

ENGLISH 255-20 SHORT STORY/NOVEL
Kaneohe, Sat., 8:00 AM - 12:10 PM
Term: Oct.5-Dec.17, 1998

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY
Instructor:Lori Adolewski
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SYLLABUS

English 255 is an introduction to literary fiction designed to assist you in understanding and appreciating short stories, novels/novellas, and their authors. The course also develops your critical thinking skills about these forms so that you can communicate logically and persuasively about them. You will become acquainted with the evolution of the short story and novel and the use of literary terms, including the basic elements of fiction: plot, character, setting, theme, tone, point of view, and symbol. By the end of this course, you will be able to analyze the meaning of longer and shorter fiction; appreciate the ambiguities and richness of language; understand the commonality of human existence through all ages/cultures; and express your ideas and conclusions orally and in writing. **Prerequisite: English 102**

REQUIRED READINGS

Clayton, John J. The Heath Introduction to Fiction, 5th edition,
Lexington: D.C. Heath and Company, 1996.

Howe, Irving. Classics of Modern Fiction, 5th edition, New York:
Harcourt Brace and Jovanovich, 1993.

Class Handouts and Study Guides

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance is required at all classes. Students are expected to participate in class discussions of assigned readings. There will be several short exams and/or take-home assignments; one reaction paper based on class readings; and one major research paper w/oral class presentation.

GRADING

Exams/homework	... 40%
One research paper w/oral class presentation	... 30%
One reaction paper	... 15%
Regular attendance and oral class participation	... 15%

A-	Outstanding scholarship and intellectual initiative
B-	Superior work done in a consistent and intelligent manner
C-	Average grade indicating competent grasp of subject
D-	Inferior work of the lowest passing grade
F-	Failure to grasp minimum of subject OR failure to withdraw from course

GUIDELINES FOR REACTION PAPER

Students will be assigned one of the Oct. 31 readings, which will be the basis for a two to three page critique addressing style, theme, symbolism, and/or point of view. Use MLA style, with cover sheet.

GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PAPER

Select a work from the text that is not scheduled into the syllabus. You may want to have a back-up in mind, in case someone else chooses same selection. Write a 5-7 page paper on the selected work, containing these three sections:

1. A brief biography of the author, concentrating on material relevant to the work you have chosen.
2. A summary of the work, with an overall analysis of it. This section is the focus of your presentation. Briefly discuss what you think the author is trying to communicate to the reader, pointing out lines or passages you found most effective, interesting, and/or revealing.
3. Your criticism of the work: what do you think of the story, what do you like/dislike about it? You may refer to published criticisms of the story but the concentration should be on your reactions and viewpoint. For further ideas and suggestions, see The Holt Handbook (Writing About Literature).

COURSE POLICIES

The research paper should be MLA style, 5-7 pages typed with about 250 words per page; penalty for lateness is one letter grade per class session. Penalty for plagiarism is course failure. One unexcused absence will be permitted without penalty; excessive absences will result in course failure. Students may make up one exam by doing extra-credit work, in coordination with the instructor.

Schedule of Assignments

- Oct.10 Intro to syllabus and assignments; class introductions.
Group assignments.
Literary Analysis: The short story as a reflection of
the writer's world; point of view.

"My First Goose" (Babel, 444 in Heath)
"The Man I Killed" (O'Brien, 839 in Heath)
- Oct.17 Assignments for reaction paper topic; Exam #1.
Literary Analysis: Style, Theme, and Symbolism (See
handout).
Intro to Fiction, Heath, pp.1-32

Bartleby the Scrivener (Melville, 107 in Heath)
The Minister's Black Veil (Hawthorne, 54 in Heath)
The Purloined Letter (Poe, 90 in Heath)
- Oct.24 Exam #2. Choose topic for research paper.
Literary Analysis: Models of reality/reader response
Character, plot, setting.
How to Read and Write about Fiction, Heath, pp.33-45.

A Rose for Emily (Faulkner, 426 in Heath)
Revenge Herself (Handout)
The Chrysanthemums (Steinbeck, 469 in Heath)

- Oct.31 **Reaction Papers due**, on the following readings:

Desiree's Baby (Chopin, 197 in Heath)
The Revolt of Mother (Freeman, 203 in Heath)
The Yellow Wall-Paper (Perkins Gilman, 217 in Heath)
Sweat (Hurstun, 449 in Heath)
Everyday Use (Walker, 653 in Heath)
- Nov.7 Exam #3
Intro to the Novella; Tone

The Secret Sharer (Conrad, 241 in Howe)
My Mortal Enemy (Cather, 403 in Howe)
- Nov.14 Exam #4
Strategies for making an Oral Presentation
Literary Analysis of:

No One Writes to the Colonel (Marquez, 645 in Howe)
A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings (Marquez, 538 in
Heath)
- Nov.21 Exam #5
The Modern Sensibility:

Notes from Underground (Dostoevsky, 13 in Howe)
- Nov.28 **Research papers due**; Oral Presentations
- Dec.5 Exam #6
The Color Blue:

The Blue Hotel (Crane, 185 in Howe)
Sonny's Blues (Baldwin, 453 in Howe; 557 in Heath)

Group Assignments for last class.
Course Evaluations
- Dec.12 Exam #7
Contemporary Fiction: Group Assignments

The Madman (Achebe, 637 in Heath)
The Lesson (Bambara, 644 in Heath)
In a Great Man's House (Jhabvala, 709 in Heath)
Saint Marie (Erdrich, 791 in Heath)
The Man Who Could See Radiance (Clayton, 856 in Heath)