

Fall/Winter 2017-2018

AP/EN 2130 3.0M (W)

The Short Story

Course Director:

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Delivery Format:

Fully Online

Time:

NA

Description:

Short stories can be very short indeed—hence the popular terms micro fiction, flash fiction, hint fiction, sudden fiction, and so on. In this (short!) survey course, we will sample some of these recent genres of short fiction, but our focus will be on short stories of a more traditional length.

In a variation of a popular saying, Henry David Thoreau is said to have commented in 1857 on the topic of story length in a letter to a friend: “Not that the story need be long, but it will take a long while to make it shorter.” Thoreau here refers to “the art of saying less but meaning more,” and it is the art of short fiction that will concern us in this course.

We shall survey the development of the genre of short fiction from its origins in fables and fairy tales to its blossoming in the nineteenth century and subsequent periods of innovation in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, paying attention as we go to both the formal aspects of the genre and to the evolving theory about the nature of the short story and its distinctiveness from longer fiction such as the novel; as such, we shall be focused on what practitioners of the short story have had (and do have) to say about their art.

Category:

B

Area:

NA

Period:

NA

Historical Requirement:

NA

Requirements:

(to be confirmed at the beginning of the course)

Short writing assignment (15%)

Midterm online (timed) exam (20%)

Essay (5-6 double-spaced pages) (30%)

End of term final online (timed) exam (20%)

Discussion forum (15%)

Reading List:

Norton Anthology of Short Fiction , 8th edition

Editor: Richard Bausch

ISBN: 978-0-393669-15-2 (refers to bundle—see below)

Special Note: if ordered through the York U Bookstore, the main text (Norton Anthology of Short Fiction) comes bundled with a free Norton Critical Edition of Chekhov's Stories; only the main text (that is, the full edition of the NA of SF, not the Shorter Edition) is required for the course.

Readings and assignments may be generated from the editorial components of the text; thus, students who choose to acquire alternate editions of this anthology are responsible for ascertaining on their own whether their selected edition contains the relevant course materials, and for obtaining any missing materials.

Open To:

Yr2 & Yr3