

**Florida State University**  
**LIT2020: The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Short Story**  
**Fall 2011**

**Instructor:** Adam R. McKee  
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**Office:** 329 WMS

**Meeting Time:**  
**Classroom:**  
**Office Hours:**

**Course Texts:**

- *Norton Anthology of Short Fiction* (7<sup>th</sup> Edition) Eds. Bausch and Cassill
  - ISBN: 0393926125
- *Writing About Literature: A Portable Guide*, Janet E. Gardner
  - ISBN: 0312412827
- *Nine Stories* by J.D. Salinger
  - ISBN: 0316767727
- Additional stories on course Blackboard site

**Course Description**

This course will provide a basic overview of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century short story as a category. We will read various materials from writers all over the globe. We will begin in the early parts of the last century and gradually work our way towards an understanding of what made the 20<sup>th</sup> Century such a diverse and intricate landscape for literature. We will discuss the prevailing periods focusing large amounts of time on the Modernist time period and the subsequent Postmodern period. In addition we will discuss what differentiates and how to better define these time periods.

This course will be challenging and it will require some basic familiarity with literary theory. We will discuss topics such as race, gender, sexuality, nationality, and class struggles and developing the appropriate tools to approach these topics.

**Course Policies**

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is grounds for suspension from the university as well as for failure in this course. It will not be tolerated. Any instance of plagiarism must be reported to the Director of First-Year Writing and the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Plagiarism is a counterproductive, non-writing behavior that is unacceptable in a course intended to aid the growth of individual writers.

Plagiarism is included among the violations defined in the Academic Honor Code, section b), paragraph 2, as follows: "Regarding academic assignments, violations of the Academic Honor Code shall include representing another's work or any part thereof, be it published or unpublished, as one's own."

Civility: I will tolerate neither disruptive language nor disruptive behavior. Disruptive language includes, but is not limited to, violent and/or belligerent and/or insulting remarks, including sexist, racist, homophobic or anti-ethnic slurs, bigotry, and disparaging commentary, either spoken or written (offensive slang is included in this category).

While I do not disagree that you each have a right to your own opinions, inflammatory language founded in ignorance or hate is unacceptable and will be dealt with immediately.

Disruptive behavior includes the use of cell phones, pagers or any other form of electronic communication during the class session (e-mail, web-browsing). Disruptive behavior also includes whispering or talking when another member of the class is speaking or engaged in relevant conversation (remember that I am a member of this class as well). This classroom functions on the premise of respect, and you will be asked to leave the classroom if you violate any part of this statement on civility.

ADA: Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should in the FIRST WEEK OF CLASS 1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) and 2) bring a letter to the instructor from SDRC indicating the need for academic accommodations. This and all other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

Gordon Rule / W courses and syllabus statement: This is a "Gordon Rule" course (also known as a course with a "W" designation). Gordon Rule courses are designed to fulfill the statewide Gordon Rule requirement, which requires students to take and pass a course that is writing-intensive: officially, this means that students must write 3000 words during the semester.

In order to fulfill FSU's Gordon Rule "W" Designation (writing) credit, the student must earn a "C-" or better in the course, and in order to receive a "C-" or better in the course, the student must earn at least a "C-" on the required writing assignments for the course. If the student does not earn a "C-" or better on the required writing assignments for the course, the student will not earn an overall grade of "C-" or better in the course, no matter how well the student performs in the remaining portion of the course.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and accruing more than four absences is grounds for failure. Regardless of the reason for your absence, it is still an absence. Understandably, you may miss some classes due to illness or unforeseen circumstances. In order for me to allow an absence, I need to see some form of documentation.

Remember, part of your grade is based on class participation, and if you are not here, you cannot participate! Furthermore, missed quizzes cannot be made up. Thus, all absences have the ability to negatively impact your grade.

If you miss a class meeting, it is your responsibility to obtain all information covered in that class. In other words, I will assume that you, a responsible, legal adult, have gotten the information about the class that you missed.

Students who arrive after attendance has been taken will be given a tardy. ***Three tardies will result in an absence.***

Students who come to class without the text or who have not done the reading may be counted absent if they cannot effectively participate in class.

Participation: Students are expected to come to class and participate regularly, having read each assignment entirely before arriving to class. Here are four ways to be a good participator: (1) ask questions and make comments that further the discussion in a meaningful manner, (2) actively take notes, (3) bring the required text to every class meeting, and (4) participate in all classroom activities/exercises. Consistently doing these things will demonstrate your engagement with the material and maximize your experience in the course.

Keep in mind that participation counts toward 10% of your overall grade.

Essays (1-3): Your papers must be typed, double-spaced, in size 12 Times New Roman font. Please follow *MLA format* guidelines. Your essays must argue a specific point, position, or perspective. They should be clear, coherent, and thesis-driven, consistently and thoroughly developed and supported by specific examples and details.

