

Syllabus
Why Read Alice Munro?
Spring, 2015

Coordinators: Carol Grant, Arlene Spiller, Ettie Taichman, Nancy Yates

Study Group Description

“Why read Alice Munro?” asks fellow Canadian writer, Margaret Atwood. She goes on to explain the wonder and excitement - even the incredulity - readers experience at the excellence of Munro’s work. Munro is a short fiction writer and a master of the form. Her work is deeply revealing psychologically, and stylistically she has helped to revolutionize the architecture of the short story. Although many of her stories are set in rural Ontario, they resonate with readers across the world. We read and discuss a chronological selection of her stories that spans a 55 year career culminating in 2013 with the Nobel Prize.

Reading: Course pack, approximately \$25. All stories and other readings are in the course pack.

Schedule

Week 1: Introduction; Margaret Atwood’s article on Munro; Walker Brothers Cowboy.

Week 2: Dance of the Happy Shades; Girls and Boys.

Week 3: Peace of Utrecht; Material.

Week 4: Royal Beatings; Wild Swans; The Beggar Maid.

Week 5: Miles City, Montana; Friend of My Youth.

Week 6: Free Radicals; Face.

Week 7: The Bear Came Over the Mountain; Floating Bridge.

Week 8: Meneseung, Runaway.

Week 9: Deep Holes; Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage.

Week 10: Illinois; Fathers.

Week 11: Wenlock Edge; Too Much Happiness.

Week 12: Amundesen; Dear Life.