

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

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

### 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 "T<sup>3</sup>" 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.

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Location:  
Instructor: Robert A. Rogers  
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MEETING/DATE MATERIALS TO BE COVERED

- 1, T-4/6:
  1. Course Introduction.
  2. Discussion: Reading for enjoyment and appreciation.
  3. Handout: "Exploring the World of Literature"
  4. Short story handouts: "Bacus and Philemon," "Ninotchka: A Love Story" and "What a Thought"
  5. Handout: "Academic Honesty. . ." (Chaminade University of Honolulu: 1998-99 General Catalog, 49).
  6. Handout: "Theft or Cutting Corners?"
  7. Literary analysis: Theme, form, content, style; "T3"
- 2, Th-4/8:
  1. The short story as a reflection of the writer's world; point of view as discussed in Heath, 1-12.
  2. Class discussion: "Young Goodman Brown" and "The Chrysanthemums" in Heath, 64-74, 468-77.
- 3, T-4/13:
  1. Narrative structure, focus, imagery and tone in the short story as discussed in Heath, 12-32.
  2. Class discussion: No One Writes to the Colonel.
  3. Class comparison: "Survivor Type" and "Charlie's Return"
- 4, Th-4/15:
  1. Class discussion: "Bartleby the Scrivener" and "The Secret Sharer" in Heath, 106-34, 297-330.
  2. "How to Read and Write about Fiction" in Heath, 33-45.
- 5, T-4/20:
  1. Class discussion: The Death of Ivan Ilych.
  2. Class analysis: Strategies for mid-term exam preparation and responses to short essay questions.
- 6, Th-4/22:
  1. Class discussion: "The Yellow Wall-Paper" and "The Open Boat" in Heath, 216-49.
- 7, T-4/27:
  1. Class discussion: "How I Finally Lost My Heart," "Lust" and "What We Talk About When We Talk About Love"
  2. Class discussion: "Bright and Morning Star"
- 8, Th-4/29:
  1. EXAM #1.

ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT CLASS MEETING

1. Overview of texts.
  2. Heath, 1-12, 53-54, 64-74, 468-77.
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1. Classics, 635-93, 695-705.
  2. Heath, 12-32.
  3. Handouts: "Survivor Type" and "Charlie's Return"
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1. Heath, 33-45, 106-34, 297-330.
  2. Handout: "Term Paper Guidelines"
  3. Handout: "Mid-Term Exam Strategy Review"
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1. Classics, 117-84.
  2. Preliminary paper topic choice.
  3. Handout: "Sample Short Essay Exam Question and Answer"
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1. Heath, 216-49.
  2. Handout: "Charlotte Perkins Gilman Homepage"
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1. Heath, 590-99, 756-57, 769-78, 803-11.
  2. Review for Exam #1.
  3. Handout: "Bright and Morning Star"
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1. Review for Exam #1.
  2. Handout: "From Dazzle to Despair: . . . F. Scott Fitzgerald"
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1. Classics, 185-225.

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| 9, T-5/4:    | 1. Class discussion: <u>The Blue Hotel</u> in <u>Classics</u> , 185-225.<br>2. Distinctions between popular fiction and the classics.  | 1. <u>Heath</u> , 412-13, 426-34, 459-67.<br>2. Deadline: author for term paper.   |
| 10, Th-5/6:  | 1. Class discussion: "The Jilting of Granny Weatherall" and "A Rose for Emily" in <u>Heath</u> , 426-34, 459-67.   | 1. <u>Heath</u> , 253-70, 285-93.<br>2. Review of MLA format for term paper.   |
| 11, T-5/11:  | 1. Class discussion: "The Chekhov Tradition," "The Lady with a Dog" and "Gooseberries" in <u>Heath</u> .<br>2. Brief review of student responsibilities for MLA format application to term paper. (EN102 prerequisite)<br>3. Structural comparison: Short story and novella. | 1. <u>Heath</u> , 435-40, 724-46.<br>2. Deadline: Specific work(s) for term paper.<br>3. Handout: "Ernest Hemingway: The Man and His Demons" |
| 12, Th-5/13: | 1. Class discussion: "A Silver Dish" and "Hills Like White Elephants" in <u>Heath</u> , 435-40, 724-46.  | 1. <u>Heath</u> , 189-95, 603-17.<br>2. Review for Exam #2.  |
| 13, T-5/18:  | 1. Class discussion: "Old Mother Savage" and "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" ("Smooth Talk") in <u>Heath</u> , 189-95, 603-17.   | 1. Review for Exam #2.<br>2. Handout: "Babylon Revisited"  |
| 14, Th-5/20: | 1. EXAM #2.  | 1. <u>Classics</u> , 281-339.<br>2. Deadline: term paper critics (min: 2).   |
| 15, T-5/25:  | 1. Class discussion: <u>The Metamorphosis</u> in <u>Classics</u> .<br>2. Discussion of handout: "Babylon Revisited"<br>3. Problems of reading works in translation.  | 1. <u>Heath</u> , 486-93, 557-82.<br>2. Deadline: rough draft of term paper.   |
| 16, Th-5/27: | 1. Class discussion: "The Lottery" and "Sonny's Blues"<br>2. Questionable reliability of automatic and uncritical autobiographical interpretations in literature.<br>3. Final questions and clarifications about term paper.   | 1. <u>Classics</u> , 485-537.<br>2. TERM PAPER.  |
| 17, T-6/1:   | 1. Class discussion: <u>The Displaced Person</u> in <u>Classics</u> .<br>2. Universal themes in literature.  | 1. <u>Heath</u> , 544-56, 699-708.   |
| 18, Th-6/3:  | 1. Class discussion: "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" and "Separating" in <u>Heath</u> , 544-56, 699-708.  | 1. <u>Classics</u> , 393-444.<br>2. Review for final exam.   |
| 19, T-6/8:   | 1. Class discussion: <u>My Mortal Enemy</u> in <u>Classics</u> .<br>2. Review for final exam.  | 1. Review for final exam.<br>2. Bring self-addressed, stamped envelope.  |
| 20, Th-6/10: | 1. FINAL EXAM.<br>2. Course evaluations.   | End of course -- Enjoy the break!  |