MLA formatted sources must be cited in the essays and correspond with a Works Cited page at the end. As you know from ENC1101-1102, this applies whether or not the source is directly quoted. Documentation should also follow MLA format guidelines.

\*Papers will be deducted for improper formatting.

\*Late papers lose one letter grade *per day*, unless otherwise arranged with me beforehand.

#### Essay One:

A three page essay describing some theme, concept, etc. in a single short story. I want to emphasize a close, textual reading working through the intricacies of the passage and or story.

#### Essay Two:

A four page essay describing a theme, concept, etc. in multiple stories. Consider this a longer version of the first essay. I also want you to use at least three outside sources in your essay. Please use at least two short stories and at least two different passages from each of those stories.

#### Essay Three:

A three page essay describing a different theme, concept, etc. from the first essay. Please pick a different story (and a different author) from the first essay.

Further instructions for each essay will be provided on the day they are assigned (see the schedule below).

Exams: Two comprehensive exams will be given – one approximately halfway through the course and the second during exam week. They will consist of a combination of short answer, multiple choice, and matching questions.

Quizzes: Unannounced quizzes will be given regularly. Please complete the readings and assignments on time in order to participate well. Quizzes cannot be made up, but your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

### **Breakdown of Grades**

Exam I:	20%
Exam II:	25%
Essay 1:	10%
Essay 2:	20%
Essay 3:	10%
Participation:	10%
Quizzes:	5%
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Total:	100%

**Note: All major assignments must be successfully completed and turned in to earn a passing grade in this course.**

### **Blackboard**

Everyone in this class should log into and become familiar with Blackboard. You can access the syllabus and all major course assignments through this site. The syllabus is already on the website and the rest of your assignments will be posted shortly after they are assigned. You can also use it to check your grades and contact me or your classmates. Many readings will be posted to Blackboard as well. The following link will bring you directly to the login page:  
<http://campus.fsu.edu/>

### **Reading/Writing Center**

The Reading/Writing Center (RWC), located in **Williams 222C**, is devoted to individualized instruction in reading and writing. Part of the English Department, the RWC serves Florida State University students at all levels and from all majors. Its clients include a cross-section of the campus: first-year students writing personal essays, upper level students writing term papers, seniors composing letters of applications for jobs and graduate schools, graduate students working on theses and dissertations, multilingual students mastering English, and a variety of others.

The tutors in the Center, all graduate students in English with training and experience in teaching composition, use a **process-centered approach** to help students at any stage of their writing or reading: from getting ideas, to building vocabulary, to writing and revising. The RWC **does not provide editing or proofreading services**. Its tutors can, however, help writers build their own editing and proofreading skills.

For more information about the Center, please **call (850) 644-6495**.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1	Course Intro Syllabus Greetings	<b>Intro Week</b> “The Lottery” Shirley Jackson	“Everyday Use” Alice Walker
2	<b>Almost Made it Week</b> “The Lady with the Dog” Chekhov	“The Yellow Wallpaper” Gilman (1899)	“Open Boat” Stephen Crane (1898)
3	<b>Hemingway Week</b> “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place.” (BB)	“Snows of Kilimanjaro” (BB)	“Hills Like White Elephants”
4	<b>Joyce Week</b> “Araby”	“A Little Cloud”	“The Dead”
5	<b>Faulkner Week</b> “A Rose for Emily” (BB)	“That Evening Sun”	“Barn Burning”
6	<b>Fitzgerald Week</b> “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button”(BB)	“Babylon Revisited”	“May Day”(BB)
7	Franz Kafka “The Metamorphosis”	John Steinbach “The Chysanthemums”	<b>Midterm Exam Review</b>
8	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	James Baldwin “Sonny’s Blues”	George Orwell “Shooting an Elephant” (BB)
9	<b>Flannery O’Connor Week</b> “The Life You Save May Be Your Own” (BB)	“A Good Man is Hard to Find”	“Everything that Rises Must Converge”
10	Tim O’Brien “The Things They Carried”	Frank O’Connor “Guests of the Nation”	John Updike “A&P”
11	<b>John Cheever Week</b> “Goodbye My Brother” (BB)	“The Swimmer” (BB)	“The Five Forty Eight” (BB)
12	<b>J. D. Salinger</b> <i>Nine Stories</i> “Banafish” (1)	“Uncle Wiggily in Connecticut”	“Just Before the War with the Eskimos”

13	“The Laughing Man”	“Down at the Dinghy”	“For Esme- With Love and Squalor”
14	“Pretty Mouth and Green My Eyes”	“De Daumier-Smith’s Blue Period”	“Teddy”
15	Jamaica Kincaid “Girl”	Ursula Le Guin “One Who Walks Away from Omelas”	<b>Final Exam Review</b>