

Department of English
ENG 300, Section 01, Short Story
Fall 2016

Meeting Time: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Place: Simpkins 27

Professor: Dr. Jose Fernandez

Office: Simpkins Hall 08

Office Phone: 309-298-1042

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00-12:30 p.m., Wednesdays 4:30-5:30 p.m., and by appointment.

E-mail: jo-fernandez@wiu.edu

Course URL: <https://westernonline.wiu.edu>

Course Description:

The analysis of short stories in light of the elements of fiction (plot, character, conflict, points of view, symbolism, theme, and authorial and narrative strategies). May include consideration of forms ranging from flash fiction to the novella.

Course Goals and Objectives:

This course will focus on the study and the elements (plot, characters, style, themes, symbolism, etc.) of short stories that make them a compelling form of art and a window into the lives of other human beings at different periods of times and geographical spaces that may be similar or different from our own. We will concentrate on a few canonical short stories and contemporary short stories written by American authors of different social, racial, and ethnic backgrounds.

Required Texts:

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien (ISBN: 9780618706419)

This Is How You Lose Her by Junot Diaz (ISBN: 9781594631771)

Unaccustomed Earth by Jhumpa Lahiri (ISBN: 9780307278258)

Long Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven by Sherman Alexie (ISBN: 9780802121998)

Bloodchild and Other Stories by Octavia Butler (ISBN: 9781583226988)

One additional text to be selected by students

Assignments and Evaluations:

Attendance & Class Participation	200 points
Paper #1	200 points
Midterm Exam	200 points
Paper #2	200 points
Final Exam	200 points
Total	1000 points

Grading Scale:

A = 930-1000; A- = 900-929; B+ = 860-899; B = 830-859; B- = 800-829; C+ = 760-799; C = 730-759; C- = 700-729; D+ = 660-699; D = 630-659; D- = 600-629; F = 599 or below.

Short Breakdown of Assignments and Evaluations:

- **Attendance & Class Participation:** your active class participation will be necessary to fulfill the goals and objectives of the course. Class participation will include working individually or in groups on writing prompts, activities, and short and extended group discussions on a regular basis. Attend class prepared by reading the assigned material before class (check schedule of readings). **Note: bring your books (e-readers are allowed but NO cell phones or laptops) to every class** since this will influence your class participation grade.
- **Papers:** Two short literary analyses of 900-1200 words each. Papers will be based on ONE short story and a main thesis statement that will be developed in the body of the paper. A well-developed literary analysis will require you to do a close reading of the short story and use textual evidence to support your thesis.
- **Midterm and Final Exam:** exams are intended for students to show their familiarity with the short stories, ideas, or concepts read and discussed during class. Each exam will be based on the material covered during the first and second half of the semester respectively.

General Guidelines for Paper Submissions:

I will post an instructions sheet with an evaluation criteria on WesternOnline for each of the two papers. All your draft and revised papers will be uploaded electronically as a Microsoft Word document in the “assignments” section of WesternOnline before the beginning of class when the paper is due (check schedule of assignments). Make sure you **SAVE** all your work on your computer or a flash drive. Computer issues are not an excuse for submitting incomplete or late work.

Attendance Policy:

Since this course will rely on students’ active participation through writing prompts, group work and discussions, attendance and punctuality are required. **If you miss class due to illness, personal emergency, or any other reason, notify me via email before or after an absence occurs. You may have THREE excused or unexcused absences without penalty, but you are still responsible for following the schedule of readings and assignments** (note: students will NOT be able to make up for missing work that occurs during class). **Beginning with your fourth absence, you will lose 15 points from your class participation grade for each subsequent absence.** Attend class on time; every time a student accumulates two “late” attendances (5 minutes after class begins), they will be counted as **ONE** absence. Arriving 10 minutes after class may count as an absence. **Keep in mind that if you accumulate more than EIGHT absences, you will NOT receive a passing grade in this course.**

Note: Student athletes, students with military obligations, and students with disabilities must meet with me at the beginning of the semester to develop an accommodation plan.

Classroom Etiquette:

Students should turn off and put away their cell phones, ipods, and laptops (ONLY e-readers are allowed) before the beginning of class and should not be engaged in any other activity that is not related to the class (texting, social media, checking email, homework for other class, etc.). **Please do not leave the classroom abruptly; if you need to excuse yourself for an**

important reason while the class is in session, let me know in advance. You are also expected to show civility and respect for other students' ideas, opinions, and beliefs expressed in writing or during class discussion. **If you do not comply with these expectations you may receive a friendly warning, but repeated misbehavior will automatically affect your class participation grade (with or without a warning).**

Outside Classroom Communication:

The best way to reach me outside class is by email. I will respond to your emails promptly (within 48 hours). You are also responsible for checking your WIU email account and WesternOnline on a regular basis. **Please feel free to stop by any time during my office hours or if you cannot meet during my office hours, email me to make an appointment at a time that works for you.** We can discuss any aspect of the course such as the readings, a particular grade, or your overall performance in this course.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when students present a short or long piece of a work that was created by another individual or was taken from a source without properly acknowledging it. Plagiarism is a serious offense. **If you plagiarize any section of a writing exercise or paper assignment during this course, it may result in failure of the assignment and failure of the entire course.** If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, ask me or read the WIU's Student Academic Integrity Policy: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/acintegrity.php>.

