ENGL 3353.001—Fall 2013

The Short Story

Instructor: Dr. Vanessa Jackson.
Course: ENGL 3353.001. CS 101. TR 2-3:15.
Office Hours: TTh 12:00-2:00; T 6:00-7:00 pm.
           Please call for appointments at other times or on other days.
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The Purpose of English 3353

This course will allow you to see how the genre of the literary short story, primarily in America, evolved in the nineteenth-century and continued to develop over the twentieth-century and into the twenty-first. It is also a course designed to widen your knowledge and understanding of literature, to further your skill in writing about it, and (most importantly!) to enhance your enjoyment and appreciation of reading it.

Student Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to
• understand the elements of the short story genre and the craft of writing a short story;
• demonstrate this understanding in critical, analytical written essays;
• demonstrate this understanding by writing an original short story.

Text

Ann Charters, ed. The Short Story and its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction.
Course Requirements

You will be required to keep a reading journal throughout the course, which will form part of your final grade at the end. These journals are personal learning tools that should be adapted to fit each of you individually, but the following guidelines should be adhered to:

- These reading journals should be kept up consistently, and should be brought to each class session for possible use in discussions.
- They can include class notes, but must consist of more than this; i.e., they must clearly demonstrate a personal grappling with the texts concerned before you come to class.
- Each entry in the journal must be dated.

I will be evaluating the journals at the end of the semester not on grammar, spelling, neatness, or regurgitation of class discussions, but on their demonstration of a steady commitment to the material of the course and fulfillment of the above criteria. More specifically, I’ll be grading on consistency, personal engaging of the texts, and depth of thought.

2. There will be three graded writing assignments during the semester. The first two will consist of 4-6 page papers on one or more of the stories we have covered; the final project will be to write your own short story.

3. Attendance policy: I would obviously rather you did not miss any classes at all. However, if for some unavoidable reason you do miss one, it’s your responsibility to discover from one of your fellow students what we did, and it’s your responsibility to make up any work you missed.

4. You may miss two classes with no questions asked and no penalty. Each class missed for no VERY good reason after that will lose you two points off your final grade (which is out of 100).

5. Any form of plagiarism will result in an automatic 'F' for the class.

Grading Policy

You will be graded on your reading journal, your mid-term project, your final project, and on your attendance, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>25% of final grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper #1</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper #2</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You will be assigned letter grades for all your work, which I will convert to the appropriate numbers to calculate your final grade on a scale of 100. Final grades will be assigned with absolutely no exceptions whatsoever as follows:

- 100-90 = A
- 89-80 = B
- 79-70 = C
- 69-60 = D
- Below 60 = F

**Special Notices**

*Notice to Students with Disabilities:* The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom, or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance.

**Academic Advising:** The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, the student's assigned faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

***Grade Appeal Process.*** As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Reminder to English Majors**

Don't forget that as part of the English undergraduate capstone course (ENGL 4351), all English majors are required to submit a portfolio of writings in different discourse genres that they have completed for their college classes. To help you prepare for this assignment, you should keep a copy of all essays, research papers, literary analyses, creative and report writing, etc., so that you will have an ample selection from which to choose when the portfolio comes due. **So keep your work from this class!**
SYLLABUS

Week One

Thurs 5 Sep  Introduction to course.

Week Two

Tues 10 Sep  “A Brief History of the Short Story” (Appendix 3).
             “The Elements of Fiction” (Appendix 2).
             Edgar Allan Poe: “The Importance of Single Effect in the
             Prose Tale.”

Thurs 12 Sep  Edgar Allan Poe: “The Cask of Amontillado.”

Week Three

Tues 17 Sep  Guy De Maupassant: “The Necklace.”

Thurs 19 Sep  Sarah Orne Jewett: “A White Heron.”

Week Four

Tues 24 Sep  Stephen Crane: “The Open Boat.”

Thurs 26 Sep  Willa Cather: “Paul’s Case.”

Week Five

Tues 1 Oct  Sherwood Anderson: “Death in the Woods” (Handout).

Thurs 3 Oct  Workshop on Essay #1.

Week Six

Tues 8 Oct  ESSAY #1 DUE.
             Ernest Hemingway: “Hills Like White Elephants.”

Thurs 10 Oct  Zora Neale Hurston: “Sweat.”
**Week Seven**

Tues 15 Oct  Frank O’Connor: “Guests of the Nation.”

Thurs 17 Oct  Tillie Olsen: “I Stand Here Ironing.”

**Week Eight**


**Week Nine**

Tues 29 Oct  Raymond Carver: “What We Talk About When We Talk About Love.”

Thurs 31 Oct  Workshop on Essay #2

**Week Ten**

Tues 5 Nov  **ESSAY#2 DUE**

Junot Diaz “How to Date a Browngirl, Blackgirl, Whitegirl, or Halfie.”

Margaret Atwood: “Happy Endings.”

Thurs 7 Nov  Bobbie Ann Mason: “Shiloh.”

**Week Eleven**

Tues 12 Nov  Russell Banks: “Black Man and White Woman in Dark Green Rowboat.”

Thurs 14 Nov  Alice Munro: “Miles City, Montana.”
Week Twelve

Tues 19 Nov    Sherman Alexie: “The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven.”

Thurs 21 Nov   Sandra Cisneros: “Little Miracles, Kept Promises” (Handout).

Week Thirteen

Tues 26 Nov    ZZ Packer: “Brownies.”

Thurs 28 Nov   THANKSGIVING

Week Fourteen

Tues 3 Dec     David Foster Wallace: “Good People.”

Thurs 5 Dec    Ann Beattie: “Snow.”

Week Fifteen

Tues 10 Dec    Workshop on final project.

FINAL DUE IN MY OFFICE AT 12:00 NOON.