

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU  
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & FINE ARTS  
DIVISION OF ACCELERATED PROGRAMS  
Course Outline and Syllabus

20  
EN255: Short Story/Novel  
Semester:  
Location:  
Instructor: Robert A. Rogers  
H#: 524-3012

PM

FE99

### INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Welcome to EN255! This survey course is designed to increase students' awareness and appreciation of the enormous diversity of authors and their individual styles of writing through a detailed examination of their short stories and novels. It is understood that not every student will be profoundly moved by every work of every author, but it is the sincere hope and intention of this course that some of these widely recognized names in the world of literature will become, in a sense, highly regarded and personally valued academic friends - members of one's own immediate literary "family," so to speak. Furthermore, it is hoped that students will be motivated to go beyond the requirements of the course and the ten weeks of the semester to continue the enriching process of discovery: new stories, new authors, and new insights into the human experience as reflected in literature. Finally, it should be mentioned that in our frantically busy, over-scheduled lives, few people really have the time to read much anymore. And so this course has the added value of giving students an important reason to make time for one of life's most privileged luxuries - the opportunity to sit down with a good book. Enjoy!

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

The possession and conscientious use of the following books are requirements of the course:

1. Classics of Modern Fiction (5th Edition), Irvine Howe
2. The Heath Introduction to Fiction (5th Edition), John Clayton
3. Any standard dictionary, desk size or larger, for reference
4. Any standard EN102 text for MLA term paper format reference

### COURSE PREREQUISITES

The first prerequisite of this course is EN102, which may usually be taken concurrently with prior approval. Students are responsible for the application of all relevant and appropriate MLA research techniques to the writing of the term paper as presented in EN102. Also, this paper must adhere to commonly accepted university standards of formal, written English as used for academic purposes.

The second course prerequisite is as follows. Because reading is both time and focus intensive, it is indeed essential that students be willing and able to make a significant commitment of time and effort to the successful completion of this course. And although it is not a formal prerequisite, a love of reading would be most beneficial.

### ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE

A successful and rewarding experience in EN255 will include the following. First, students must demonstrate careful reading of the assignments and preparation for each class with detailed, interactive and insightful class discussions. Second, students must respond with fully developed and clearly focused short essay answers to the three exams of the course. And third, students must produce a short term paper (4-6 pages of text) using the MLA writing style and incorporating the views of at least two critics. Also, there will be an extra credit option.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

The following are intended to maximize the personal and academic value of this course for students:

1. to explore a reasonably large number of short stories and short novels, thus giving students a wide range of exposure to a great diversity of authors and their writing styles;
2. to produce a short term paper which allows students their choice of additional reading of work(s) by any author on the syllabus as well as the responses of at least two critics of that author;
3. to gain greater insight into any author's most extraordinary creative accomplishment - bringing characters to life through language;
4. to appreciate that writing is an intensely personal experience and to respect the fact that every author reveals much about his or her sense of the world in the writing process so that, at some level - literal, psychological or imaginative - every story is to a degree autobiographical;
5. to examine "character" in literature - the conflicts, the flaws, the weaknesses and strengths, the recognition of human limitations and of human potential and of that occasional heroic response from the common man;
6. to acknowledge certain universal thematic concerns common to all literature as they are revealed by the central characters of a work. One approach to character and theme, an instructor originated construct, is "T3" which essentially examines the thematic significance of transgression, transformation, and transcendence as they are relevant to literature;
7. to recognize that the best of literature stands the test of time and transcends cultural specifics and the limitations of place. Therefore, characters, in all their humanity, are both authentically individual as well as valid universal reflections of our world and ourselves.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

University policy mandates that accurate attendance records be kept for each meeting of the class. This is particularly important for students who are benefiting from government tuition subsidies and loan programs, because the university itself has an obligation to report problems of non-attendance to appropriate government agencies. Therefore, it is the students' responsibility to be in class on time as much as humanly possible. Students are not allowed to sign in for a particular class meeting unless they are present for the entire instructional period, or unless they have the instructor's prior permission. Because of the critical importance of class discussions, excessive absences would have a significant negative impact on the course grade. However, students on verified deployment or medical or emergency leave will receive full credit for written work mailed and postmarked by the due date to the following address: 1137 Wilder Ave. #803, Honolulu, HI 96822-2757.

## GRADING POLICY

The course grade will be determined based on five grades of equal value. There are three major exams, the term paper, and the level of sustained, active class participation. The dates of the major exams and the term paper are indicated on the course syllabus in capital letters. Please note that it is imperative for students to be in class on these dates because makeups would be quite challenging. At the conclusion of the course, students who submit a stamped, self-addressed envelope together with their final exam will have it returned to them corrected within a reasonably short time. Included also will be the course grade.

