

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & EDUCATION

Grande Prairie Regional College

EN 2060 A2 (The Short Story).
Half Year 45 hours / 3 credits (3-0-0) UT

2007-08 Academic Year
Fall Term 2007

- Three contact hours are required per week.
- EN 2060 (The Short Story) meets every Wednesday evening, from 6-8:50 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: George Hanna

OFFICE: C419

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 1:30 – 3 p.m.
Tuesdays 12 Noon – 1:30 p.m.

- Office hours are either as posted or by appointment; posted hours are subject to change.
- If you have classes during my regular office hours, contact me to set up a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

PHONE NUMBER: (780) 539-2090

E-MAIL: hanna@gprc.ab.ca

DELIVERY MODE: Lecture / Class Participation and Discussion / Oral Presentations / Web-Based Learning Materials.

PRE-REQUISITES: EN 1000, EN 1010 or an equivalent six credits of first-year English.

EN 2060 REQUIRED TEXT:

Dana Gioia and R. S. Gwynn, eds. *The Longman Masters of Short Fiction*. Toronto: Longman / Pearson Education, 2002.

BRIEF CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course examines representative works of writers illustrating the traditions of the short story in English.

LONGER COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This term, English 2060 examines a selection of stories demonstrating the rich tradition of the short story in English, along with newer, more experimental short story forms that have evolved from the nineteenth century to the present.

As exemplified by the work of Edgar Allan Poe and his successors, the short story is a brief, concentrated narrative prose fiction that builds towards a single, powerful effect. Many readers, in fact, enjoy the tight, compressed economy of construction employed by the best short story writers. As Writer Raymond Carver once exulted, "I love the swift leap of a good story, the excitement that often commences in the first sentence, the sense of beauty and mystery found in the best of them"

We shall read authors as diverse as the early American masters of short fiction: Hawthorne, Melville and Poe; influential European writers such as Chekhov, Maupassant and Kafka; the early twentieth century writers, including Joyce, Hemingway and Lawrence; great female writers like Mansfield and Wharton; more recent writers of both genders, minimalists like Carver or practitioners of southern Gothic like Flannery O'Connor; contemporary writers including Lessing, Munro, Atwood; and current multicultural or international writers ranging from Gabriel Garcia Marquez to Jamaica Kincaid.

What qualities give short stories their enduring appeal? Here are some statements from the fiction writers themselves:

"[S]o long as we are possessed by experience that is distinguished by its intensity and its episodic nature, we will have the short story in our literature."

John Cheever

"[Short Stories are] one of the most natural and fundamental ways of human expression. . . Being short does not mean being slight. A short story should be long in depth. . . ."

Flannery O'Connor

"In a short story . . . almost every word has got to be . . . right. In the novel you can be careless but in the short story you can't. . . . It demands a nearer absolute exactitude. You have less room to be . . . careless."

William Faulkner

EVALUATION

- A brief Take-Home writing assignment will be distributed September 26.
Minimum length: 500 words (about 2 typed pages).
Weighting: **10%** of the course grade.
Due October 3, 2007

- 1st Major Essay
Weighting: **30%** of the course grade.
2000-2500 word paper (about 8-10 typed pages)
Due Date: October 24, 2007
- 2nd Major Essay
Weighting: **30%** of the course grade.
2000-2500 word essay (about 8-10 typed pages)
Due Date: November 21, 2007

Oral Presentation: **20%** [in groups of 3-4 students, according to interest]
Deadline(s): Negotiable, depending on the number of students and assigned topics.

- Oral Participation
Weighting: **10%** of the course grade.

ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS - BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

1. All essays must be typed.
2. Essays are due on the dates indicated.
 - Students who submit essays after the deadline are normally penalized at the rate of one Alpha letter grade per calendar day.
 - However, any student experiencing difficulty meeting an essay deadline should contact the instructor to determine if there are reasonable grounds for granting an extension.
 - Essays submitted more than one week late may not be accepted.
3. Extensions are *always* granted in cases of sickness, providing the student can produce a note from a doctor.
4. *Subject to time constraints*, rewrites are allowed on *all* essay assignments. Paper clip the graded essay (showing the original grade and the instructor's comments) to the back of the rewritten paper and follow other instructions as provided.

GRADES

Grande Prairie Regional College uses the alpha grading system and the following approved letter codes for all programs and courses offered by the College. All final grades will be reported to the Registrar's Office using alpha grades. Alpha grades will be converted to four-point equivalence for the calculation of grade point averages.

Alpha 4-point Equivalence		Descriptor	Conversion of Percentage to Alpha Grade
			* Guideline only.
			* Used for assigning marks on tests, essays, or other course requirements.
A+	4.0	Excellent	A+ = 95-100%
A	4.0	Excellent	A = 83-94
A-	3.7	Very Good	A- = 80-82
B+	3.3	First Class Standing	B+ = 76-79
B	3.0	Good	B = 72-75
B-	2.7	Good	B- = 69-71
C+	2.3	Satisfactory	C+ = 66-68
C	2.0	Satisfactory	C = 63-65
C-	1.7	Satisfactory	C- = 59-62
D+	1.3	Poor*	D+ = 55-58
D	1.0	Minimal Pass*	D = 50-54
F	0.0	Failure	0 = 0-49

* Please note that GPRC instructors have the prerogative of employing different scales for converting percentages into alpha letter grades; no prescriptive scale appears in the GPRC calendar.

* For a complete list of letter grades, see current 2007-08 Calendar, p. 37.

