

LIT 3312
Studies in Prose Narrative: The Short Story
Spring 2010
AH3 1.312; R 7:00-9:45
Professor Kenneth Brewer

Professor Contact Information

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Office Hours: R 5:45-6:45 and by appointment

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Pre-requisite: HUMA 1301, LIT 2331, LIT 2332, or LIT 2341.

Course Description

This course introduces students to close readings of short fiction from a variety of time periods and nationalities. Authors include Edgar Allan Poe, Leo Tolstoy, Franz Kafka, Zora Neale Hurston, Guy De Maupassant, Joyce Carol Oates, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, and Bharati Mukherjee. We will examine the basic elements of the form, such as plot, character, and language. In light of Alfred Hitchcock's argument that film is more akin to the short story than the novel, the course will also focus on film adaptations of short stories.

Required Textbooks and Materials

The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction. Shorter Seventh Edition. Eds. Richard Bausch and R. V. Casill. NY: Norton, 2006.

Electronic Reserve Readings: <http://utdallas.docutek.com/eres/coursepage.aspx?cid=751>
(Please see instructor for password)

Films for presentations are on Reserve at the McDermott Library.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should demonstrate:

- a detailed knowledge of the stories we read;
- the ability to think critically about the texts;
- an understanding of the evolution of the short story over the last two centuries;
- a critical grasp of the process of adaptation as interpretation.

Syllabus

All readings are from *The Norton Anthology* except those denoted (ER) for “Electronic Reserve” and those with URLs.

	Reading Assignment	Writing Assignment	Film Presentation
January 14			
January 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown” (325-34) •Poe, “Review of Hawthorne’s <i>Twice Told Tales</i>” (907-09) •Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher” (661-74) •Poe, “The Philosophy of Composition” (871-72) • “Writing About Fiction” (xv-xx) 	Short-answer questions	<i>The Fall of the House of Usher</i> . Dir. Roger Corman (1960).
January 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Melville, “Bartleby, the Scrivener” (529-55) •Marx, “Melville’s Parable of the Walls” (905-06) •Tolstoy, “The Death of Ivan Ilych” (725-64) •Tolstoy, “What is Art?” (876-78) •Morson, “The Reader as Voyeur” (907) 	One-page response	<i>Bartleby</i> . Dir. Jonathan Parker (2001).
February 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bierce, “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” (51-57) •Chopin, “The Story of an Hour” (123-25) •Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” (302-13) 	One-page response	<i>An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge</i> . Dir. Robert Enrico (1962).
February 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Chekhov, “The Lady with the Dog” (110-22) •Chekhov, “Letters” (843-45) •Conrad, “Heart of Darkness” (126-86) •Conrad, “Letter” (848-49) 	Short-answer questions	<i>Apocalypse Now</i> . Dir. Francis Ford Coppola (1979).

February 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Kafka, “The Metamorphosis” (386-418) •Kafka, “Letter” (859-60) •Corngold, “Kafka’s ‘Metamorphosis’” (894-5) •Hemingway, “The Killers” (ER) •Hemingway, “An Interview” (856-59) 	One-page response	<i>The Killers</i> . Dir. Robert Siodmak (1946).
February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Joyce, “Araby” (351-55) •Guy De Maupassant, “An Adventure in Paris” (511-16) •Fitzgerald, “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” (ER) 	Short-answer questions	<i>The Curious Case of Benjamin Button</i> . Dir. David Fincher (2008)
March 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Faulkner, “Barn Burning” (249-62) •Faulkner, “An Interview” (852-56) •Hurstun, “The Conscience of the Court” (340-50) •Cheever “The Enormous Radio” (101-09) 	Midterm	<i>The Enormous Radio</i> . Dir. Bill Travis (1984).
March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Garcia Márquez, “The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World” (297-301) •Wallace, “Brief Interviews with Hideous Men” (ER) 	One-page response	<i>Brief Interviews with Hideous Men</i> . Dir. John Kransinski (2009).
March 18	Spring Break		
March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Dick, “The Minority Report” (ER) •Munro, “Royal Beatings” (569-85) •Munro, “What is Real?” (866-89) •McPherson, “Why I Like Country Music” (517-28) 	Short-answer questions	<i>Minority Report</i> . Dir. Steven Spielberg (2002).
April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cortázar, “A Continuity of Parks” (187-88) •Cortázar, “Blow-Up” (ER) •Mukherjee, “The Management of Grief” (556-68) •Mukherjee, “A Four-Hundred Year-Old Woman” (864-66) •Ford “Bharati Mukherjee” (896-97) 	Paper (3-5 pages)	<i>Blowup</i> . Dir. Michelangelo Antonioni (1966).

