This syllabus consists of three pages. It is posted online at <http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~jwhaslam/201syl_s00.htm>.

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The short story, along with the related forms of the tale and the fable, has for more than two centuries been one of the most popular genres of fiction in the West. While (loosely) constrained in length, the short story still allows for a tremendous variety in form, focus, and style, making it an especially adaptable art form. In this course, we will begin by analysing Irving Washington's "Rip Van Winkle," an early example of the short tale, and then move on to stories by Guy de Maupassant and Gustave Flaubert. The form that these two writers constructed for their stories has come to be seen as the "traditional" form of the genre. However, as we shall see in the rest of the course, the form and subject matter of short stories is by no means completely circumscribed by this tradition. Throughout the course, we will examine a variety of stories through close reading and analyses based on the writers' use of such literary techniques and devices as symbolism, imagery, and point of view, among others. The course will be based around lectures, group work, and class discussion.

**Required Texts:**

All required texts are available in the University Bookstore.

Hemingway, Ernest. *In Our Time*.
English 201 Course Reading Package.

**Course Requirements:**

Students are required to do all of the reading listed--each work is to be read before the class for which it is scheduled. While the instructor will lecture, much of the actual learning process in this class will arise from class discussions. All work (with the exception of in-class assignments) is to be typewritten or printed using a computer printer and word-processing program.
Assignments:

Two in-class tests: 17.5% each = 35% JUNE 15TH and JULY 25TH
One short essay, 1000-1250 words (approx. 4-5 pages, double spaced): 25% DUE MAY 30TH
One long essay, 1750-2250 words (approx. 7-9 pages, double spaced): 35% DUE JULY 6TH
Attendance and participation: 5%

Assignment Descriptions:

Essay #1: This will be a short essay on a topic chosen by the instructor (the topic will be handed out well in advance of the due date). This assignment involves NO secondary reading. Basically, the essay will involve a close reading of one of the works that we will be studying early in the term. The essay is to be written according to MLA guidelines. (The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers should be purchased by all English majors. A basic description of MLA citation style will be given in class.) Also, a brief lecture (possibly two) will be given on proper essay writing skills and techniques.

Essay #2: This essay will be a more in-depth analysis of one or two works read during the term. Some essay topics will be handed out, but you are encouraged to develop your own topic (you must clear your topics with the instructor, though). While outside research is not required, you may use up to three (but no more) secondary sources. The use of scholarly sources will be discussed in class.

In-Class Tests: Each test will be based on the readings up to and including the class before the test. The tests will consist of doing close readings and interpretations of several short passages chosen from the works studied. They are designed to test both comprehension and interpretive skills. Close reading will be a central component of this class: you will learn how to do it through listening to the instructor’s lectures and by participating actively in both group work and class discussion.

Late Penalties:

All assignments (except the in-class assignments) are due at the BEGINNING of class on the date indicated. Late assignments will be docked one-half of a letter-grade (e.g. from a B to a B-) for each 24 hours that they are late. For example, a paper due at 12:00 pm on Day 1 will drop a half grade starting at 12:01 pm on Day 1, a full grade starting at 12:01 pm on Day 2, etc. Only properly documented medical problems or other documented severe circumstances which are out of your control will be accepted as excuses for late or missed assignments.
Reading and Class Schedule:

NOTE:
I strongly encourage you to read ahead, and to read the stories several times—always with a pencil/pen and paper ready.

Each "*" indicates that a text is in the reading package.

May
02: Washington Irving, “Rip Van Winkle”
09: Guy de Maupassant, “The Necklace”; Gustave Flaubert, “A Simple Soul”*
11: Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens), “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County,” “The Story of the Old Ram”*
16: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”
18: Edgar Allan Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher”
23: Poe, “Ligeia”*
25: Muriel Spark, “Miss Pinkerton’s Apocalypse”*
30: William Faulkner, “Barn Burning”*  FIRST ESSAY DUE

June
01: Richard Wright, “The Man Who Was Almost a Man”
06: Ernest Hemingway, In Our Time
08: Hemingway, In Our Time
13: Hemingway, In Our Time
15: TEST
22: Virginia Woolf, “The Mark on the Wall”*
27: James Joyce, “The Dead”*
29: Joyce, “The Dead”*

July
04: James Baldwin, “Sonny’s Blues”
06: Eudora Welty, “Petrified Man” SECOND ESSAY DUE
11: John Barth, “Lost in the Funhouse”
18: Breyten Breytenbach, “The Man with the Head,”* “The Double Dying of an Ordinary Criminal”*
20: review
25: TEST