UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 201: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHORT STORY, W94

INSTRUCTOR: Wayne Gotts
OFFICE: HH 261
HOURS: Tues 12:00-1:30; 4:30-6:00 (or by appointment)
PHONE: 885-1211 ext. (school)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a historical overview of thematic and technical developments in the English language short story. The course begins with a discussion of historical precedents to the modern story form and then considers representative stories from various historical periods and literary movements.

The course will proceed through lectures and class discussions supplemented by films and dramatic readings of some of the stories.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Students are responsible for the following: a formal essay on an assigned topic (30%); an informal reading journal (15%); a mid-term examination (25%); a final examination (30%).

REQUIRED TEXTS


Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. "The Yellow Wallpaper." (on reserve)

The "201 booklet" (Call Number XA 4999), available in the reserve room, contains the Gilman story, the recommended readings, and the readings from the essay options which do not appear in the Norton Anthology.

SCHEDULE

Jan 04: Introduction

11: Beginnings
(Recommended Reading: Poe's review of Hawthorne's Twice-Told Tales.)
18: **Realism**  
Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener"; Clemens, "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County"; James, "The Tree of Knowledge"

25: **Nineteenth Century Women**  
Chopin, "The Story of an Hour"; Freeman, "A New England Nun"; Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"

Feb 01: **Naturalism**  
Crane, "The Open Boat," "The Blue Hotel"; Joyce, "Araby"  
(Recommended Reading: "Stephen Crane's Own Story," the original newspaper account.)

08: **The Moderns**  
Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants"; Porter, "Flowering Judas"; Fitzgerald, "Babylon Revisited"  
(Recommended Reading: Hemingway's "Scott Fitzgerald," a sad and funny account of a trip they took together.)

15: **Mid-Term Examination**

22: **Study Week--No Class**

Mar 01: **The Story Cycle**  
Anderson, *Winesburg, Ohio.*  
(Note: You may omit "Godliness: A Tale in Four Parts," and "The Untold Lie.")

08: **Regionalism: The Example of the Southern USA**  
Paulkner, "A Rose for Emily"; Welty, "A Worn Path"; O'Connor, "Everything That Rises Must Converge"  
(Recommended Reading: O'Connor's "Writing Short Stories.")

15: **Metafiction/Postmodernism**  
Nabokov, "Signs and Symbols"; Coover, "The Babysitter"; Oates, "How I Contemplated the World from the Detroit House of Correction and Began My Life Over Again"

22: **Contemporary Realism**  
Carver, "Where I'm Calling From"; Mason, "Shiloh"; Stone, "Helping"  
(Recommended Reading: Carver's "On Writing"; London's "To Build a Fire," the story to which Carver's narrator alludes.)

29: **African-American Writers**  
Wright, "The Man Who Was Almost a Man"; Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues"; Naylor, "Lucielia Louise Turner"

Apr 05: **Performance/Summary/Question and Answer Session**