Introduction to Short Fiction

Introduction to Short Fiction is designed to acquaint students with the short story. This class will also develop students’ ability to read, analyze and interpret works of literature as they read essays about theoretical approaches to literature and the activity of reading itself.

Books and Other Materials

Meyer, Michael. *The Compact Bedford Introduction to Literature*
Wright, Richard. *Uncle Tom’s Children.*
Tillman, Lynne. *Someday This Will Be Funny*

Evaluation

Attendance: Attendance at all class sessions is required. This is not an on-line course. *Missing more than three classes will seriously affect the grade given in this course.* Athletes who expect to be absent for sporting events should inform the professor during the first week of class.

Assignments: The grade in this course will be based on the student’s performance on 2 exams (including a written, take-home midterm), 2 papers, several short quizzes, oral reports and other work. These assignments will have the following value:

- Participation (presentations/Black Board/attendance/extra credit/tests) 13 percent
- Midterm 29 percent
- Paper One 29 percent
- Paper Two 29 percent
- Quizzes, short papers, bulletin board responses, oral reports, classroom participation, tests and the final exam will comprise the participation grade. Thus, the midterm and the two papers will have the most value in relationship to your final grade. You may rewrite one of the assigned papers for a higher grade. Although I give the whole gamut of minus and plus grades, your final grade in the course will be limited to the following scale. A (4.0), A- (3.7), B+ (3.3), B (3.0), B- (2.7), C+ (2.3) C (2.0), C- (1.7), D (1.0), F (0.0)

All assignments must be given to me in class on the day that they are due. *Papers will be lowered by one grade point for each day they are late.*

Academic Integrity and Honesty

Students are expected to be honest in their academic work. The University reserves the right to penalize any student whose academic conduct at any time is, in its judgment, detrimental to the University. Such conduct shall include cases of plagiarism, collusion, cheating, giving or receiving or offering or soliciting information in examinations, or the use of previously prepared material in examinations or quizzes. Violations should be reported to your course instructor, who will investigate and adjudicate them according to the policy on academic honesty of the College of Arts and Sciences. If the charges are found to be true, the student may be liable for academic or disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion by the University. Students should review the College of Arts and Sciences policy on Academic Honesty (http://www.slu.edu/x16363.xml).
Students with Special Needs - Disability Services.
In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Student Success Center (BSC 331) or by going to www.slu.edu/success.
- Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at 314-977-8885 or visit the Student Success Center. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

Format
All essays and assignments done outside the classroom must be printed by a computer printer.

The Writing Center
For one-on-one help with your writing projects for this class, call the Writing Center for an appointment. Members of its staff will work with you on your specific writing needs. They can help you with brainstorming for ideas, generating thesis sentences, developing ideas, organizing material and structuring sentences. After each conference, I will receive a report on the material covered during your meeting. Using the services of the Writing Center is an indication to me that you are a serious student and that you are trying to improve your writing skills. To make an appointment contact: The Writing Center at 977-2930. There are locations in Pius Library (320-8) and Busch Center (331). You can make an appointment on-line at (http://www.slu.edu/x13305.xml).

Personal Electronic Devices
It has been determined that certain electronic devices could cause major interference with classroom lectures and discussion. Therefore, restrictions on the use of personal electronic devices are necessary. Students may not use cellular phones, personal computers or any other electronic device when class is in session and the classroom door is closed.

Disclaimer
This is a college-level literature class that may introduce language or topics that some students find objectionable. The professor assumes that all students are mature adults interested in furthering their knowledge of the topic and willing to respond critically and intelligently to the material. If you believe you may have a problem with some of the topics and the language used in this course, you are invited to register for another class.
ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY
Fall 2013 -- ENGL 260

INTRODUCTION TO SHORT FICTION

Section 03

Mon., Wed. Fri 11 - 11:50 p.m.