University Writing Center:

The University Writing Center is available to assist you with general and specific questions on writing assigned in any discipline and at any academic level. The one-on-one assistance available at the University Writing Center is valuable for generating ideas, talking about global-level issues such as organization, and working through grammatical problems. The University Writing Center is located in Malpass Library (3rd floor, west side and in satellite centers in Simpkins, Bayliss, and Tanner). For more information, visit the University Writing Center website: http://www.wiu.edu/university_writing_center/

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

A complete list of your rights and responsibilities as a Western Illinois University student is available at <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php>

Students with Disabilities:

In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309-298-1512, or disability@wiu.edu or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify me as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

Title IX:

University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at:

http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php. If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

Important Dates:

Friday, August 26: Last day of open registration.

Friday, Sept. 2: Last day of restricted registration.

Sunday, October 30: Last day to drop course and last day for a total university withdrawal.

Schedule of Activities, Readings, and Assignments:

This schedule is subject to change. If any of this information changes, I will inform you during class and post an updated version on WesternOnline.

Important Note: Unless changes are announced, readings and papers are due by the date marked in the left column, and **ALL assignments should be uploaded electronically on WesternOnline (WO) before class.**

Wk	Date & Place	Class Topic & Readings Due before Class	Assignments & Papers Due before Class
1	Tues., Aug. 23	Introductions & Academic Interests	
	Thurs., Aug. 25	Course Overview, Goals, and Objectives	
2	Tues., Aug. 30	Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Tell-Tale Heart” (link on WO) Kate Chopin’s “The Story of An Hour” (link on WO)	Syllabus Questionnaire Due (reply to post on WO before Class)
	Thurs., Sept. 1	Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s “The Yellow-Wall Paper” (.pdf posted on WO) Ernest Hemingway’s “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” (.pdf posted on WO)	
3	Tues., Sept. 6	Richard Wright’s “The Man Who Was Almost a Man” (.pdf posted on WO) James Baldwin’s “Sonny’s Blues” (.pdf posted on WO)	
	Thurs., Sept. 8	John Cheever’s “The Swimmer” (.pdf posted on WO) Raymond Carver’s “Cathedral” (.pdf posted on WO)	
4	Tues., Sept. 13	O’Brian’s <i>The Things They Carried</i>	
	Thurs., Sept. 15	O’Brian’s <i>The Things They Carried</i>	
5	Tues., Sept. 20	O’Brian’s <i>The Things They Carried</i>	
	Thurs., Sept. 22	O’Brian’s <i>The Things They Carried</i>	
6	Tues., Sept. 27	Díaz’s <i>This Is How You Lose Her</i>	

	Thurs., Sept. 29	Díaz's <i>This Is How You Lose Her</i>	
7	Tues., Oct. 4	Díaz's <i>This Is How You Lose Her</i>	
	Thurs., Oct. 6	Díaz's <i>This Is How You Lose Her</i>	Paper # 1 Due on WesternOnline
8	Tues., Oct. 11	Lahiri's <i>Unaccustomed Earth</i>	
	Thurs., Oct. 13	Lahiri's <i>Unaccustomed Earth</i>	
9	Tues., Oct. 18	Lahiri's <i>Unaccustomed Earth</i>	
	Thurs., Oct. 20	Lahiri's <i>Unaccustomed Earth</i>	
10	Tues., Oct. 25	Midterm Exam	
	Thurs., Oct. 27	Alexie's <i>Long Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven</i>	
11	Tues., Nov. 1	Alexie's <i>Long Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven</i>	
	Thurs., Nov. 3	Alexie's <i>Long Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven</i>	
12	Tues., Nov. 8	Butler's <i>Bloodchild and Other Stories</i>	
	Thurs., Nov. 10	Butler's <i>Bloodchild and Other Stories</i>	
13	Tues., Nov. 15	Butler's <i>Bloodchild and Other Stories</i>	
	Thurs., Nov. 17	Butler's <i>Bloodchild and Other Stories</i>	
	Nov. 21- 25	No Classes: Thanksgiving Break	
14	Tues., Nov. 29	Borges's "The Garden of Forking Paths" (.pdf posted on WO) Text Selected by Students TBA	
	Thurs., Dec. 1	Text Selected by Students TBA	Paper # 2 Due on WesternOnline
15	Tues., Dec. 6	Text Selected by Students TBA Class Evaluations	
	Thurs., Dec. 8	Text Selected by Students TBA	
16	Thurs., Dec. 15	Final Exam @ 8 a.m.	