



ENGL 318/ROST 390
The Writing of Fiction: Writing Rome
John Felice Rome Center

Fall 2023

Tuesdays | 9:00-12:00pm

Professor Elizabeth Farren

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00pm (by appointment only)

Course Description

This On-Site, Writing Intensive, Core Course will discuss techniques of fiction writing and offer guidance in generating original fiction that utilizes the city of Rome as inspiration. Students will examine works of literature that reflect the city's vast influence on Western creativity and culture throughout the ages while simultaneously navigating the Eternal City, itself. Students are encouraged to look beyond the veneer of the Rome depicted in travel guides and observe the ways that the Mediterranean city, so thoroughly rooted in history and the concept of "empire", struggles with contemporary European issues. On site classes take place amidst the quintessential intersection of the ancient, medieval, and modern world, inviting students to respond to, participate in, problematize, and incorporate Rome's layered history and influence—as well as their own experience of it—into their prose. Through the studied practice of descriptive writing and the examination of the Rome setting as a vital literary component, students will produce their own fictional interpretations of the Eternal City. (Note: English 318 is an elective for non-English majors and English majors not in the CW Concentration & a requirement for English majors in the CW Concentration.)

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the technical vocabulary and critical skills necessary for discussing, analyzing and formulating arguments about fiction writing, and will produce a portfolio of their own original fiction. Through experiential learning, students will gain a deeper understanding of the multidimensional and ongoing influence of the city of Rome upon Western culture, history, art, and ideas and, in particular, literature and literary fiction

Knowledge Area(s) satisfied: Artistic Knowledge

Skill(s) Developed: Critical Thinking & Dispositions, Writing

Required Text / Materials

Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft, Janet Burroway – 10th Edition, The University of Chicago Press (ISBN 13: 978-0-226-61669-8/ISBN-10: 0-226-61669-X)

The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone, Tennessee Williams- Vintage Classics (ISBN-10 : 0099288621/ ISBN-13 : 978-0099288626

Assigned Readings posted on Sakai

Optional Text

Call Me By My Name, Andre Aciman—Faber&Faber (ISBN-10 : 9781786495259

ISBN-13 : 978-1786495259

Attendance Policy

In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student.

- For all classes meeting once a week, students cannot incur more than one unexcused absence.
- For all classes meeting twice a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.
- For all classes meeting three times a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.

This course meets once a week, thus a total of one unexcused absence(s) will be permitted. **Unexcused absences beyond these will result in 1% lowering of the final course grade, for every absence after the “approved limit.” Unexcused absences beyond these will result in 1% lowering of the final course grade, for every absence after the “approved limit.”** The collective health of the JFRC is everyone’s responsibility. **DO NOT ATTEND CLASS IF YOU ARE ILL.**

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Assessment Components

- Participation /Preparedness 15%
- Conscientiousness of self-editing 15%
- Homework (Reader Responses & other assignments) 20%
- Final Portfolio (term compilation, between 20-30 pages) 50%

Grading

94-100: A
90-93: A-
87-89: B+
84-86: B
80-83: B-
77-79: C+
74-76: C
70-73: C-
67-69: D+
60-66: D
59 or lower: F

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago’s guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola’s standards here: http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml. You are responsible to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.

Late or Missed Assignments

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor. ***As per the JFRC academic policies, students who miss any scheduled exam or quiz, including a final exam at the assigned hours will not be permitted to sit for a make-up examination without approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Permission is given rarely and only for grave reason; travel is not considered a grave reason. Make-up exams will only be given for documented absences.***

Accessibility Accommodations

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.

Course Schedule

NB: This is a sample schedule and is subject to change due to the availability of scheduled museum and other unforeseen interruptions. The official schedule will be distributed in class and made available on Sakai.

