Quarter: Fall 2021  
Course Title: The Contemporary American Short Story  
Course Code: LIT 197  
Instructor: Michael Krasny

Course Summary:  
We will read and discuss mostly short works of contemporary American fiction as well as a short novel and two larger novels. Since many have taken previous courses I have taught in American short fiction I selected, for the most part, stories I have not previously assigned. A number of these are in the John Parks book I adopted for a previous course (AMERICAN SHORT STORIES SINCE 1945. Oxford University Press). All the short fiction selections can be found on line but the three larger works will need to be purchased or borrowed from a library. They include Saul Bellow’s SEIZE THE DAY; Toni Morrison’s THE BLUEST EYE and Tommy Orange’s THERE THERE.

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:  
- No Grade Requested (NGR)  
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.  
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) or Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)  
  - For those taking the course for credit regular attendance is required along with one 10-12-page essay due by the last class.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.

Tentative Weekly Outline:  
First Class: Saul Bellow’s novella SEIZE THE DAY.

Second Class: Grace Paley’s “Goodbye and Good Luck” and Bernard Malamud’s “The Magic Barrel.”
Third Class: John Barth’s Night-Sea Journey” and Donald Barthelme’s “The School.”

Fourth Class: Alice Munro’s “Boys and Girls” and Joyce Carol Oates’s “How I Contemplated the World from the Detroit House of Corrections and Began My Life Over Again.”

Fifth Class: Toni Morrison’s novel THE BLUEST EYE.

Sixth Class: Cade Bambara’s “My Man Bovanne” and Andre Dubus’s “The Fat Girl.”

Seventh Class: Margaret Atwood’s “Death by Landscape” and Don DeLillo’s “Videotape.”

Eighth Class: Junot Diaz’s “Drown” and Z.Z. Packer’s “Brownies.”

Ninth Class: Lorrie Moore’s “How to be a Writer” and George Saunders’ “My Flamboyant Grandson.”

Tenth class: Tommy Orange’s novel THERE THERE