English 3353.001—The Short Story
Fall 2015
MW 2:00-3:15 p.m.
IH-268

Instructor: Dr. Dale Pattison
Office: Faculty Center 255
Office Hours:
Office Phone: 361-825-2418
Email: Dale.Pattison@tamucc.edu

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the short story as a literary form, giving particular attention to its historical foundations and its various transformations since the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Students will be asked to read stories within their cultural and historical contexts and identify linkages between the stories and the worlds that they describe. This course will also give attention to various genres commonly associated with the short story tradition—from the southern gothic to domestic realism to experimental short fiction—and will learn the literary conventions that define these genres. Finally, through close reading and interpretive analysis, students will become more active and informed readers of literary texts.

Required Text


Course Objectives

1. To examine the connections between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts by reading texts by authors from a range of cultures and nationalities.
2. To explore the distinctive characteristics of the short story as a literary form
3. To understand and use basic literary terms and concepts.
4. To develop analytic skills by close reading, class discussion, and writing.
5. To use writing as a tool for learning.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete ENGL 3353 will be able to:

1. Recognize the connections between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts;
2. Respond critically to literary works.
3. Utilize the vocabulary of literary studies to discuss and examine literary works
Course Grading

The course will be structured on a 1000-point scale. The scores you receive on your assignments, exams, blackboard postings, draft workshops, and participation will be totaled at the end of the semester, and your final grade will be calculated based on this score. The points will be distributed as follows:

- Writing Assignment #1: 200 points
- Writing Assignment #2: 300 points
- Midterm Exam: 150 points
- Final Exam: 150 points
- Blackboard Discussions: 100 points (25 points each)
- Participation: 100 points

Participation will be calculated based on class attendance, participation in class discussions, and preparedness for class discussions. Reading quizzes may be factored into this grade as well. If a student is absent for a class period, he/she is not participating.

Students will be expected to bring their text to class every day, having read the assignment due for that day.

Class Policies

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in severe disciplinary action.

Classroom/professional behavior

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor's ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Grade Appeals

Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading,
may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

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**Statement of Academic Continuity**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Policy on class attendance:** Students are allowed a maximum of four (4) absences. All absences count equally, irrespective of the cause, and students who exceed four absences will be penalized fifty points on their final grade for every absence over the limit.

- If you are unable to attend class, you do not need to email me to explain the circumstances. You should contact another student in class and copy his/her notes.

**Dropping a Class:** I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

**If I am absent:** If I need to cancel class because my car broke down, or if I am ill, etc., I will try to get someone to post a sign. I also will try to email you all before class. However, if you come to class and I am not here by the time 15 minutes has elapsed (from when class is to start), please assume that class is canceled.

**Late Writing Projects:** All papers are due on the date listed on the syllabus. Students submitting their papers after this time will lose one letter grade for every class period that the paper is late. Students must submit their assignments via the link provided on Blackboard.

**Blackboard Grade Center:** You will see grades for assignments, exams, and blackboard discussion postings appear on Blackboard during the semester. While these scores may be useful in tracking your grade throughout the semester, they should NOT be used to
calculate your final grade. Several point categories will not appear on Blackboard (such as Participation and Reading Quizzes), and only I will have access to these scores. If you are ever concerned about your grade, visit me in my office and we can discuss the issue in person.

Resources

Disabilities Accommodations

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 at (361) 825-5816.

Academic Advising

It is imperative that all students visit regularly with an academic adviser. Each college within the university has an academic advising center, staffed by full-time, professional advisers to assist students with course selection, degree plans, and other academic matters. To find out how to contact the right adviser, go to: http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/advising.php

Students who have yet to declare a major are advised by the Academic Advising Transition Center. For more information, go to: http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Adviser as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

Reminder to English Majors: 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.
Blackboard 9.1: To log into Blackboard, go to: [http://bb9.tamucc.edu](http://bb9.tamucc.edu). You must have a NET ID (also known as an Active Directory account) to log in. For instructions on how to get this account and more information about using Blackboard, go to: [http://distance-education.tamucc.edu/student_resources.html](http://distance-education.tamucc.edu/student_resources.html). If you need additional help at any time to access, download, or print course materials on Blackboard, please contact the Island Online (IOL) Help Desk by telephone at (361) 825-2825 or by email at iolsupport@tamucc.edu.

