Instructor: Erin E. MacDonald, M.A., B.Ed.
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday
Room: ML 246
Office Hours: 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, PAS 2213
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Course Description

This course will examine the American short story as a genre with its own unique characteristics and trace its development from the 19th Century to the present day. The stories will cover a broad range of authors and will include seminal works by such well-known authors as Hawthorne, Poe, Hurston, and Hemingway, in addition to select non-canonical authors such as Ed McBain and Stephen King. Through a combination of class discussions, lectures, group work, and written assignments, students will gain a knowledge of the elements of the short story in general and the ways in which the American short story in particular has developed over time and according to region. The course will also offer students significant practice in thinking and writing critically about English literature.

Required Texts

Norton Anthology of Short Fiction, 6th ed. (full) Eds. R.V. Cassill and R. Bausch
Courseware booklet of additional readings (available at the bookstore)

Recommended Texts

The Little, Brown Compact Handbook Eds. Jane E. Aaron and Murray McArthur

Assignment Weighting

Response Journal 20%
Short Essay 25%
Research Essay 30%
Test 25%
English 201  Assignment Descriptions

Response Journal
For this first assignment, students will be asked to write a 1-2 page, double-spaced, 12-point font response to one of the stories or essays listed in the course readings. The journal should consist not only of the student’s personal like or dislike for the story, but also a reasoned, thorough, logically progressive discussion of a particular theme, element, or stylistic feature of the work. The paper must contain an introduction stating a particular thesis, as well as properly cited references (by way of quotation and/or paraphrase) to the story being discussed. A Work Cited entry must also appear at the end of the paper (using current MLA format). **DUE May 22**

Short Essay
This first essay must be 5-6 pages in length, double-spaced, with 12-point font, and must include a Works Cited page with correct MLA format. Topic suggestions will be provided and will cover the first few stories discussed. Secondary research is not required for this assignment, but may be used if desired or necessary. Students will be given an in-class opportunity to have a first draft of the paper peer reviewed before submitting it for marks. **Draft DUE June 12, Final DUE June 24**

Test  **July 24**
The test will consist of several short answer and one essay question and may include questions about any of the works covered or discussed in class up to the date of the test.

Research Essay
This essay must be 8-10 pages in length, double-spaced, with 12-point font, and following the MLA format indicated above. Topic suggestions will be provided for this paper as well, and the topics will focus on stories covered in the latter portion of the course. Secondary research is required for this paper, and students must include references to at least four scholarly sources. **DUE July 29**

**Note:** Any signs of plagiarism or careless referencing of sources will not be tolerated. **Late assignments** unaccompanied by a doctor’s note will be **docked** 10% per school day up to three days, and will not be accepted more than three days past the due date. Assignments not handed in in class must be clearly labeled, signed and dated by a secretary, and put in the English drop box outside Hagey Hall 229 (English mailroom). DO NOT put anything under my office door!
English 201 Schedule of Readings and Assignments (Tentative)

Tuesday, May 6—Intro. What is a short story? Cheever, “Why I Write Short Stories”

Thursday, May 8—“The Art of the Short Story,” “A History of the Short Story,”
Elements of the Short Story.


Tuesday, May 20—Poe, “The Purloined Letter”


Tuesday, May 27—Twain, “The Notorious Jumping Frog”

Thursday, May 29—Local Color. Anderson, “I Want to Know Why”

Tuesday, June 3—Faulkner, “Barn Burning”

Thursday, June 5—Hurston, “Sweat”

Tuesday, June 10—O’Connor, “Nature and Aim of Fic.,” “Good Man Hard to Find”

Thursday, June 12—Peer Edit of Short Essay—Draft DUE

Tuesday, June 17—‘20s. Fitzgerald, “Babylon Revisited”

Thursday, June 19—Hemingway, “Hills Like White Elephants,” “An Interview”

Tuesday, June 24—Parker, “Big Blonde,” Short Essay DUE

Thursday, June 26—Modern. Roth, “The Conversion of the Jews”

Thursday, July 3—Carver, “On Writing,” “Cathedral”

Tuesday, July 8—Tan, “Rules of the Game”

Thursday, July 10—Popular. Hoppenstand, “Intro. to Pop. Fic.”

Tuesday, July 15—King, “The Horror Market Writer,” “Graveyard Shift”

Thursday, July 17—McBain, “Sadie When She Died”

Tuesday, July 22—Mosley, “The Watts Lions”

Thursday, July 24—TEST

Tuesday, July 29—Research Essay DUE