English 201: The Short Story

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30-3:30
Class Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 4-5:20pm, HH 280

English 201 will examine some of the central examples of short story writing in English. We will survey writers from Europe, the United States, and Canada. In addition to examining theories of the short story genre, we will explore how geography, race, gender, and class are portrayed in famous short stories. We will also watch some films adapted from short stories, and consider a close cousin of the genre—the "novella".

As a student, it is your responsibility to be prepared to discuss the assigned readings for each class. The lectures will combine discussion and supplementary audio-visual materials. Your grade in the course is derived from two tests and one research essay.

Texts


Tests and Assignments

Test #1 (25%) – June 1
Test #2 (25%) – July 25
Research Essay (50%) – due July 27

Essay Policies: Essays will be handed in to me at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. Essays that are not handed to me directly must be signed and dated by a department secretary and placed in the English Department Drop Box. Your name, my name, and the course name must appear clearly on the front page of your essay. Late essays will be docked 2% per day starting the day the assignment is due, including weekends. I will not accept Research Essays after Friday, August 4. Extensions are at my discretion for serious medical and/or family emergencies only. Budget your time and plan on handing in your assignments on time. Please do not negotiate late penalties with me. If you have a medical emergency, simply attach a doctor’s note to your essay and the late penalty will be averted.

Please note: Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will be dealt with according to the University of Waterloo Disciplinary Code (see Policy 71 in Undergraduate Calendar). All quotations, paraphrased material and ideas which are not your own MUST be properly cited and referenced. Failure to do so may result in a mark of "0" on the assignment, or a failing grade in the course, or expulsion from the university.
Reading Schedule

May 2: Introduction to the Short Story; pp.4-38
May 4: Introduction to the Short Story

May 9: "Rappacini's Daughter," Hawthorne; "The Fall of the House of Usher," Poe
May 11: "Europe," Henry James; "Beyond the Bayou," Chopin

May 16: The Dead, John Houston (dir.)
May 18: "The Dead," Joyce


May 30: NO CLASS—I will not be available by email from May 28 to 31
June 1: TEST #1 (25%)

June 6: The Painted Door, NFB; "The Painted Door," Ross

June 13: "Dreams," Findley; "Fits," Munro
June 15: "Baptized by Dust," Carpentier; "The Forsaken," Blais

June 20: "The One About Coyote Going West," King; "This Is What It Means To Say Phoenix, Arizona," Alexie
June 22: "Agnes of Iowa," Moore; "Leaving This Island Place," Clarke

June 27: "Roget's Thesaurus," Fraser; "Imagination Dead Imagine," Beckett
June 29: "The Kugelmass Episode," Allen

July 4: "Casualty," Wolff
July 6: "Ineluctable Modality of the Vaginal," Moody

July 11: Kissed, Lynne Stopkewich (dir.)
July 13: "We So Seldom Look on Love," Gowdy

July 18: Herman Melville: Consider the Sea; "Benito Cereno," Melville
July 20: "Benito Cereno" continued; course review

July 25: TEST #2 (25%)
July 27: Essay Submission (50%)