Email: casmiers@slu.edu
Office: HM 119
Office Hours: MW 9 - 11

Dr. Stephen Casmier
Classroom: Xavier G14
(or by appointment)

Tentative Calendar

August 26 – 30
Introduction
Topic:

Reading Imaginative Literature, 1-5
Critical Strategies for Reading
Critical Thinking, 1569-1572
The Literary Canon, 1572-1574
Formalist Strategies, 1574-1576

1) Journal Writing:

September 4-6

Topic: The Elements of Fiction

"Reading Fiction," 13-15
"The Story of an Hour," 15-23
Explorations and Formulas,"23-30
"A Comparison of Two Stories, 30-46
Encountering Fiction, 47-51

2) Journal Writing:

Fall Research-Intensive English Orientation Reception.
Interested sophomore or junior-level English majors
Wednesday September 4th
4:30-5:30pm
Bannister House (adjacent to Adorjan Hall)

September 9-13

Topic: Critical Strategies for Reading and Writing About Fiction
Assignment: Biographical, Psychological, Historical Reader Response, and Gender Strategies,
Cultural Criticism, Deconstruction, 1576-1592
"A&P," 539
Writing about fiction, 52-71
"Plot," 72-75
"A Rose for Emily,"84-95
Encountering Fiction, 110-113
"Character," 114-149

3) Journal Writing:

MANDATORY ENGLISH ASSEMBLY
All English students enrolled in Undergraduate English program.
Monday September 9th
3:30-4:15 pm
Carlo Auditorium / Tegeler Hall

September 16-20
Topic: Writing about Fiction

Assignment
"Setting," 162-171
"Point of View," 181-222
"Symbolism," 227-249
"Theme," 250-253
"Love in LA," 267-270
"Style, Tone, and Irony," 271-275
"How to Tell A True War Story," 287-296

4) Journal Writing:
Test 9/20

Poet Jennifer Moxley
Sheila Nolan Whalen Reading Series
September 17, 2013
4 pm
Sinquefield Stateroom, Dubourg Hall, Room 409

September 23-25
Assignment
"Vane Sisters" (Black Board)
"Signs and Symbols" (Black Board)

5) Journal Writing:

September 27: No Class

September 30 – October 4
Topic: Approaches to Fiction and Reading and the Writing Process

Assignment
Reading and the Writing Process, 1593-1611
A Sample Student Analysis, 1617-1621
Thematic Case Study, 432-447
Flannery O’Conner, 361-367, 407-413

6) Journal Writing:

October 7-11
Assignments
A Good Man Is Hard to Find
A Good Man is Hard to Find
The River
The Life You Save May Be Your Own

7) Journal Writing:

Naama Goldstein (fiction reading)
Sheila Nolan Whalen Reading Series
October 8, 2013
4 pm
Sinquefield Stateroom, Dubourg Hall, Room 409

October 14 - 18
Assignments
A Good Man Is Hard to Find
A Stroke of Good Fortune
A Temple of the Holy Ghost
The Artificial N-word
Mid-Term Take Home  
Distributed 10/14  
Due 10/16

October 21  
No Class

October 23 - 25  
Assignments  
A Good Man Is Hard to Find  
A Circle of Fire  
A Late Encounter with the Enemy  
Good Country People  
The Displaced Person

8) Journal Writing:

October 28 – November 1  
Assignments  
Uncle Tom’s Children  
The Ethics of Living Jim Crow  
Big Boy Leaves Home  
Down By the Riverside

A Good Man is Hard to Find  
Paper Due 11/1

November 4-8  
Assignment  
Uncle Tom’s Children  
Long Black Song  
Fire and Cloud  
Bright and Morning Star

9) Journal Writing:

November 11-15  
Assignment  
Someday This Will Be Funny  
That’s How Wrong My Love Is  
The Unconscious is Also Ridiculous  
The Substitute  
Chartreuse  
A Simple Idea  
Give Us Some Dirt

Uncle Tom’s Children  
Paper Due 11/15

November 18-22  
Assignment  
Someday This Will Be Funny  
But There’s A Family Resemblance  
The Original Impulse  
The Shadow of Doubt  
Lunacies  
The Way We Are  
A Greek Story

10) Journal Writing:

November 25  
Assignment  
Someday This Will Be Funny  
The Recipe  
Later
November 27-29
No Class

December 2-6
Assignment Someday This Will Be Funny
Love Sentence
Impressions of an Artist, with Haiku
Madame Realism’s Conscience
Save Me from the Pious and the Vengeful

December 9
Last Day of Class 12/9

December 13
Final Exam 8-9 am
Someday This Will Be Funny
Paper Due (All Rewrites) 12/13