

WINTER-SPRING 2021-22

STEPHEN CLASS

301W, The Paul Tudor Jones Education Building
Idlewild Presbyterian Church

“What an astonishing thing a book is. It’s a flat object made from a tree with flexible parts on which are imprinted lots of funny dark squiggles. But one glance at it and you’re inside the mind of another person . . . ; an author is speaking clearly and silently inside your head, directly to you. Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people who never knew each other, citizens of distant epochs. Books break the shackles of time. A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic.” Carl Sagan

The Stephen Class completes its reading of all the best short stories of the 20th century [THE BEST AMERICAN SHORIES OF THE CENTURY, edited by John Updike]. The short story format has benefitted the class during these times of discontinuity and interruptions.

Everyone who likes to read is encouraged to join us. Class members facilitate discussion of the short stories. There are no prerequisites except for a love of reading and a willingness to discover what others find in a short story read in common.

Contacts:

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- 1 Jan. New Year’s Day, *no class meeting* ...
8 Jan. “The Killers,” by Ernest Hemingway
15 Jan. “Miami-New York,” by Martha Gellhorn
22 Jan. “The Second Tree from the Corner,” by E. B. White
29 Jan. “Criers and Kibitzers, Kibitzers and Criers,” by Stanley Elkin
- 5 Feb. “A City of Churches,” by Donald Barthelme
12 Feb. “Janus,” by Ann Beattie
19 Feb. “You’re Ugly, Too,” by Lorrie Moore
26 Feb. “Proper Library,” by Carolyn Ferrell
- 5 Mar. “Soon,” by Pam Durban
12 Mar. “The Best Girlfriend You Never Had,” by Pam Houston
19 Mar. Class choice ... THE BEST OF THE BEST AMERICAN SHORT STORIES ...
Come to class with your nomination of the best of the best.
26 Mar. Re-read the class’s choice of the best of the best American Short Stories ...
We will discuss again the short story chosen as the best of the best.
- 2 Apr. PALM SUNDAY ... Mark 15, 16 ... Mark’s account of the resurrection, a short story in itself ...
9 Apr. EASTER SUNDAY ...
16 Apr. Recitatif, by Toni Morrison (*her only short story; 96 pages; a separate book*)
23 Apr. Recitatif, by Toni Morrison (*her only short story; 96 pages; a separate book*)
30 Apr. Recitatif, by Toni Morrison (*her only short story; 96 pages; a separate book*)
- 7 May Recitatif, by Toni Morrison (*her only short story; 96 pages; a separate book*)
14 May *Course planning for Fall-Winter 2023* ...
21 May *End of Winter-Spring term* ... (“Good People,” by David Foster Wallace (*not in the anthology*))
held in reserve if needed)