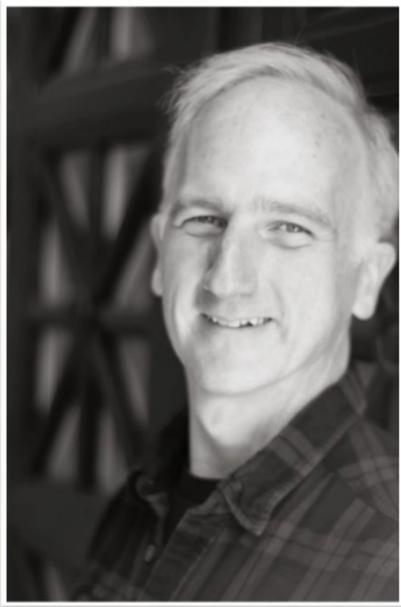


# Writefest

## FICTION



### ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:

Described by Library Journal as "a 1970's Texas YA novel [by Cormac McCarthy and Denis Johnson] that went off the rails somewhere - in a very, very good way," Thomas McNeely's debut, *Ghost Horse*, winner of the Gival Press Novel Award, was shortlisted for the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing and was a Finalist for the Lascaux Prize in Fiction. He has received awards from the J. Frank Dobie Paisano Project, the Wallace Stegner Program at Stanford University, and the National Endowment for the Arts. His short stories have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Ploughshares*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, and other magazines and anthologies, including Algonquin Books' *Best of the South*; they have also been short-listed for the O. Henry Awards, the Best American Short Stories, and Pushcart Prize collections. He teaches in the Emerson College Honors Program and the Stanford University Online Certificate in Novel Writing Program.

### HOW TO WRITE A SHORT STORY IN FOUR DAYS

A short story is a "flare illuminating a brief moment of life" (Robey Macauley). In this intensive class, we will each craft a brief story of approximately 3000 words. First, we will workshop five pages of each student's writing to be submitted and read before the workshop by each student and me, to assess strengths, weaknesses, and issues we'd like to work on in our writing. Then, using in-class exercises and discussions of stories by masters like Edgar Allan Poe, Antonin Chekhov, Tobias Wolff, Lucia Berlin, Lydia Davis, and others, we address these strengths, weaknesses, and issues by writing a brief short story. We will learn essential lessons about narrative craft and different narrative forms. We will create complex and lifelike characters, absorbing plots, and convincing dialogue, and shape our stories through use of scene and summary, and attentive use of voice and point of view. Finally, we will revise our stories, then celebrate them in a group reading (donuts included).

**MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> – 9<sup>TH</sup>  
MON-THURS 9AM-12PM  
SILVER STREET STUDIOS  
STUDIO # TBA  
ARTIST: TBA**

**MARCH 6-12, 2017**

**BY WRITESPACE**