

## ***Fall/Winter 2017-2018***

**AP/EN 2130 3.0B (F)**

### ***The Short Story***

**Course Director:**

John Bell  
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**Delivery Format:**

Seminar

**Time:**

Mondays, 7:00pm - 10:00pm

**Description:**

This course provides an overview of the short story genre from its inception in the early nineteenth century to the present. It provides detailed analyses and theoretical considerations of the form of 37 stories in English by well-known writers from many countries, including Barbados, Botswana, Canada, England, Haiti, India, Ireland, North American First Nations, Trinidad, and the United States. We shall consider both the short story and the related genre of the tale, but our focus will be on the development of the genre of the short story.

We shall begin with the short story's roots in nineteenth-century American Gothic fiction and British and American didactic fiction and humorous sketches, and move on to consider 19th-century and early-20th-century literary and cultural movements such as Victorianism, realism, Aestheticism and Decadence as they manifest themselves in the genre of the short story. Then we shall consider Modernist short stories, including stream-of-consciousness stories and Southern Gothic stories, and move on to stories written after the Modernist period. We shall consider how 20th and 21st century post-colonial and diaspora writers developed for their own purposes the fairly new genre of the written narrative from its roots in the colonial and Imperialist cultures of England and the United States.

Other issues to be considered include the formal qualities of short stories and tales and how they relate to the length of these genres. These qualities include typical narrative and plot structures, generally delimited settings, and the use of implication and subtext. We shall also consider levels of realism in short stories, tales, and short science fiction narratives.

**Category:**

B

**Area:**

NA

**Period:**

NA

**Historical Requirement:**

NA

**Requirements:**

1500-word essay (no research) (20%); 1500-word research essay (25%); in-class reading quizzes (24%); participation (11%); final examination (20%)

**Reading List:**

English 2130 3.0 Course Kit  
Pdf files posted on the English 2130 3.0 Moodle Website

**Open To:**

Yr2 & Yr3