

## *Summer 2018*

### **AP/EN 2130 3.0A (S1) *The Short Story***

**Course Director:** Dr. Marilou McKenna  
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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.

An online discussion forum in conjunction with lectures on Moodle will facilitate student participation and engagement with the course.

**Category:** B

**Area:** NA

**Period:** NA

**Historical Requirement:** NA

**Requirements:** (to be finalized in the first 2 weeks of the course)

1 essay (5-6 pages, double-spaced @ 25%)

Writing Exercise (Vocabulary Analysis @ 25%)

Final Test (online, timed @ 30%)

Discussion forum (20%)

**Reading List:** TBA

**Open To:** Yr2 & Yr3