## ENGL 7602.001: Fiction Workshop

Fall 2025 Thursdays 5:30-8:30 pm Mark Mayer – mmayer@memphis.edu

In a creative writing workshop, a community of other minds helps us to interrogate our own. By providing us with travelogues of their ventures into our fiction, our peers help us perceive what we have dreamt. This process requires <code>difference</code>—peers with their own instincts for language, their own sensitivities to experience, and their own narrative intuitions—and <code>solidarity</code>, a shared commitment to putting this difference in service of the author's vision.

With graduate-level rigor, we will invest ourselves in this process, attending not only to craft questions—plot momentum, emotional interrogation, character revelation, sentence structure—but also to the subtle work of discerning our own textual reflexes and building collaborative artistic community.

You'll have the freedom to pursue your ongoing projects, and where appropriate, critiques will consider stories and chapters in the context of booklength projects. We will also discuss diverse published fiction, representing a variety of narrative and emotional strategies, as well as some works of theory and literary criticism. Students will have the opportunity to shape our reading list based on their interests.

## Required Texts:

• ENGL 7602 Coursepack