

Florida State University
LIT2020-06: The Short Story
Fall 2012

Instructor:	Adam R. McKee	Meeting Time:	TR 5:15-6:30 pm
Email:	armioc@my.fsu.edu	Classroom:	WMS 320
Office:	321 Williams Building	Office Hours:	TR 1-3 pm

Required Text:

- *Perspectives on the Short Story*. Ed. Scott Ortolano and Caitlin Newcomer.
- Course will also require access to a computer and blackboard

Course Description:

This course will focus on the the literary genre of the short story. We will discuss the history of the short story as a genre (the fact that it is a relatively new phenomenon in literature) and we will examine, discuss, and critique the multiple variations of the short story that came out of the different literary periods since the short stories inception in the beginning of the 19th century. Throughout the semester we will discuss not only the stories themselves, but the authors that have made them famous including Edgar Allan Poe, Anton Chekhov, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, and Flannery O'Connor.

The course will also acquaint students with the basic skills necessary for a more detailed study of literature and the ability to write about literature. We will mention literary theory from time to time, but any and all familiarity with theoretical approaches to literature will be built in the classroom.

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violations of the Academic Honor Code shall include representing another's work or any part thereof, be it published or unpublished, as one's own."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 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.

Course Requirements:

Attendance: Attendance for this class should be considered mandatory. The nature of summer courses, especially those that meet twice a week, necessitate us covering a vast amount of information in a very abbreviated period of time. Understandably, you may NEED to miss class throughout the semester and as such you will be permitted two absences. However, any more than **six absences** is grounds for failure of the course.

Please remember that part of your grade this semester will be based on classroom participation and daily reading quizzes. Therefore, missing class will not only be problematic for understanding the material on the midterm and final, but it will also negatively impact your grade.

Participation: Students are expected to come to class and participate regularly, having read each assignment entirely before arriving to class, and willing to participate openly in classroom discussions. In a class that has meetings which last for three hours, the last thing that you and/or I want to do all semester is listen to me lecture for the entire class period. The more you talk, the more enjoyable the classroom experience will be for all of us.

Essays: Throughout the semester you will have two four-page papers due. **See weekly schedule for due dates.** Your papers must be typed, double-spaced, size 12 Times New Roman font, and follow MLA formatting rules. 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 of the paper.

*10% will be deducted from each paper for improper formatting.

*Papers will be accepted late, but will lose a letter grade for every day late.

*Push back, if you disagree with something we mention as a way of interpreting a story in class, take that opportunity to come up with an argument for your essay.

*You must give me a hard copy in class AND upload a copy of the essay on blackboard to receive full credit for the assignment.

Project: There will be a final project worth some 10% of your grade. This project will require students to choose a story we have read throughout the semester and remediate it. This means I want you to tell me the story in a different media other than print. Examples will be shown in class. Options include, but are not limited to; powerpoints, movies, comic strips, paintings, or anything you can sell to me.

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

Quizzes: There will be semi-regular reading quizzes. Please complete the readings and assignments on time in order to do well on these. Quizzes cannot be made up, but I will make special accommodations for excused absences.

Grade Breakdown:

Midterm:	25%
Final:	25%
Paper One:	15%
Paper Two:	15%
Quizzes/Participation:	10%
Project:	10%

Grading Scale:

92.5<	A	89.5-92.4	A-	86.5-89.4	B+
82.5-86.4	B	79.5-82.4	B-	76.5-79.4	C+
72.5-76.4	C	69.5-72.4	C-	66.5-69.4	D+
59.5-66.4	D	59.4>	F		

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**.

LIT2020 Tentative Schedule

Tuesday, August 28th	Syllabus Introduction Course Introduction
Thursday, August 30th	Short Story History Genre Readings
Tuesday, September 4th	Washington Irving “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” (230) Edgar Allan Poe “The Fall of the House of Usher” (1050)
Thursday, September 6th	Anton Chekhov “The Lady with the Dog” (1346) Ambrose Bierce, “Occurrence at Owl Creek...” (257)
Tuesday, September 11th	Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” (1124) Virginia Woolf “The Mark on the Wall” (1481)
Thursday, September 13th	James Joyce “After the Race” (1454) “The Dead” (pdf)
Tuesday, September 18th	Ernest Hemingway “My Old Man” (1495) “Big Two-Hearted River” (pdf)
Thursday, September 20th	“Snows of Kilimanjaro” (pdf) “A Natural History of the Dead” (pdf)
Tuesday, September 25th	William Faulkner “That Evening Sun” (152)

	“A Rose for Emily” (pdf)
Thursday, September 27th	“Dry September” (pdf)
	“Barn Burning” (pdf)
Tuesday, October 2nd	F. Scott Fitzgerald “Bernice Bobs Her Hair” (1464)
	“Babylon Revisited” (pdf)
Thursday, October 4th	Ralph Ellison “Battle Royal” (23)
	James Baldwin “Sonny’s Blues” (33)
Tuesday, October 9th	Franz Kafka The Metamorphosis (pdf)
Thursday, October 11th	EXAM REVIEW (Essay One Due)
Tuesday, October 16th	MIDTERM EXAMINATION
Thursday, October 18th	Flannery O’Connor “Good Country People” (188)
	“Everything that Rises...” (pdf)
Tuesday, October 23rd	Graham Greene “The Destructors” (359)
	Irving Shaw “The Girls in Their Summer...” (pdf)
Thursday, October 25th	John Cheever “Five Forty-Eight” (pdf)
	“The Enormous Radio” (pdf)
Tuesday, October 30th	“The Death of Justina” (208)
	“The Swimmer” (pdf)
Thursday, November 1st	Samuel Beckett “Texts for Nothing” (1503)
	Jorge Luis Borges “Pierre Menard...” (1508)

Tuesday, November 6th	NO CLASS
Thursday, November 8th	Raymond Carver “Cathedral” (pdf) Gabriel Garcia Marquez “The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World” (493)
Tuesday, November 13th	Jamaica Kincaid “Girl” (pdf) Alice Walker “Roselily” (54)
Thursday, November 15th	Kurt Vonnegut “Welcome to the Monkey House” (1529) Tim O’Brien “The Things They Carried” (pdf)
Tuesday, November 20th	Art Spiegelman “The Honeymoon” (850) Marjane Satrapi “Moscow” (866)
Thursday, November 22nd	THANKSGIVING BREAK
Tuesday, November 27th	Milan Kundera “The Hitchhiking Game” (438) Ngugi wa Thiong’o “Minutes of Glory” (581)
Thursday, November 29th	David Sedaris “Don’s Story” (663) Don DeLillo “Midnight in Dostoevsky” (1572)
Tuesday, December 4th	Salman Rushdie “The Prophet’s Hair” (595) Junot Diaz “The Sun, the Moon, the Stars” (480)
Thursday, December 6th	EXAM REVIEW (Essay Two Due)