DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Instructor: Wayne Gotts
Office: PAS 1062
Office Hours: Tues and Thurs 11:30-1:00

English 201—The Short Story

Course Objectives: This course is designed to trace the development of the short story from its origins in the nineteenth century to the present. We will focus especially on North American stories, beginning with Washington Irving, then proceeding to the work of contemporary writers like Alice Munro, John Barth and Robert Coover.

Required Texts: R.V. Cassill (ed.), The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction; Joyce, Dubliners; Munro, Lives of Girls and Women. Photocopies available in reserve reading room.

Assignments: Two papers and two in-class examinations.

Due Dates: Paper #1: June 9 (15%)
Exam #1: June 18 (25%)
Paper #2: July 16 (35%)
Exam #2: July 30 (25%)

Schedule:

Week 1. May 5-7: Introduction to and historical overview of the short story. Readings: Irving, "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" (photo); "Rip Van Winkle" (photo).


Week 3. May 19-21: Bierce, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"; "The Boarded Window" (photo); Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener"; James, "The Jolly Corner."


Week 7. June 16-18: Munro; Review; Mid-term examination.

the Cemetery"; Stone, "Helping."

Week 9. June 30-July 2: Oates, "How I Contemplated the World"; Barth, "Lost in the Funhouse" (photo); "Night-Sea Journey" (photo); Pynchon, "Entropy" (photo).

Week 10. July 7-9: Nabokov, "Signs and Symbols"; Coover, "Romance of the Thin Man and the Fat Lady" (photo); "The Babysitter"; Atwood, "Rape Fantasies."

Week 11. July 14-16: Joyce, Dubliners

Week 12. July 21-23: Joyce Dubliners

Week 13. July 28-30: Joyce; Review; End-of-term examination.