April 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Oates, "Where Are You Going? Where Have You Been?" (ER) •Oates, "The Art and Craft of Revision" (869-70) •Atwood, "Death by Landscape" (8-20) •Atwood, "Why Do You Write?" (836) •Beattie, "Snow" (49-50) 	One-page response	<i>Smooth Talk</i> . Dir. Joyce Chopra (1985).
April 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Gaitskill, "The Secretary" (ER) •Tan, "The Rules of the Game" (712-19) 	Short-answer questions	<i>Secretary</i> . Dir. Steven Shainberg. (2002).
April 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Dubus, "Killing" (ER) •Carver, "Cathedral" (75-85) •Carver, "On Writing" (840-43) •Ford, "Great Falls" (285-96) 	Short-answer questions	<i>In the Bedroom</i> . Dir. Todd Field (2001).
April 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Nolan, "Memento Mori" (ER) •O'Brien, "The Things They Carried" (603-15) 	Short-answer questions	<i>Memento</i> . Dir. Christopher Nolan (2000).
May 6	Final Exam		

Assignments & Grading Policy

Below are the required assignments for this course. I will provide more detailed information as the due dates approach. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about assignments.

Short Writing and Assignments and Quizzes: 20%

Short writings will be assigned each week. A detailed assignment will be presented in class the week before the writing is due. THESE ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TYPED; handwritten assignments will not be accepted.

Short writings will be collected at the beginning of each class. Assignments not submitted at that time will be considered late and will be accepted for half credit.

There will be occasional quizzes throughout the semester to gauge reading comprehension and to prepare for exams.

Paper: 25%

Specific guidelines for the 3-5 page essay will be discussed later in the class.

Exams: 25% (Midterm: 10%; Final: 15%)

The midterm will cover material up to that point in the class; the final will cover the material after the midterm.

Film Presentation: 10%

You are required to do one presentation on a film adaptation. The films are listed on the syllabus. Specific guidelines for the presentation will be explained.

Discussion Questions Presentation: 10%

You are required to bring discussion questions for one text in the course.

Class Participation: 10%

Participation includes attending class, participating in discussions and in-class activities, and visiting me in my office as often as possible. This is not a lecture course. The majority of classroom time will consist of discussion: for the class to be rewarding, it is imperative that you do the reading and come to class prepared to talk and listen actively. In writings and exams, you are expected to draw on class discussion.

Participation in class activities is necessary to pass this class. Promptness and regular attendance are essential and will affect your grade. You must arrive, prepared, to class on time and stay for the class period—two late arrivals or two early departures equal one absence. Attendance is included in your participation grade for the course. However, if you miss more than 2 classes, you will lose points from your final grade for each additional missed class. In cases of proven emergencies, the instructor may reconsider this policy at his discretion. However, participation points cannot be made up.

A class that meets once a week requires a greater degree of discipline on everyone's part than one that meets more frequently. While you of course know how you work best, it is not advisable to leave coursework undone until the day of our class meeting.

Community

It is expected that we will respect one another and one another's ideas. When we are in class, we are present: no cell phones, pagers, or other forms of electronic communication. If your phone rings, it's for me. If mine rings, it's for you.

Disability Services

If you are a student with a disability and would like to see me to discuss special academic accommodations, please contact me after class or during my office hours. For more information about Disability Services, visit their website:

<http://www.utdallas.edu/disability/> or call 972-883-2098. (see below for more detailed information)

Office Hours

You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of my office hours to talk about class materials, your papers, and anything else that might help you.

Avoid Plagiarizing by Accident!

Using another's ideas or language without acknowledging the source or passing off another's ideas or language as your own is plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Students often plagiarize without intending to because they are unsure about how to cite sources. Plagiarism by accident is still plagiarism (and will be punished as such), so please feel free to come see me if you are unsure about how to cite sources. (see below for policy on Academic Integrity)

Technical Support

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. There is no travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to

discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-I.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each

student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog.

Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

disabilityservice@utdallas.edu

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services. The Coordinator is available to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Services to notify them of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Disability Services can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the

student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.