



AMBROSE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

EN 230 The Short Story (3)
Winter 2012

Instructor: Rita Dirks Heath
Office Hours: 11:00 – 12:30 W/F, or
by appointment
Class Times: 13:00 – 14:15 T/TH

Office: Room L2067
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Location: Airhart Theatre
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Required Text

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

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.

Course Objectives

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.

Course Schedule (tentative)*

January	12	Introduction
	17	What Is a Short Story?: "A Brief History of the Short Story" (Appendix 3)
	19	Poe, "The Importance of a Single Effect in a Prose Tale"; Chekhov, "Technique in Writing the Short Story"
	24	Gogol, "The Overcoat"; Nabokov, "Gogol's Genius in "The Overcoat"
	26	Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher"; Brooks & Warren, "A New Critical Reading of 'The Fall of the House of Usher'"
	31	Chekhov, "The Darling"; Tolstoy, "Chekhov's Intent in 'The Darling'"
February	7	Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"; the whole related casebook
	9	Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily"; Faulkner, "The Meaning of 'A Rose for Emily'"

	14	Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants"; Essay 1 due
	16	MIDTERM
	28	Kafka, "A Hunger Artist"; Crumb & Mairowitz, "A Hunger Artist"
March	1	Mansfield, "The Fly"
	6	Cheever, "The Swimmer"; Cheever, "Why I Write Short Stories"
	8	Ozick, "The Shawl"
	13	Munro, "Dance of the Happy Shades"; Munro, "How I Write Short Stories"
	15	Updike, "A & P"
	20	Carver, "Cathedral"; Carver, "On Writing"; Carver, "Creative Writing 101"; Jenks, "The Origin of 'Cathedral'"
	22	Oates, "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"; Oates, "Stories That Define Me: The Making of a Writer"
	27	Steinbeck, "The Chrysanthemums"
	29	Kincaid, "Girl"; Kincaid, "On 'Girl'"
April	3	Moore, "How to Become a Writer"
	5	Wideman, "newborn thrown in trash and dies"
	10	Atwood, "Happy Endings"
	12	Review; Essay 2 due

*We will try to follow the schedule for reading and due dates as closely as possible; inevitably, some works will require more or less time.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Students should do all the prescribed readings before class and be prepared to participate in class discussion.
2. Assignments are due on the dates specified. Late assignments will not be accepted, unless extenuating circumstances can be shown.
3. To receive a passing grade in the course, all assignments, quizzes, and exams must be submitted to the instructor.
4. Plagiarism in any of its forms will not be tolerated.
5. Students may not submit work done for another class.
6. The student is responsible for all the information given in class, and also for any changes to the syllabus that are announced in class.
7. Grading:

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

Grading Scale

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

Important Notes

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies of as are stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar.

The last day to enter a course without permission and/or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty is January 22, 2012.

The last day to withdraw from a course voluntarily or to change to audit without academic penalty is March 23, 2012.

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." Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadline. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. 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 and the Student Handbook 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.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.