Friday Class Day: TBD

Date & Meeting Point For suggested routes to site visits see Sakai	Weekly Readings & Assignments Where indicated, assignments are to be uploaded to Sakai no later than 9:00am on class meeting days. All students must have a JOURNAL. Reader Responses may be written directly into the journal or typed and pasted in. Late assignments will not be accepted. Short stories are available on Sakai.
Week 1: Tues. Sept 5 Meeting Point: JFRC	Week 1: Tues. Sept 5 Class Intro: Descriptive writing, showing not telling, reading like a writer, & looking at “Micro-fiction”
Week 2: Tues. Sept 12 Meeting Point: Antico Caffè del Teatro Marcello, Via di Teatro Marcello, 42 goo.gl/maps/iiHAWV7T7uo	Week 2: Tues. Sept 12 Homework: Read Ch. 2 Seeing is Believing & Read “Roman Fever” (Wharton, Sakai) & “Twin Beds in Rome” (Updike, Sakai); be prepared to discuss. Reader Response 1). I wish for you to look at the above stories and focus on places where the writer is “showing” and not “telling” and why that is effective. Choose passages from both stories, and write a 1-2 paragraph response for EACH story.. Strive to analyze the stories from a writer’s POV and understand how the writer chooses to show emotions, show mood, and creates atmosphere by deciding which details to include, and which to leave out. You may handwrite this into your journal, or you may type , print, and then paste it into your journal.
Week 3: Tues. Sept 19 Meeting Point: Tiber Island/TRASTEVERE Caffè Tiberino, Via Ponte Quattro Capi 17 https://goo.gl/maps/d6VhDUADx2R2	Week 3: Tues. Sept 19 Homework: Read Ch. 3 and 4 Characterization Part 1 and 2 (WF); “The Saint” (Garcia Marquez, Sakai) and “Long Distance” (Savas, Sakai) and be prepared to discuss. Consider how character is constructed; what do we see, and what don’t we see of the characters? What do we know about each character and what



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<p>SNAPSHOT DUE (no. of copies TBA)</p>	<p>techniques has the author used to show us this? How does dialogue help us understand these people? Write & print snapshots. See Guidelines. Bring copies to class. Upload to Sakai.</p>
<p>Week 4: Tues. Sept 26 Meeting Point: JFRC</p> <p>Workshop for Snapshots</p>	<p>Week 4: Tues. Sept 26</p> <p>Homework: Peer Reviews of Snapshots: Read & prepare thoughtful, concise critiques for the snapshots. (Typed or by hand, signed.) You will return it to the writer after workshop w/your comments. See guidelines for suggestions about how to approach critiques. Please be prepared to offer both oral & written critiques in class. Everyone is required to participate. *NOTE: I will oversee the quality of responses. If they are unsatisfactory, you will be required to type ALL the responses for the short story workshop & upload them to Sakai for approval. Consider yourselves warned.</p>
<p>Week 6: Tues. Oct 3</p> <p>Meeting Point: Bar Gusto Massimo</p> <p>Via del Circo Massimo, 5 https://goo.gl/maps/jpRcQuSdzPB2</p>	<p>Week 5: Tues. Oct 3</p> <p>Homework: Ch. 5 Fictional Setting (WF), “Behold the Key” ; (Malamud, Sakai); “Boy in Rome” (Cheever, Sakai)</p> <p>Reader Response 2: Write a 1 page, approximately 250 word response to the above stories and their use of setting. How does the story’s setting change, alter, and create the narrative (or not)? How does the writer use Rome and feature it in these stories? How does the writer use setting to transport you to a particular place. Please address both stories in your response, and please choose clear passages and examples to provide examples. Please post this in your journal. You may handwrite your response, or type, print, and paste into the journal.</p>
<p>Week 6: Tues. Oct 10 Meeting Point: Basilica di San Clemente: https://goo.gl/maps/e5NQqoKcgvqzy1Es8</p> <p>NB: Please make sure to bring 5 euros with you as there is a 5 euro entry fee per student.</p>	<p>Week 6: Tues. Oct 10</p> <p>Homework: Ch. 7 Point of View (WF); “The San Clemente Syndrome” (Aciman, Sakai) . NB “The Clemente Syndrome” is a chapter from the longer novel, Call Me By Your Name. You are welcome to purchase and read the novel in its entirety as well, though this is not a requirement. Please be prepared to discuss perspective and point of view in this chapter.</p> <p>Reader Response 3: Write a 2-page response to the role of point of view in “The San Clemente Syndrome”. Please post this in your journal. You may handwrite your responses, or type, print, and paste into the journals. Please make sure to bring your journal with you to class, as you will be turning them in today. (I will return them upon return from Spring Break.)</p>
<p>Week 7: SPRING BREAK</p>	<p>Week 7: SPRING BREAK Begin planning and writing your Roman Story</p>



