

ENGL 2407-3, Fall 2016
THE SHORT STORY
(hybrid/blended class)
T 3:30 – 4:45 + Online
AUST 334

Instructor: Ellen Litman
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Office Hours: W 10:30 – 1:30, or by appointment

Required Texts:

The Story and Its Writer, ed. Ann Charters, Ninth Edition (*complete!*)
additional stories & essays on HuskyCT

Bring the text we are discussing to class.

This course, conducted both live and online, is an introduction to the short story genre. Students will read a wide variety of short stories, both classical and contemporary, ranging in style from realism to post-modernism to magic realism, and representing the best of the genre from around the world. Coursework will involve active discussions (in-class and online), in-class quizzes, two exams, and an online presentation.

The course is divided into six units. In the first two, we will cover the basics of the short-story craft. In the next two, we will go back in history and see how the short story genre evolved over time. We will read and discuss the classics of the short story who defined and shaped the genre. Finally, in the last two units, we will survey the themes and styles of the contemporary short story. Students will learn to analyze a short story from the point of view of craft and subject matter, and to examine it through a number of literary and cultural traditions.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students/you should be able to:

1. Identify the formal elements of a given short story (e.g., point of view, character development, conflict, plot, writing style).
2. Name the major masters of the short story and describe their contributions to the short story genre.
3. Define the major literary movements of the last couple of centuries and list their key characteristics.
4. Give examples of short stories corresponding to each literary movement and discuss the features that link these stories to a particular literary movement.
5. List and define the major critical perspectives used to analyze works of literature.
6. Research the historical, cultural, and biographical context of a given story using UConn Library Databases.
7. Apply historical, cultural, or biographical information to a given story and interpret the story's meaning and function in the context of this information.
8. Analyze a contemporary short story and suggest what literary movements or major authors might have influenced and/or inspired it.

Course Requirements & Grade Breakdown

This is a hybrid (or blended) class, which means some of the work will take place online and some in the classroom. We will meet on Tuesdays and work online for the rest of the week. You will need to familiarize yourself with the HuskyCT site for this course. Each week you'll be expected to watch online presentations and participate in one or two online discussions, in addition to the live discussions we'll have in class. Most Tuesday class meetings will begin with mini quizzes.

1. Mini quizzes and in-class participation (15%)

The weekly mini-quizzes, consisting of multiple-choice questions, will cover the readings and online presentations assigned for that day. Additionally, you must arrive in class prepared to discuss the presentations and the assigned stories and essays. Participation does not mean mere physical presence in class. Be animated and engage with the texts we're reading. Missing more than one class might significantly decrease your grade. So will consistent tardiness.

2. Participation in online discussions (35%)

Most weeks I will post a prompt concerning that week's materials on HuskyCT. For each discussion, students are expected to contribute one initial response directly related to all questions in the prompt, and to respond with a minimum of two substantive replies to classmates' initial posts. The initial responses will be due by the end of Thursday, the reply posts by the end of the Friday. See the course calendar and/or HuskyCT for the deadlines.

3. First Exam (15%)

4. Second Exam (15%)

6. Final Online Presentation (20%)

Class Policies

Academic Integrity. This course expects all students to act in accordance with the Guidelines for Academic Integrity at the University of Connecticut. If you haven't already, please consult [UConn's Student Code](#) for more information.

Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any sort will be severely penalized. We will follow the guidelines of the First-Year Writing Program's [Statement on Plagiarism](#). Please read this statement and notify me if you have any concerns about your ability to conform to these guidelines. Note that the likely consequence for plagiarism will be the failure in the course.

If you have special needs due to learning or physical disability, please contact me during **the first week** of classes. If you have a disability for which you wish to request academic accommodations and have not contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD), please do so as soon as possible.

Your grades depend on classroom participation, therefore if you are absent (without explanation) from a class, your final grade might be affected.

A student who is prevented by sickness or other unavoidable causes from completing a scheduled final assessment must apply to the Dean of Students or designee for validation that will authorize the student's instructor to give a substitute assessment. A student whose absence is excused by the Dean of Students or designee shall have an opportunity to complete a substitute assessment without penalty. A student whose absence from a scheduled final assessment is not excused in this way shall receive a failure for this assessment.

Finally, please visit the [Provost Office's page](#) to review UConn's Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Related Interpersonal Violence, Sexual Assault Reporting Policy, and other important policies and statements.

Calendar

(subject to change – refer to HuskyCT for the up-to-date assignments and deadlines)

Week 1. Module 1 (Short story craft, part I)

T 8/30: Module 1 - Introduction. Reading Hemingway.

