



EN 230

The Short Story

Semester: Fall 2014

Days: 8:15 AM – 9:45 AM T/Th

Room: A2131

Number of credits: 3

Prerequisite:

EN 115 or permission of instructor

Instructor: Dr. Rita Dirks Heath

Email: rdirksheath@ambrose.edu

Phone: 403-410-2000, ext. 5900

Office: L2067

Office hours: 9:45 AM – 11:15 AM T/Th,
or by appointment

Course Description:

This course is both an introduction to some of the short stories of the world as well as an occasion to write (about) a short story. Emphasis will be placed on the appreciation of the genre in all its multicultural contexts. Equally, for those who want to go beyond the critical understanding, an opportunity will be offered to write their own story.

Further Course Information:

Textbook:

Charters, Ann. *The Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction*. Eighth Edition. Boston & New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2011.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

It is the aim of the course that students acquire the following skills:

1. Critical Reading
2. Interpretation Skills
3. Critical Writing
4. Creative Writing
5. Presentation Skills (optional)

Important Dates:

First day of classes: September 3, 2014

Registration revision period: September 14, 2014

Last day to request revised examination: October 27, 2014

Last day to withdraw from course: November 12, 2014

Last day to apply for time extension for coursework: November 24, 2014

Last day of classes: December 9, 2014

Final Exam: December 13, 2014

Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Room: A2141

Outline:

September	4	Introduction
	9	What Is a Short Story?: “A Brief History of the Short Story” (Appendix 3)
	11	Poe, “The Importance of a Single Effect in a Prose Tale”; Chekhov, “Technique in Writing the Short Story”
	16	Gogol, “The Overcoat”; Nabokov, “Gogol’s Genius in “The Overcoat””
	18	Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher”; Brooks & Warren, “A New Critical Reading of ‘The Fall of the House of Usher’”
	23	Chekhov, “The Darling”; Tolstoy, “Chekhov’s Intent in ‘The Darling’”
October	30	Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”; the whole related casebook
	2	Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily”; Faulkner, “The Meaning of ‘A Rose for Emily’”
	7	Hemingway, “Hills Like White Elephants”; Essay 1 due
	9	MIDTERM
	14	Kafka, “A Hunger Artist”; Crumb & Mairowitz, “A Hunger Artist”
	16	Mansfield, “The Fly”
	21	Oates, “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”; Oates, “Stories That Define Me: The Making of a Writer”
	23	Ozick, “The Shawl”
November	28	Munro, “Dance of the Happy Shades”; Munro, “How I Write Short Stories”
	30	Updike, “A & P”
	4	Cheever, “The Swimmer”; Cheever, “Why I Write Short Stories”
	6	O’Connor, “Everything That Rises Must Converge”
	13	Steinbeck, “The Chrysanthemums”
	18	Kincaid, “Girl”; Kincaid, “On ‘Girl’”
	20	Cather, “Paul’s Case”
December	25	Carver, “Cathedral”; Carver, “On Writing”; Carver, “Creative Writing 101”; Jenks, “The Origin of ‘Cathedral’”
	27	Moore, “How to Become a Writer”
	2	Wideman, “newborn thrown in trash and dies”
	4	Atwood, “Happy Endings”
	9	Review; Essay 2 due
	13	Final Exam: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Room A2141

Requirements:

Students should do all the prescribed readings before class and be prepared to participate in class discussion.

Submission of Assignments:

Assignments are due on the dates specified. Late assignments will not be accepted, unless extenuating circumstances can be shown. Students may not submit work done for another class. Essays are to be submitted via email

rdirksheath@ambrose.edu and Turnitin. All term papers for this course are subject to an originality analysis. For more information, see <http://turnitin.com> and the paragraph on “Academic Integrity” below. Essays are to be submitted in MLA format.

Attendance:

Students are responsible for all the information given in class, and also for any changes to the syllabus that are announced in class. Although I do not formally take attendance, your absence will affect your participation grade and, possibly, your exam grades because you will be missing information presented in class lectures.

Evaluation:

Essay 1 (500 words)	10%
Essay 2 (1000 words)	20%
Midterm	20%
Participation	20%
Final Exam	30%

Grade Summary:

96-100	A+	
91-95	A	Excellent
86-90	A-	
82-85	B+	
75-81	B	Good
72-74	B-	
68-71	C+	
63-67	C	Satisfactory
60-62	C-	
56-59	D+	
50-55	D	Minimal Pass
0-49	F	Failure

Please note that final grades will be available on the student registration system. Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out.

Policies:

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, it is highly recommended that they forward all messages from the Ambrose account to the other account.

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may to enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty. These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a Request to Withdraw from a Course by the **Withdrawal Deadline**, please consult the List of Important Dates. Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. A grade of "W" will appear on the student's transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a **Revised Examination** Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to engage in electronically-enabled activities unrelated to the class during a class session. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Please do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "**Course Extension**" from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control".

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.