Course Calendar

UNIT ONE—The Beginnings of the Short Story

Week One (August 26th)
- Wednesday
  - Syllabus Overview
  - Introductions

Week Two (August 31st, September 2nd)
- Monday
  - Nathaniel Hawthorne; “Young Goodman Brown” (405-414)
  - Herman Melville; “Blackness in Hawthorne’s ‘Young Goodman Brown’” (928-932)
- Wednesday
  - Herman Melville; “Bartleby, the Scrivener” (606-632)

Week Three (September 7th, 9th)
- Monday
  - Labor Day Holiday—No Class
- Wednesday
  - Ambrose Bierce; “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” (73-80)
  - Guy de Maupassant; “The Necklace” (599-604)
  - Guy de Maupassant; “The Writer’s Goal” (926-927)

Week Four (September 14th, 16th)
- Monday
  - Blackboard Posting #1 Due 1 p.m.
UNIT TWO—The Modernist Short Story

Week Five (September 21st, 23rd)
- Monday
  - Stephen Crane; “The Open Boat” (254-271)
- Wednesday
  - **WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE**
  - F. Scott Fitzgerald; “Babylon Revisited”
    (http://gutenberg.net.au/fsf/BABYLON-REVISITED.html)

Week Six (September 28th, 30th)
- Monday
  - Ernest Hemingway; “Hills Like White Elephants” (416-419)
  - Ernest Hemingway; “Big Two-Hearted River”
    (http://xroads.virginia.edu/~drbr/hem_river.html)
- Wednesday
  - Sherwood Anderson; “Hands” (22-25)
  - William Faulkner; “Barn Burning”
    (http://lssc.edu/faculty/holly_larson/Shared%20Documents/Barn%20Burning%20by%20William%20Faulkner.pdf)

Week Seven (October 5th, 7th)
- Monday
  - Zora Neale Hurston; “The Gilded Six-Bits” (421-429)
  - Zora Neale Hurston; “How it Feels to be Colored Me” (910-914)
  - Alice Walker; “Zora Neale Hurston: A Cautionary Tale and a Partisan View” (962-963)
  - Blackboard Posting #2 Due 1 p.m.
- Wednesday
  - Midterm Exam

UNIT THREE—Marginalized Voices

Week Eight (October 12th, 14th)
- Monday
  - Zora Neale Hurston; “What White Publishers Won’t Print” (914-918)
  - Alice Walker; “Everyday Use” (843-849)
• Wednesday
  o Toni Morrison; “Recitatif” (Blackboard)
  o Ralph Ellison; “Battle Royal” (281-291)

Week Nine (October 19th, 21st)
• Monday
  o Sherman Alexie; “The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven” (9-14)
  o Louise Erdrich; “The Red Convertible” (308-315)

• Wednesday
  o Sandra Cisneros; “Woman Hollering Creek” (Blackboard)
  o Junot Díaz; “The Cheater’s Guide to Love”
    (http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2012/07/23/the-cheaters-guide-to-love)
  o Blackboard Posting #3 Due 1 p.m.

UNIT FOUR—The Gothic Short Story

Week Ten (October 26th, 28th)
• Monday
  o William Faulkner; “A Rose for Emily” (317-323)
  o Edgar Allan Poe; “The Fall of the House of Usher”
    (http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/POE/fall.html)

• Wednesday
  o Shirley Jackson; “The Lottery” (430-436)
  o Eudora Welty; “Petrified Man”
    (http://www.loa.org/images/pdf/Welty_Petrified_Man.pdf)

Week Eleven (November 2nd, 4th)
• Monday
  o Flannery O’Connor; “Everything that Rises Must Converge” (679-690)
  o Flannery O’Connor; “A Good Man is Hard to Find” (705-716)

UNIT FIVE—Domestic Realism

• Wednesday
  o Raymond Carver; “Cathedral” (105-115)
  o Raymond Carver; “A Small, Good Thing” (115-132)

Week Twelve (November 9th, 11th)
• Monday
  o John Updike; “A & P” (831-835)
George Saunders; “Victory Lap”  
(https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2009/10/05/victory-lap)

- Wednesday  
  - Alice Munro; “Runaway”  

UNIT SIX—Experiments in Form

Week Thirteen (November 16\textsuperscript{th}, 18\textsuperscript{th})  
- Monday  
  - Franz Kafka; “The Metamorphosis” (494-528)  
  - Ann Charters; “Translating Kafka” (889-892)  
  - Blackboard Posting #4 Due 1 p.m.

- Wednesday  
  - Jorge Luis Borges; “The South” (82-86)  
  - Roberto Bolaño; “The Insufferable Gaucho”  
    (http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2007/10/01/the-insufferable-gaucho)

Week Fourteen (November 23\textsuperscript{rd}, 25\textsuperscript{th})  
- Monday  
  - Jorge Luis Borges; “The Garden of Forking Paths” (Blackboard)  
  - Jorge Luis Borges; “The Book of Sand” (Blackboard)

- Wednesday  
  - First Draft Writing Assignment #2 Due  
  - Peer Review Workshop

Week Fifteen (November 30\textsuperscript{th})  
- Monday  
  - Writing Assignment #2 Due

FINAL EXAM given during scheduled exam period