ENGLISH 201

The Short Story

Winter 1996

Class: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1.00-2.30 p.m., E1 1502
Instructor: Jana Karger
Office: Room 2215, PAS Building
Telephone: X 3841, or leave a message with Illona, U'grad Secretary, English Dept. Give your name, time and date of call, phone number, and time I can reach you.
Office Hrs: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2.30-3.30 p.m.; and by appointment

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Description

Storytelling is a social and linguistic act through which we define ourselves and our society. Stories, or fragments of stories, surround us: those we tell about ourselves and others, and those told about and to us--stories about our own lives, the lives of our families, our community, our world. How do we make sense of and respond to the stories that touch and shape us, the stories that we hear or read or see? What emotions do they arouse? How do they affirm or negate us as human beings? What myths, values, and beliefs influence or underlie these stories?

This term, we will attempt to connect our readings to our own lives and to the world around us. To frame our discussions, we will begin with a consideration of the history of short fiction and the techniques available to writers of this literary form, and then move on to examining the stories themselves. Are the authors attempting to represent or to create a world through language? How successful and convincing are they?

Aims

We'll use the community of our classroom to enhance our appreciation and enjoyment of literature. Through our readings, writings, and discussions, we can develop or improve existing skills that help us to interpret, analyze, and evaluate the stories selected and bring the knowledge gained into our own lives.

Since learning in this course is student-centred, the success of our course depends upon active and committed student attendance and participation throughout the term. I hope that the process of discovery offers an exciting and challenging shared learning experience for us all.

Course Requirements

35% Journal (submitted every Thursday); in-class Journal Evaluation (April 2)
15% Small group (2-3 people) planning and guidance of class discussion of one short story (sign-up sheets second class). Student interest will guide the choice of stories from the Anthology.
35% Research Essay. Mark comprises: *Mandatory exchange draft March 7th;
*Discussion March 12th; *Final submission March 26th in class
15% Participation and contributions throughout the term

Course requirements and assignments will be discussed during the first class. Detailed information and instructions will follow.
**Course Text**


**Recommended Texts**

In your research essay, please cite and document sources following the conventions and guidelines of the Modern Languages Association (MLA).


Any good handbook that assists you in writing your research paper

**University Policies**

Please ensure that you are familiar with and do not contravene university policy as set out in the UW Calendar section "Student Academic Discipline Policy and Procedures." With respect to plagiarism, if in doubt please talk to me, as the university considers plagiarism a serious offence with serious consequences. UW Policy # 71 currently defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism . . . is the act of presenting the ideas, words or other intellectual property of another as one's own. The use of other people's work must be properly acknowledged and referenced in all written material such as take-home examinations, essays, laboratory reports, work-term reports, design projects, statistical data, computer programs and research results. The properly acknowledged use of sources is an accepted and important part of scholarship. Use of such material without complete and unambiguous acknowledgement, however, is an offence under this policy.

**Journal**

Hand in your weekly journal either in a folder with your name clearly marked on the outside front cover and along the tab, or in an 8 1/2 x 11 envelope, clearly marked. Please ensure that your entry is stapled together, dated, and has your name on it. Typed entries are greatly appreciated; hand-written entries *must* be clear and legible. A three-ring binder is probably the most practical way of keeping individual entries together when they are returned, as you can re/move them easily, if necessary.

Occasionally, I may arrange an exchange journal, where you exchange journal entries with another student and respond to one another. I will let you know in advance. Feel free, of course, to share your journals at any time during the term. Occasionally, with student permission, and where appropriate, individual entries in class may be shared with the class.