s really the way it is we just don’t talk about it. Raymond Carver talks about it... or, writes about it. Masterfully.

Through his work we will meet a woman fighting for her financial survival selling multi-vitamins door to door; be visited by a man with no hands who appears at the door selling house portraits; join a wife’s blind former boyfriend who comes to dinner and shows her husband another way to see; accompany a husband and wife who visit another couple over dinner for the first time and discover they have an ugly baby and a peacock in the house.

The class will be conducted as directed discussion through which we will explore the way Carver gave expression to these important themes and how he developed as a writer. Participants will be expected to read one or two stories each week, to develop questions for and lead one discussion, individually or in pairs during the semester, and to participate actively each week.

Required text: *Raymond Carver: Collected Stories* (Library of America), available at Amazon \$30.23

Coordinator: James Heath. Jim has coordinated several LLC classes in Creative Photography, and last semester’s Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway.

Raymond Carver Short Stories

1. Cathedral, 1983, Knopf
2. What We Talk About When We Talk About Love, 1981, Knopf
3. Why Don't You Dance, 1978, Quarterly West
4. A Serious Talk, 1980, Playgirl
5. So Much Water So Close to Home, 1975, Spectrum
6. Bicycles, Muscles, Cigarettes 1973, Kansas Quarterly
7. Fat September 1971, Harper's Bazaar
8. Will You Please Be Quiet, Please? 1976, McGraw-Hill
9. Neighbors June 1971, Esquire
10. Feathers September 1982, The Atlantic Monthly
11. Gazebo 1980, Missouri Review
12. They're Not Your Husband 1973, Chicago Review
13. Nobody Said Anything 1970, Seneca Review
14. One More Thing 1979, North American Review
15. The Third Thing That Killed My Father 1967, Discourse
16. Boxes February 24, 1986, The New Yorker
17. Are These Actual Miles 1976, Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?
18. Popular Mechanics March 1978, Playgirl
19. Call If You Need Me 1999, Granta
20. Why, Honey? 1972, Sou'wester
21. Chef's House 1981, The New Yorker
22. The Bath 1981, Columbia

23. Viewfinder 1978, Quarterly West
24. Errand June 1, 1987, The New Yorker
25. Vitamins 1981, Granta
26. The Student's Wife 1964, Carolina Quarterly
27. Signals 1976, Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?
28. The Father 1961, Toyon
29. Collectors August 1975, Esquire
30. Jerry and Molly and Sam 1972, Perspective
31. Tell the Women We're Going 1971, Sou'wester
32. Everything Stuck to Him Fall 1975, Chariton Review
33. How About This? 1970, Western Humanities Review
34. Night School 1971, North American Review
35. Are You a Doctor? 1973, Fiction
36. Blackbird Pie July 7, 1986, The New Yorker
37. What Do You Do in San Francisco? 1967, Colorado State Review
38. The Ducks 1963, Carolina Quarterly
39. Sixty Acres 1969, Discourse
40. Pastoral Winter 1963, Western Humanities Review
41. Bright Red Apples 1967, Gato Magazine

James Heath, Coordinator
LLC, Spring 2019

| Carver's Short Stories -- Class Schedule | | |
|---|--|----------------------|
| Week | Story | Student |
| Week 1 | Cathedral | |
| 3/14/19 | So Much Water So Close to Home | |
| Week 2 | The Bath | |
| 3/21/19 | Why Don't You Dance | |
| Week 3 | On Writing* | |
| 3/28/19 | What We Talk About When We Talk About Love | |
| Week 4 | A Serious Talk | |
| 4/4/19 | A Small Good Thing | |
| Week 5 | Fat | |
| 4/11/19 | Feathers | |
| Week 6 | My Father's Life* | |
| 4/18/19 | One More Thing | |
| Week 7 | Where I'm Calling From | |
| 4/25/19 | The Third Thing That Killed My Father | |
| Week 8 | They're Not Your Husband | |
| 5/2/19 | Gazebo | |
| Week 9 | Errand | |
| 5/9/19 | Will You Please Be Quiet Please | |
| Week 10 | Viewfinder | |
| 5/16/19 | Neighbors | |
| | James Heath | jheath.llc@gmail.com |
| | *Essay | |