English 201—The Short Story  Spring '05

Instructor:  Erin E. MacDonald
Time:  Tues./Thurs., 4:00 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.
Room:  HH 150
Office Hours:  Thursday, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., PAS 2213 or by appointment
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Course Description

This course will introduce the student to the 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 English language authors from Britain, the United States, and Canada, and will include seminal works by such well-known authors as Poe, Joyce, Carver, and Munro, in addition to select non-canonical authors such as Chandler and McBain. 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 of several of the different short story sub-genres. The course will also offer students significant practice in thinking and writing critically about English literature, specifically in the form of the academic essay.

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

Critical Analysis Paper  20%
Short Essay or Story  25%
Test  25%
Research Essay  30%
Tues. May 3--History of Short Story, Elements of Short Story
Thurs. May 5 – Holocaust Remembrance Day
Tues. May 10 – Poe Biography
Thurs. May 19-- Writing Essays (critical analysis, MLA, theses, grammar)
Tues. May 24 – Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”
Thurs. May 26 – O’Connor, “Nature and Aim of Fiction,” “Good Man is Hard to Find”
Tues. May 31 – Joyce, “The Dead”; Short Essay Due
Tues. June 7-- finish Walker, discuss assignment 2
Thurs. June 9— Hemingway, “Hills Like White Elephants”
Tues. June 14——“F.B. On Hemingway,”“Interview”
Tues. June 21— finish Carver (video); Research Essays; Essay 2/Story Due
Thurs. June 23— Hoppenstand, “Intro to Pop. Fic.”*
Thurs. June 30-- McBain, “Sadie When She Died”*
Tues. July 5—McBain documentary
Thurs. July 7-- Research Essay Conferencing
Thurs. July 14-- Tan, “Rules of the Game,” “In the Canon for All the Wrong Reasons”*
Tues. July 12-- Roth, “The Conversion of the Jews”
Tues. July 19—Cohen, “Racial Memories”*
Thurs. July 21-- Munro, “Royal Beatings,” “What is Real?”
Tues. July 26--Test
Thurs. July 28—Research Essay Due