

**English 624: Graduate Seminar: *The New Yorker*
Spring 2021
Schedule of Assignments
Dr. Bryant Mangum**

Week 1 (26, 28 January)

Tuesday: Introductions around the seminar; course introduction; *New Yorker* Story in Context of American Short Story

Thursday: “Cat Person” (December 4, 2017 issue) by Kristin Roupenian (and related reactions from *Vox*, 12 December 2017)

Week 2 (2, 4 February) [1 February Issue of *The New Yorker*]

Tuesday: finish discussion of “Cat Person”; discuss “The Girls in Their Summer Dresses” (4 February 1939); read Yagoda, 151-166.

Thursday: read fiction from 1 February issue: “The Wind” by Lauren Groff; read fiction from the 30 July 2012 issue: “Thank You for the Light” by F. Scott Fitzgerald; browse first issue of *New Yorker*: 21 February 1925

Week 3 (9, 11 February) [8 February Issue of *The New Yorker*]

Tuesday: read “Over the River and Through the Wood” (15 December 1934) by John O’Hara; “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” (18 March 1939) by James Thurber

Thursday: read current fiction and from 8 February 2021 issue; read Yagoda, 70-1; 158-9 on O’Hara; read Yagoda, 88 on “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty”

Week 4 (16, 18 February) [15 February Issue of *The New Yorker*]

Tuesday: **Talk:** “James Thurber: Life and Drawings” by Ramey Childress; read and discuss “Homecoming” (January 1, 1938) by William Maxwell; read Yagoda, 147-50, 230-32, and 279-86 on Maxwell

Thursday: **Profile:** “E.B. White” by Noelle Fuller; she will lead us in discussion of his story “The Door” (25 March 1939); read current fiction and poetry from 15 February issue; **if time,** read and discuss from 8 September 1934 issue, “Midsummer” by Nancy Hale; Yagoda, 149-50 and 160 on Hale

Week Five (23, 25 February) [22 February Issue of *The New Yorker*]

Tuesday Reading Day: No Class

Thursday: **Talk:** “The Harold Ross (1925-1951) and William Shawn (1952-1987) Eras” by Hannah Collins; current fiction from 22 February 2021 issue

Week Six (2, 4 March) [1 March Issue of *The New Yorker*]

Tuesday: **Profile:** “Dorothy Parker” by Christina McBride; she will lead discussion of “Arrangement in Black and White” (1 October 1927); read Yagoda, 30-35 on Algonquin Round Table.

Thursday: **Profile:** “Haruki Murakami” by Marie Kreck; she will lead discussion of “The Wind Cave” (27 August 2018) Murakami; read and discuss current fiction from 1 March

issue

- Week 7**
Tuesday: **(9, 11 March) [15 March Issue of *The New Yorker*]**
Profile: Alice Munro” by Emily Furlich; she will lead us in a discussion of a Munro story (tba); **Talk:** “*The New Yorker*” and Non-American Writers” by Mirana Schnackenberg
- Thursday: **Profile:** “Sylvia Plath” by Nick Shipman; he will lead us in discussion of selected Plath poem(s); fiction and poetry from September 8 March issue of *The New Yorker*
- 3-5-page paper growing out of your Profile work due 11 March** (see IV E on syllabus). **Many of you will not have given your report by this time.** This will be a “close reading,” thesis-based paper that enters some aspect of the critical conversation you have encountered in your research at this point. Your thesis should focus on one story by your Profile author—perhaps (and probably) the story that you have led discussion on or will lead a discussion on. Include a secondary source bibliography with at least three works consulted. If you have not given your Profile presentation by this time, give your paper to me two weeks after your presentation.
- Week 8**
Tuesday: **(16, 18 March) [15 March Issue of *The New Yorker*]**
Profile: Vladimir Nabokov” by Zach Gibson; he will lead us in a discussion of a work by Nabokov (tba); current fiction from 15 March issue of *The New Yorker*
- Thursday: **Profile:** “Joy Williams” by Ty Phelps; he will lead us in discussion of a Williams story (tba); carryover current fiction discussion if time permits
- Week 9**
Tuesday: **(23, 25 March) [22 March Issue of *The New Yorker*]**
Profile: “John Cheever” by Hannah Collins; she will lead us in a discussion of “The Enormous Radio” (17 May 1947); current fiction from 22 March issue of *The New Yorker*
- Thursday: **Salinger and *The New Yorker*:** “A Perfect Day for Bananafish” (31 January 1948) by J.D. Salinger; perhaps another Salinger story (tba)
- Week 10**
Tuesday: **(30 March, 1 April) [29 March Issue of *The New Yorker*]**
Profile: “Ursula Le Guin” by Miranda Schnackenberg “Horse Camp” (August 25, 1986) by Ursula Le Guin;
- Thursday: **Talk:** “A Study of The New Yorker and Paratextual: Past and Present” by Zach Gibson; fiction from 29 March issue; **Talk:** “Social and Political Outlook of *The New Yorker*” by Ty Phelps
- Week 11**
Tuesday: **(6, 8 April) [5 April Issue of *The New Yorker*]**
Talk: “Tina Brown and the Tina Brown Era” (1992-1997) by Marie Kreck; **Talk:** “*New Yorker Poetry*” by Nick Shipman
- Thursday: **Talk:** “David Remnick and the David Remnick Era” by Neta Harris; fiction from the 5 April issue; **Talk:** “A Retrospective Look at the Importance of The Whites: E.B. and Katharine” by Noelle Fuller

Week 12 (13, 15 April) [12 April Issue of *The New Yorker*]
Tuesday: **Talk:** “Pauline Kael and *The New Yorker*’s Engagement with Film” by Emily Furlich;
read fiction from 12 April 2021 issue

Thursday: **Profile:** “Woody Allen” by Ramey Childress; he will lead us in a discussion of Allen’s
“The Kugelmass Episode” (May2, 1977); **Talk:** “*New Yorker* Humor” by Christina
McBride

**3-5-page paper growing out of Talk report due 15 April (See
IV B on syllabus).** If you haven’t given your Talk report yet (give it to me a week after
your Talk presentation.

Week 13 (20, 22 April) [19 March Issue of *The New Yorker*]
Tuesday: current fiction from 19 April issue of *The New Yorker*

Thursday: **Profile:** “ZZ Packer” by Neta Harris; she will lead us in a discussion of Packer’s
“Drinking Coffee Elsewhere” (19 June 2000) by ZZ Packer;

Week 14 (27, 29 April) [26 April Issue of *The New Yorker*]
Tuesday: read current fiction from 26 April issue

Thursday: likely and unlikely contributors: Read Raymond Carver’s “Errand” (1 June 1987);
Gabriel García Márquez

Bibliographies with Prefatory Note Due (see IV C on syllabus)

Week 15 (5 May): **LAST CLASS SYNTHESIS**

Week 16. (11 May): **Final Papers Due at 4 pm**

Due Dates for Written Work to Turn In:

1. **Thursday, 11 March: 3-5 close-reading paper from Profile work (if you’ve given Profile report;
see IV E on syllabus)**
2. **Thursday, 15 April: 3-5-page paper from Talk report (IV B on syllabus)**
3. **Thursday, 29 April: Bibliography with prefatory note (IV C on syllabus)**
4. **Tuesday, 11 May: Final paper due at 4 p.m. (IV F on syllabus)**