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<p>Week 8: Tues. Oct 24</p> <p>Meeting Point: Pepy's Bar, Piazza Barberini 53, (Metro A to Barberini) https://goo.gl/maps/yJumjBdBDehewnG87</p> <p>Museum visit: Palazzo Barberini NB There is a 12 euro entrance fee (cash and small bills/exact change greatly appreciated).</p> <p>ROMAN STORY DUE (no. of copies TBA)</p> <p>READING/WRITING JOURNAL DUE</p>	<p>Week 8: Tues. Oct 24</p> <p>Homework: Write the first draft of your Roman Story (see guidelines). Class copies may be SS with double-facing/ back/front & single space. However, my copy & Sakai copy MUST be formatted per our guidelines (12 point font, double spaced, etc). Upload to Sakai. Bring copies for your classmates. Also, please make sure to bring your journal with you to class, as you will be turning them in today. (I will return them upon return from Spring Break.)</p>
<p>Week 9: Tues. Oct 31 Meeting Point: JFRC – Workshop</p> <p>Prepare critiques for Group 1</p>	<p>Week 9: Tues. Oct 31</p> <p>Homework: Read the Roman Stories & prepare concise, thoughtful, constructive critiques for workshop – focusing on voice, point of view, plot, dialogue, tone, language, or any aspect you feel needs attention. Read & prepare critiques for Group 1. (Order TBD).</p>
<p>Week 10: Tues. Nov 7 Meeting Point: JFRC – Workshop</p> <p>Prepare critiques for Group 2</p>	<p>Week 10: Tues. Nov 7</p> <p>Homework Complete the Roman Story critiques for Group 2. (Order TBD)</p>
<p>Week 11: Tues. Nov 14 Class meets at 945am</p> <p>Meeting Point: Piazza de Spagna (Spanish Steps) by Keats Museum (or café across street); Please be prepared to pay the €6 fee (cash/exact change please) https://goo.gl/maps/Lp5snPWXkNM2 Note: we will also visit Villa Borghese park.</p>	<p>Week 11: Tues. Nov 14</p> <p>Homework: Read Ch. 6 Plot and Structure & <i>The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone</i> (Williams); be prepared to discuss it. Please bring book to class.</p> <p>Reader Response 4: Discuss the structure of Williams's novella & analyze how the author has constructed a beginning, a middle, and an end; consider what the author has done to create suspense throughout the story. Think of what the writer has done to create a compelling story. Please post this in your journal. You may handwrite your response, or type, print, and paste into the journal.</p>
<p>Week 12: Tues. Nov 21</p> <p>Meeting Point: Cimitero Accatolico/Non-Catholic Cemetery; OUTSIDE entrance, Via Caio Cestio, 6, €5 Entrance fee (cash only/exact change please).</p> <p>Map Link: https://goo.gl/maps/hgGsCkZXYVn</p>	<p>Week 12: Tues. Nov 21</p> <p>Homework: On your own time, research John Keats, Percy Bysshe Shelley or Gregory Corso, read a few poems by each, and then select a poem to share in class.</p> <p>Microfiction 3 “Postcard” Due: See guidelines. Don't forget to scan / photocopy BEFORE you submit it so</p>



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<p>MICROFICTION/POSTCARDS DUE: Selected Poem due; 1 copy of postcard present in class presented in class (returned Week 14)</p>	<p>you can put the copy in your portfolio. Please include your name on the card or on a post-it. NOTE: this assignment is FICTION– Do not write a card to someone known to you, but from one fictional character to another.</p>
<p>Week 13: Tues. Nov 28 Class meets at 945 am</p> <p>Meeting Point: Castel Sant’ Angelo Lungotevere Castello 50</p> <p>€12 entrance fee; wait by Angel bridge outside https://goo.gl/maps/SxfkWD6Zekk</p> <p>MICROFICTION “Postcard” DUE; bring copies for informal workshop.</p>	<p>Week 13: Tues. Nov 28</p> <p>Homework: Read Ch. 9 Revision and Theme (WF) & “The Benefit of the Doubt“(Wolff, Sakai) & “Exmatriates” (Scego, Sakai)</p> <p>Reader Response 5: Write a 1-page response to your favorite aspect of each story. Think about the writerly techniques these authors are using: voice, language, pov, tone, characterization, setting, plot, etc. (2-3 pages total). Please post this in your journal. You may handwrite your response, or type, print, and paste into the journal. Be prepared to discuss.</p> <p>Microfiction 2 “Postcard” Due: See guidelines. Don’t forget to scan / photocopy BEFORE you submit it so you can put the copy in your portfolio. Please include your name on the card or on a post-it. NOTE: this assignment is FICTION– Do not write a card to someone known to you, but from one fictional character to another. Please bring copies for informal workshop.</p>
<p>Week 14: Tues. Dec 5 Last Class Meeting Point: 9am Rinaldo’s @JFRC</p> <p>-List of 10 Things (presented in class) -Postcards returned -Class Reading: Please select a short section or work from any of your pieces during the term (even free writes) to share with the class.</p> <p>PORTFOLIOS DUE: No late portfolios. No exceptions. Please note that you must turn in a hard copy & submit an electronic copy to SAKAI to receive full credit. See Guidelines.</p> <p>JOURNALS DUE: Please turn in your journals.</p>	<p>Week 14: Tues. Dec 5 Last Class</p> <p>Homework part a) Portfolios due – both electronic & print copies due. Journals due</p> <p>Homework part b) DUE IN CLASS & PRESENTED IN CLASS: Write a List of 10 things you hate about Rome & 10 things you love about Rome. Bring copy to class & include in portfolio. Note: Be creative. Remember that even a list can be a work of art, if written descriptively. (For example, move beyond gelato or things like ‘paying for water’ – this is not interesting! That said, if gelato absolutely has to be on your list, then be specific, e.g. the specific gelato flavor + where/when and how you like to eat it. Make the list unexpected and intimate. Have fun!</p>
<p>Arts Night: Date and time TBD Class reading</p>	<p>Writing Rome, Reading Rome: Students should select a short piece, or an excerpt to share with the JFRC community. Can be from your journal or from any of your assignments. Aim to read for approximately 5 minutes</p>
<p>Week 15: Exam Week – No exam.</p> <p>**Written Assignments, where noted, must be uploaded to Sakai by the due date (9:00am). Bring assigned stories (reader) to class. Always bring journal to class.</p>	<p>No exam for this class</p> <p>You are required to create a file name/extension for assignments with your surname and assignment title. All assignments should be DOCX or DOC files, with the exception of your final portfolio, which can also be a PDF file. Let’s imagine you are turning in your Roman</p>

