English 201, Section 01
The Short Story
Fall, 1993

Instructor: Kim Jernigan
Office: PAS 2212
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 1-3, or by appointment.
Phone: 656-2312 or care of UW's writing clinic, ext. 2329

Course Objectives:
(1) To lead the student to an understanding of the complexity of
techniques available to the writer of short fiction and to an
appreciation of the story itself as both form and feeling.
(2) To suggest some possible vocations in relation to the short
story, whether as writer, editor, or interpreter (story teller,
teacher, critic).

We will begin with a consideration of the folk tale and oral
story telling and go on to the literary tale, examining stories
from a variety of cultures and periods grouped to elucidate
either particular techniques (with an emphasis on narrative
structure and point-of-view) or the diversity of approaches the
form allows to a common theme.

Expectations:
I expect that students will come to class having read and thought
about the assigned stories and prepared to enter into class
discussion. Such participation is valued though not marked. It
will enrich your experience of the course, serve as a useful
preparation for the written assignments, and demonstrate your
respect both for the material and for your fellow students.

Texts:
R.V. Cassill, ed. The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction, Fourth
(Published in the U.S. as The Beggar Maid)
Summer, 1993.

Also recommended: W.K. Thomas. Correct Form in Essay Writing.
University of Waterloo Press.

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Assignments and Marking Scheme:

Students will be expected to write two short and one longer critical essay over the course of the term (or alternatives as follows) plus a final examination. There will be no midterm.

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1) A short critical essay (4-5 typed pages) on an aspect of a story from the Norton Anthology not discussed in class. Topic suggestions to follow.</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>October 5</td>
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<td>(2) A second short essay, as above. Topics to follow.</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>November 2</td>
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Note: You may substitute a performance (oral story telling of either a traditional tale or one coming out of our September 21 workshop) for one of the first two assignments. Include a preamble (or postscript) explaining what attracted you to the story or how it was shaped and be prepared to respond to questions. If you choose this option, you must let me know your plans before the regular assignment is due and negotiate a performance date.

(3) A longer critical essay (8-10 typed pages) which considers a story from the Munro, Ford, or New Quarterly collections in the context of the collection as a whole. Topic suggestions to follow.

Note: You may substitute for the final essay an original short story along with a critical commentary (a brief discussion of what you were attempting in the story and how). The section in Norton on "Writing Fiction" (pp. 1719-1733) will be an invaluable resource for any student considering this option.

(4) A final examination. 30% Date to be announced.

The final exam is intended to test your recollection and understanding of the stories read and the concepts discussed in class. It will be divided into three sections:

(a) a set of literary terms for you to define and illustrate.
(b) a selection of significant passages from the stories covered in class for you to identify and discuss.
(c) an essay question which will allow you to compare the handling of themes, characters, or techniques in several works considered in the latter half of the term. You will have some choice here.