TH 9/1: Course orientation & Class Introductions on HuskyCT

Read: Hemingway, Paley (HuskyCT), and Wolff; Watch Prezi 1.1

Discussion board 1 (DB 1) – initial post due 9/1, 11:59pm; reply posts due 9/2, 11:59pm

Week 2. Module 1 (short story craft, part I)

T 9/6: Read: Diaz, Otsuka, Egan (HuskyCT); Watch Prezi 1.2 & Prezi 1.3

Mini-quiz 1 (in class).

TH 9/8: Watch Prezi 1.4.

Discussion board 2 (DB 2) – initial post due 9/8, 11:59pm; reply posts due 9/9, 11:59pm

Week 3. Module 2 (short story craft, part II)

T 9/13: Read: Cheever; Watch Prezi 2.1 & 2.2; *Mini-quiz 2 (in class).*

TH 9/15: Read Barthelme & Saunders

DB3 – initial post due 9/15, 11:59pm; reply posts due 9/16, 11:59pm

Week 4. Module 2 (short story craft, part ii)

T 9/20: Read Jackson, Gass, O'Brien; Watch Prezi 2.3; *Mini-quiz 3 (in class).*

TH 9/22: Read Johnson & Hannah; Watch Prezi 2.4;

DB4 – initial post due 9/22, 11:59pm; reply posts due 9/23, 11:59pm

Week 5. Module 3 (literary movements: from romanticism to realism)

T 9/27 *Exam 1.*

TH 9/29: Read: Poe; Watch Prezi 3.1;

DB5 – initial post due 9/29, 11:59pm; reply posts due 9/30, 11:59pm

Week 6. Module 3 (literary movements: from romanticism to realism)

T 10/04: Read: Lepore; *Mini-quiz 4.*

TH 10/06: Read Gogol & Gilman; Read Showalter and Brooks & Warren; Watch Prezi 3.2, Prezi 3.3, & Library Tutorial 1

DB 6.1 – initial post due 10/06, 11:59pm; reply posts due 10/07, 11:59pm

DB 6.2 – initial post due 10/07, 11:59pm; no reply posts required

Week 7. Module 4 (literary movements: realism, modernism, postmodernism)

T 10/11: Read Chekhov, Tolstoy; Watch DB 4.1; *Mini-quiz 5.*

TH 10/13: Read Joyce, Watch Prezi 4.2

DB 7 – initial post due 10/13, 11:59pm; reply posts due 10/14, 11:59pm

Week 8. Module 4 (literary movements: modernism & postmodernism)

T 10/18: Watch Prezi 4.3; *Mini-quiz 6.*

TH 10/20: Read Kafka, Watch Prezi 4.4 & Library Tutorial 2.

DB 8 – initial post due 10/20, 11:59pm; no reply posts required

Week 9. Module 4 (literary movements: modernism & postmodernism)

T 10/25: Read Barthelme, Coover; Watch Prezi 4.5; *Mini-quiz 7*

TH 10/27 Read Marquez; Watch Prezi 4.6

DB 9 – initial post due 10/27, 11:59pm; reply posts due 10/28, 11:59pm

Week 10. Module 5 (styles and themes: southern gothic & minimalism)

T 11/01: *Exam 2.*

TH 11/03: Read Faulkner; Watch Prezi 5.1

DB 10 – initial post due 11/03, 11:59pm; reply posts due 11/04, 11:59pm

Week 11. Module 5 (styles and themes: southern gothic & minimalism)

T 11/8: Read O'Connor, Als; Watch Prezi 5.2; *Mini-quiz 8*

TH 11/10: Read Carver; Watch video (Carver) & Library Tutorial 3

DB 11.1 – initial post due 11/10, 11:59pm; replies due 11/11, 11:59pm

DB 11.2 – initial post due 11/10, 11:59pm; no reply posts required

Week 12. Module 5 (styles and themes: southern gothic & minimalism)

T 11/15: Read Carver, King, Armitage; *Mini-quiz 9*

TH 11/17: Begin reading Module 6 stories, watch Module 6 videos

Week 13. Thanksgiving Break

Read Module 6 stories, watch Module 6 videos, begin planning for the Online Presentation

Week 14. Module 6 (styles and themes: contemporary short stories)

T 12/1: Read Alexi & Packer; watch Alexi & Packer interviews; *Mini-quiz 10*

TH 12/3: Read Lahiri & Englander; watch Lahiri & Englander interviews

DB 12 – initial post due 12/3, 11:59pm; reply posts due 12/4, 11:59pm

Week 15. Module 6 (styles and themes: contemporary short stories)

T 12/6: Read Klay, Antapol, Quatro; Watch video; *Mini-quiz 11*

TH 12/8: Optional individual conferences

Final Project (Online Presentation) – due on the day/time of the final (TBD)