story: Example: **LAST NAME FIRST NAME ROMAN STORY**. All of your assignments should be titled in this fashion (with the appropriate assignment title).

Suggested Routes for Meeting Points

You can search the Roma ATAC website for info on buses and trains, along with Google Maps for other options, but these are tried & tested:

ATAC ROMA: <http://www.atac.roma.it>

BUS ROMA app: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/bus-roma/id1299545626>

Meeting Point: Antico Caffè del Teatro Marcello, Via di Teatro Marcello, 42

Bus #913 (Augusto Imperatore) to Piazza Cavour; Switch to Bus #30, whose stop is on Via Cicerone in front of Piazza Cavour (Laurentina MB). Take #30 to Teatro Marcello/Ara Coeli in Piazza Venezia. Exit bus. Facing the Palazzo Venezia & Campidoglio, walk to your right, to last café by Teatro Marcello).

<https://goo.gl/maps/iiHAwV7T7uo>

Meeting Point: Isola Tiberina, Caffè Tiberino, Via Ponte Quattro Capi 17, Suggested Route: 23 or 280 Bus to Lungotevere Alberteschi (1 stop past Garibaldi bridge/Viale Trastevere): Map Link:

<https://goo.gl/maps/d6VhDUADx2R2>

Meeting Point: Bar Gusto Massimo, Via del Circo Massimo, 5

Suggested Route: Metro B to Circo Massimo (Switch from Metro A at Termini; café is in front of metro B stop).

Map Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/jpRcQuSdzPB2>

Meeting Point: Basilica di San Clemente:

Suggested Route: Metro B to Colosseum or Metro A to Manzoni. The Basilica entrance is an 8 minute walk from the Colosseum Metro stop, and an 11 minute walk from the Manzoni metro stop. €5 entrance fee. Map

Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/e5NQqoKcqvqzy1Es8>

Meeting Point: Pepy's Bar, Piazza Barberini

Suggested Route: Metro A to Barberini (walk to opposite side of piazza.) Please bring €12 (exact change/ small bills appreciated) for entrance to Barberini Museum. Map Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/1xhxDWXjVL12>

Meeting Point: Piazza de Spagna (Spanish Steps) steps by Keats Museum

€6 entrance. Suggested Routes: Metro A to Spagna or 913 to Piazza Cavour + walk (15 minutes). Map

Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/Lp5snPWXkNM2>

Meeting Point: Cimitero Accatolico/Non-Catholic Cemetery, Via Caio Cestio, 6



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Suggested Routes: FS train Balduina to Ostiense (8:02/8:24/ 8:32/9:02) or 23 to Staz. Ostiense, or Bus 280 to Caio Cestio + walk. €5 entrance fee. Map Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/hqGsCkZXYVn>

Meeting Point: Castel Sant Angelo, Lungotevere Castello 50

Suggested Route: 913 to Piazza Cavour and walk (7 minutes).