Department of English Language and Literature  
University of Waterloo  
Spring 2007

Course Syllabus for English 201, The Short Story

Instructor: Diane K. Jakacki  
Class Place and Time: HH150, Mon, Wed. 2:30 – 3:50pm,  
dkjakack@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca  
Office: PAS 1065  
Office Hours: Mon., Wed. - 1:00-2:30 and by appointment.

Welcome to English 201, The Short Story. In this course we will examine the short story through a range of examples, periods and authors. Our goal is to develop your close and critical reading abilities in order to impart a better appreciation of short fiction and provide tools that you can apply to all forms of literature.

TEXTS & RESOURCES:  

(recommended) Research Skills for English Studies (website):  
http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~rse/RSEShome.html

ONLINE TEXTS: links available through DKJ’s website & UW-ACE:  
http://www.artsweb.uwaterloo.ca/~dkjakack

Note: This course is managed through UW-ACE: you should frequent the site to check for announcements and additional course materials that I might post during the semester.

ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES (more detailed descriptions below):

Discussion Forum (10%)  
Mid-Term (20%)  
Essay (30%)  
Final Exam (40%)

CLASS SCHEDULE:  
Wed., May 2 Introduction  
- Syllabus review

Mon., May 7 - Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown”  
- The Art of the Short Story  

Wed., May 9 - Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher”  
- The Elements of Short Fiction: Plot  

Pages  
348-357  
3-6  
708-721  
849-854
Mon., May 14 - Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener” 600-626
- The Elements of Short Fiction: Characterization 854-857

Wed., May 16 - Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” 297-308
- The Elements of Short Fiction: Point of View 857-858

Mon., May 21 **NO CLASS**

Wed., May 23 - Crane, “The Open Boat” 196-213
- The Elements of Short Fiction: Setting 859-860

Mon., May 28 **NO CLASS**

- The Elements of Short Fiction: Theme 860-861

Mon., June 4  - Mansfield, “Miss Brill” 562-565
- Woolf, “Kew Gardens”
  http://www.readprint.com/work-1530/Virginia-Woolf
- The Elements of Short Fiction: Style 861-862

Wed., June 6 - Lawrence, “The Rocking-Horse Winner” 517-528
- Critical Approaches: Sociological Criticism + essay 892-895


Wed., June 13 **MID-TERM**

Mon., June 18 - Fitzgerald, “Babylon Revisited” 247-262
- Critical Approaches: Biographical Criticism 881-882

Wed., June 20 - Faulkner, “Barn Burning” 225-238
- Critical Approaches: Mythological Criticism + essay 890-892

Mon., June 25 - Jackson, “The Lottery” 390-396
- Critical Approaches: Reader-Response Criticism 881-882

Wed., June 27 - O’Connor, “A Good Man is Hard to Find” 678-689

Mon., July 2 **NO CLASS**

Wed., July 4 - Baldwin, “Sonny’s Blues” 27-49
- Critical Approaches: Formalist Criticism + essay 879-881

Mon., July 9 - Cheever, “The Swimmer” 123-131
- Critical Approaches: Deconstructionist Criticism 899-900
                  - Critical Approaches: Cultural Studies + essay   901-904
                  ESSAY DUE

Mon., July 16  - Munro, “How I Met My Husband”         649-661
                  - Critical Approaches: Gender Criticism          895


Mon., July 23  - LeGuin, “The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas”  531-535

                http://www.neilgaiman.com/exclusive/shortstories/partiesstory

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. **Discussion Forum:** (10%) Each post = 1 point. Due each Wednesday by 12:00 noon. *No post due on July 11 (essay due date).* 250 words minimum posted to ACE bulletin-board forum (posts are time-stamped by ACE). Posts are to be based on critical analysis of stories (style, theme, type of narrator, etc.) and refer directly to readings for that week.

2. **Mid-Term Exam:** (20%) **Wednesday, June 13.** This in-class test will evaluate your knowledge of the primary works and the lecture material learned to that point in the course. It will be in short essay form.

3. **Term Essay:** (30%) Due **Wednesday, July 11.** Assigned essay topics will be distributed by May 30. You will choose one of the topics and write an 8-page analytical essay (double-spaced, 12pt. font, 1-inch margins, with no separate title page). The essay must be about the literary texts that are on the syllabus. The essay must be formulated around an argument (a thesis) and focus on the analysis of the language of the texts analyzed.

   Hand in both a hard copy and an electronic copy of your essay. Post the electronic file in the drop box on UW-ACE on the due date, July 11, 2007.

4. **Final exam:** (40%) The exam will be scheduled during the spring exam period and will test material learned throughout the entire course.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**
Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to read all assigned material (as well as biographical introductions and author perspectives) and to come to every class prepared to discuss the assignments thoughtfully and intelligently. In addition, students are expected to participate in the UW-ACE online discussion forum on a weekly basis.
NOTE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

LATE POLICY:
If you miss the mid-term you must provide medical documentation to substantiate your incapacity to write the test on the scheduled day.

The essay is due in class on the due date. Late papers will be penalized at a rate of 2% a day, including weekends, and will not be accepted more than a week after the due date. No extensions will be given except where there is a clear and verified medical reason for the delay in completing the assignments. Please note that I do not grant extensions except in emergency circumstances (being busy with other courses does not count as an emergency). If there is an emergency contact me immediately in person (i.e. by coming to my office hours—do not just send an email).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
The Faculty of Arts requires that I make you aware of the following: “Students are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. Students who are unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who need help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about ‘rules’ for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Assistant Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy #71, Student Academic Discipline, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm

The Internet has made plagiarism and other forms of cheating much more tempting; it has also made it easier to detect. I will investigate and report to the Associate Dean all cases of suspected plagiarism. Proven cases will result in academic penalty, proportional to the extent of the infraction, and could include an official written reprimand from the Associate Dean that will be placed in your file. Please consult the following website, “Avoiding Academic Offences” for a comprehensive explanation of plagiarism and how to avoid it http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve: refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm.