

Little Books with Big Meanings: *short fictions that challenge how we live*

OLLI, Lafayette campus

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Course Description

Great works of literature grow in meaning with multiple readings and conversations among readers. One might even say they require it. In this course we will examine four works of fiction which are short in length but long in potential for rich discussions about how address the issue of how we do and should live our lives.

The class will be about 2/3 discussion and 1/3 lecture. Class members should complete each week's reading before the class meets.

Readings will two longish short stories (Joyce's *The Dead* and Melville's *Bartleby*) and two short novels, (Salinger's *Franny and Zooey*, and Yu Hua's *To Live*).

Schedule

Week One, Thursday, October 17

Melville, *Bartleby*

Widely anthologized story, sometimes under the title, *Bartleby the Scrivener*

Week Two, Thursday, October 24

James Joyce, *The Dead*

This is the final story in Joyce's short story collection, *The Dubliners*. It is also widely anthologized.

Week Three, Thursday, October 31

J.D. Salinger, *Franny and Zooey* (Little, Brown). Widely available used.

Week Four, Thursday, November 7

Yu Hua, *To Live* (Anchor Books) Paperback.