

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 201 – L01

Autumn 2017

COURSE TITLE: **Brevity: A Short History of Short Fiction**

Instructor: Will Best

Classroom: SS109

Class Times: MWF 13:00-13:50

Instructor Office: SS1033

Phone: 403-220-4676

E-mail: William.best@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: F 14:30-15:30

Course description:

This course introduces students to the literary styles, tropes, and techniques from an array of time periods and cultures, but focuses particularly on the development of a singular, arguably under-studied genre: short story. Beginning with early precursors in folktales and amatory fiction, the course will track how the form develops into the “birth” of the modern short story in the 19th century and what changes (or doesn’t) as it enters the Modernist and Postmodernist eras. Particular interest will be paid to the stylistic qualities of specific eras and locales, as well as exploring how the short story as a genre differs from the novel: how does the length restriction on a piece of fiction affect not only the length of the narrative, but also the style? Are there distinguishing stylistic differences between short fiction of different lengths – does the novella have a unique style in contrast to both the novel and the short story? And how might materiality and the publishing industry – based largely on the stand-alone codex, but arguably changing in the digital era – correlate with the lengths of written works?

Texts and readings:

Note: there are a lot of individual readings for this course, but very few of these readings are more than 10pp. long, so the amount of primary-text reading each week is in fact relatively light for an English course.

Gaunce, Julia, et al., editors. *The Broadview Anthology of Short Fiction*. 2nd edition, Broadview, 2012.

In chronological order based on initial publication:

- Hawthorne, Nathaniel. "The Minister's Black Veil."
- Poe, Edgar Allan. "The Tell-Tale Heart."
- Melville, Herman. *Bartleby the Scrivener*.
- Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. "The Yellow Wallpaper."
- Chopin, Kate. "The Story of an Hour."
- Chekhov, Anton. "An Upheaval."
- Joyce, James. "The Dead."
- Mansfield, Katherine. "The Garden Party."
- Hemingway, Ernest. "Hills Like White Elephants."
- O'Brien, Tim. "The Things They Carried."
- Munro, Alice. "Gravel."

Additional readings, with links to electronic editions provided on D2L:

- Perrault, Charles. "Bluebeard." Christopher Betts translation.
- Haywood, Eliza. *Fantomina: or, Love in a Maze*.
- Kafka, Franz. "A Message from the Emperor." Mark Harman translation.
- Akutagawa, Ryunosuke. "In a Grove." Takashi Kojima translation.
- Borges, Jorge Luis. "The Library of Babel." James E. Irby translation.
- Barth, John. "Lost in the Funhouse."
- Carter, Angela. "The Bloody Chamber."
- Atwood, Margaret. "Happy Endings."

Secondary Readings on reserve in the University of Calgary Library:

- May, Charles E. *The Short Story: The Reality of Artifice*.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Participation & Reading Quizzes – 10% (5% each)

Students will be assigned five reading quizzes randomly scattered throughout the semester to ensure that everyone is keeping up with the reading (and thus enabling the very possibility of classroom discussions). These quizzes will require knowledge of factual information from the stories, not analysis, but the factual information from the stories will specifically be drawn from information **not** available on Sparknotes, Cliffsnotes, GradeSaver, etc. Students **must** read the primary texts in order to pass these quizzes.

Participation grades will be calculated each class based on a two-point system, and the cumulative score of all class meetings will be averaged for the final participation grade. The rubric for assigning points is as follows:

0 – student did not attend class

1 – student contributed minimally to class discussion (only once or twice, providing summary rather than critique or analysis)

2 – student contributed repeatedly to class discussion, and/or provided thoughtful critique or analysis

In-Class Papers – 20% (10% each)

At the close of the first two units, students will compose a timed in-class essay responding to prompts provided at the beginning of the class period. These assignments will prepare students for written essay question sections common to final examinations throughout the social sciences and humanities. These assignments should be **at least 400 words each**.

Close-Reading Paper – 15%

Students will compose a close reading of one of the course texts or multiple course texts set into conversation with each other based on provided essay prompts. Before beginning this assignment, students will be expected to meet with the instructor during office hours to discuss their plans for the paper. This assignment has a **minimum length of 600 words**.

Research Paper – 30%

Students will compose an essay utilizing two or more secondary sources discussing specific course texts or short fiction as a genre. The essay must set each student's own ideas into conversation with these sources to develop a unique argument about short fiction based on provided essay prompts. This assignment has a **minimum length of 1000 words**.

Final Examination – 25%

The final examination will cover all of the technical terms and critical tools discussed throughout the course, primarily using the course texts as the examined material in each question. In-depth knowledge both of the course texts and of the terms and tools will be necessary to excel on this examination. The exam will **not** be open-book or open-note.

Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period (Dec 12-22).

Assignment Submission Policy:

All out-of-class assignments are to be typed, printed, and submitted in hard copy at the beginning of the class period on the date indicated on the Course Schedule. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (e.g. an A- to B+) for each business day (not class) that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week after the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

Please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the dropbox outside of the English Department main office. Your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

Students do not have to complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade for the course.

Grading system:

Students will be assigned letter grades for all written work. The letter grades will be converted into a percentage system based on the following conversion table:

| | | |
|-----------|----|-----|
| 90-100 % | A+ | 4.0 |
| 85 – 89 % | A | 4.0 |
| 80 – 84 % | A– | 3.7 |
| 77 – 79 % | B+ | 3.3 |
| 74 – 76 % | B | 3.0 |
| 70 – 73 % | B– | 2.7 |
| 67 – 69 % | C+ | 2.3 |
| 64 – 66 % | C | 2.0 |
| 60 – 63 % | C– | 1.7 |
| 55 – 59 % | D+ | 1.3 |
| 50 – 54 % | D | 1.0 |
| 0 – 49 % | F | 0 |

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events

<http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>.

Our email address is smecuofc@gmail.com.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<http://www.enough.utoronto.ca/computeruse/eetiquette.htm>

Library and Research Support:

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: maboyd@ucalgary.ca.

Find The English Pages research guide here: <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:**Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Student Accommodations:**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf> .

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Arts Students’ Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at

ascarts@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at

<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns. For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:
 - (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
 - (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
 - (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
 - (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html> “The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.