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU  
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & FINE ARTS  
DIVISION OF ACCELERATED PROGRAMS  
Course Outline and Syllabus

EN255: Short Story/Novel  
Semester:  
Location:  
Instructor: Robert A. Rogers  
H#: 524-3012

MEETING/DATE MATERIALS TO BE COVERED

- 1, S-10/9:
  1. Course Introduction.
  2. Discussion: Reading for enjoyment and appreciation, exploration and discovery.
  3. Handout: "Exploring the World of Literature"
  4. Handout: "Academic Honesty. . ." (Chaminade University of Honolulu: 1998-99 General Catalog, 49).
  5. Literary analysis: Theme, form, content, style; "T3"
  6. Handout: "Theft, or Cutting Corners?"
  7. Short story handouts: "Bacus and Philemon," "Ninotchka: A Love Story," "What a Thought" and "Survivor Type"
- 2, S-10/16:
  1. The short story as a reflection of the writer's world; point of view in Heath, 1-12.
  2. Class discussion: "Bartleby the Scrivener"
  3. Class discussion: "The Chrysanthemums"
  4. Class discussion: No One Writes to the Colonel.
- 3, S-10/23:
  1. Narrative structure, focus, imagery and tone in the short story as discussed in Heath, 12-32.
  2. Class discussion: "Bartleby the Scrivener"
  3. Class discussion: "The Secret Sharer"
  4. Class discussion: The Death of Ivan Ilych.
  5. Review: Strategies for mid-term exam preparation and "Structuring Short Essay Answers"
- 4, S-10/30:
  1. EXAM #1.
  2. Review: "Term Paper Guidelines"
  3. Class discussion: "The Yellow Wall-Paper" and "Homepage"
  4. Class discussion: "The Open Boat"
  5. "How to Read and Write about Fiction" in Heath.
- 5, S-11/6:
  1. Characteristics of the novella and the short story.
  2. Thematic class discussion: "How I Finally Lost My Heart," "Lust" and "What We Talk about When We Talk about Love"
  3. Class discussion: The Blue Hotel.
  4. Class discussion: "From Dazzle to Dispair: . . . F. Scott Fitzgerald" and "Babylon Revisited"

ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT CLASS MEETING

1. Overview of texts.
  2. Heath, 1-12, 53-54, 64-74, 468-77.
  3. Classics, 635-93, 695-705.
- 
1. Heath, 12-32, 106-34, 297-330.
  2. Handout: "Structuring Short Story Answers"
  3. Handout: "Charlie's Return"
- 
1. Heath, 33-45, 316-49.
  2. Review for Exam #1.
  3. Handout: "Term Paper Guidelines"
  4. Handout: "From Dazzle to Dispair: . . . F. Scott Fitzgerald"
  5. Handout: "Charlotte Perkins Gilman Homepage"
- 
1. Deadline: Term paper author and specific work(s).
  2. Heath, 590-99, 756-57, 769-78, 803-11.
  3. Classics, 185-225.
  4. Handout: "Babylon Revisited"
- 
1. Deadline: Term paper critics (min:2).
  2. Review of MLA format for term paper.
  3. Heath, 253-70, 285-93, 459-67, 412-13 and 426-34.
  4. Handout: "Ernest Hemingway: The Man His demons"

MEETING/DATE MATERIALS TO BE COVERED

ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT CLASS MEETING

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>6, S-11/13:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review: Student responsibilities for MLA format application to the term paper.</li> <li>2. Class discussion: "The Jilting of Granny Weatherall"</li> <li>3. Class discussion: "A Rose for Emily"</li> <li>4. An examination of Chekhov's style and influence in "The Chekhov Tradition," "The Lady with a Dog" and "Gooseberries"</li> <li>5. Preparation and review for Exam #2.</li> <li>6. Class discussion: "Charlie's Return"</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deadline: Rough draft of term paper.</li> <li>2. <u>Heath</u>, 724-46, 435-40.</li> <li>3. Review for Exam #2.</li> <li>4. Handout: "Bright and Morning Star"</li> <li>5. Handout: "Loi--The Bandit"</li> </ol> |
| <p>7, S-11/20:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. EXAM #2.</li> <li>2. Class discussion: "A Silver Dish"</li> <li>3. Class discussion: "Ernest Hemingway: The Man and His Demons" and "Hills Like White Elephants"</li> <li>4. Class discussion: "Loi--The Bandit"</li> </ol>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. TERM PAPER.</li> <li>2. <u>Heath</u>, 189-95, 603-17.</li> <li>3. <u>Classics</u>, 281-339.</li> </ol>  |
| <p>8, S-11/27:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Problems of reading works in translation.</li> <li>2. Class discussion: "Bright and Morning Star"</li> <li>3. Class discussion: "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" ("Smooth Talk")</li> <li>4. Class discussion: <u>The Metamorphosis</u>.</li> </ol>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Heath</u>, 486-93, 544-82, 699-708.</li> <li>2. Review for final exam.</li> <li>3. Preparation for optional extra credit presentation.</li> </ol>  |
| <p>9, S-12/4:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Class discussion: "The Lottery"</li> <li>2. Class discussion: "Sonny's Blues"</li> <li>3. Class discussion: "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"</li> <li>4. Class discussion: "Separating"</li> <li>5. Optional extra credit presentations.</li> <li>6. Preparation and review for final exam.</li> </ol>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review for final exam.</li> </ol>   |
| <p>10, S-12/11:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. FINAL EXAM.</li> <li>2. Course evaluations.</li> </ol>   | <p>End of course -- Happy Holidays!</p>   |

-----

NOTE: A fifteen minute extra credit presentation option will be scheduled during the ninth meeting. Details will be forthcoming as the semester progresses.