



Professor (retired)
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Cruce Stark received his undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University and his graduate degrees from Harvard, then taught creative writing and American literature until his retirement from the university in 2007. *The New York Times Book Review* said that his novel *Chasing Uncle Charley* “linger[s] in memory,” the characters “believably strange and surprising.” In 1996, the readers of *Delaware Today* selected him as Delaware’s “Best Writer.”

COURSE DESCRIPTION

MALS 626: Studies In Contemporary Culture: Reading the Contemporary Short Story will attempt to do just that: Provide a context in which students become comfortable responding to the latest story in whatever magazine you may be stuck with in the airport--not necessarily to like it, but to understand what the story is trying to do. Students will read, discuss, and write about the very latest stories published by the country’s best writers. Our primary text, in fact, will be one of the anthologies containing the “best” stories published during the previous year. The class itself will create much of the syllabus, choosing which of those stories it wants to write about and discuss. No previous experience interpreting literature is required, but students should be prepared for independent thinking and writing. Evaluation will be based on two (or perhaps three) essays and their revisions, and the leading of a discussion on one of the stories.