* MINIMAL PASS

A grade of D will be considered a minimum passing grade and will normally meet the prerequisite requirements for the next level of study. Exceptions to this will be clearly stated in prerequisite requirements in the course description or in program progression criteria.

*** Other post secondary institutions may not consider grades of D sufficient to award transfer credit.** Currently, the University of Alberta will not accept for transfer courses completed with grades of "D" or "D+". Some post secondary institutions, for example, the University of Calgary, may accept grades of "D" for transfer credit but may not allow you to use the courses as prerequisites to other courses.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT PLAGIARISM

All students are expected to read and be familiar with the GPRC policy on **plagiarism**, as defined in the **2007-08 GPRC Calendar** (pp. 44-45).

ATTENDANCE:

Excessive absenteeism - defined as **two or more unexcused absences** per term - may adversely affect your grade.

REQUIRED READING:

- Keep up with the assigned readings.
- Do not show up for class without having read previously assigned material.
- Be prepared to discuss the stories in class.

ESSAY REWRITES

2007-08 Academic Year
English 2060 (Fall 2007)
G. Hanna

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. At the instructor's discretion, students who misunderstood the essay question, have serious writing problems, performed poorly due to extenuating circumstances, or simply wish to improve their grade on an assignment will be allowed to rewrite up to two papers.

Keep in mind, however, that the instructor's time constraints, along with pressure from the Registrar's office to submit students' final grades, *might preclude any opportunity for rewriting the last essay assignment.*

Normally, the instructor will **NOT** accept rewrites submitted after the last scheduled class of the current academic year.

2. Keep the original marked copy of your essay with your instructor's comments; paper clip the original marked version to the back of your rewrite. Otherwise, rewrites will NOT be accepted.
3. While editing, revising, or restructuring your work, do not change any of your words, sentences, or ideas directly on the original marked copy.
4. If you wish to do so, jot down possible alterations in pencil or red ink.
5. Otherwise, make editorial changes on an *unmarked* copy of the paper as saved on a disk or on your hard drive.
6. To correct errors and avoid making new ones, refer to the problem areas indicated on the editor's checklist provided by your instructor; also take into consideration comments and suggestions found in the margins or summary statement on the first version already marked by your instructor.

7. The rewrite will be graded as a new assignment. Through careful editing and revision, **MOST** students should be able to upgrade their original mark by at least one or two letter grades. In such cases the lower mark on the first version will **NOT** affect your final standing in the course.
8. Rewrites are normally due within two weeks. However, turn them in earlier if your revisions are minor.
9. Late penalties of one letter grade per day will apply to essay revisions submitted past the deadline.
10. Good luck!

INDIVIDUAL CONTACT WITH THE INSTRUCTOR

Individual work with the instructor on specific compositions is necessary and expected. Feel free to consult me for extra help interpreting difficult texts or completing course assignments. Whenever necessary, contact me to discuss any difficulties that you encounter completing this course. If I am ever not around, tack a message to my office door, C419. My GPRC email and office telephone number are provided on the first page of this course outline. If I am not available to take your call, please leave your name, a brief message and a phone number where you can be reached. I make a point of checking my voice mail and office e-mail messages from home.

TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF EN 2060 (THE SHORT STORY) FALL TERM 2007

- EN 2060 consists of 13 classes extending from September 12 to December 5, 2007.
- Works of fiction will be studied in the following order:

September 12

Introduction / Overview / Expectations

Course Outline

Main Requirements and Assignments.

Important Notice

In the event of insufficient time resulting from extended class discussions and/or lengthy oral presentations, some of the stories listed directly below *may* be dropped from the required reading list:

Short Cuts: A Look at Jamaica Kincaid's "Girl"* (1983).

And

Margaret Atwood's "Gertrude Talks Back"* (1994)

*** An asterisk denotes handout distributed by the instructor.**

September 19*Early Masters of the American Short Story*

Edgar Allan Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher" (1845)

"The Tell-Tale Heart" (1843, 1850)

Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown"

Herman Melville, "Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall-Street" (1856)

September 26*Great European Masters of the Short Story*

Nikolai Gogol, "The Overcoat" (1842)

Gustave Flaubert, "A Simple Heart" (1877)

Anton Chekhov, "The Lady with the Pet Dog" (1899)

Guy de Maupassant, "The Necklace" (1885)

- *Distribute topics for Take-Home Midterm Test.*

Take-Home Midterm Test Due October 3, 2007Weighting: **10%** of the course grade.**October 3****A Look at the *novella*, or short novel:**

Leo Tolstoy, "The Death of Ivan Ilych" (1886)

Franz Kafka, "The Metamorphosis" (1915)

No Classes on Scheduled **Thanksgiving Day Holiday.**Limited access to College on Monday, October 8th.**Long Weekend: October 6-7-8.****October 10**

D. H. Lawrence, "Odour of Chrysanthemums" (1914)

D. H. Lawrence, "The Blind Man"* (1922).

Katherine Mansfield, "Miss Brill" (1922)

"The Garden-Party" (1922)

October 17

Hemingway, Ernest, "Soldier's Home"* (1925).

"Hills Like White Elephants"* (1927).

"The Snows of Kilimanjaro"* (1936).

October 24James Joyce, "The Dead" (1914): Short Novel or the Short Story that ends *Dubliners*?

Edith Wharton, "Roman Fever" (1936)

William Carlos Williams, "The Use of Force"* (1938).

1st Major Essay
 Weighting: **30%** of the course grade.
 2000-2500 word paper (about 8-10 typed pages)
 October 24, 2007

October 31

Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (1955)
 "Good Country People"* (1955).
 "The Lame Shall Enter First"* (1965).

November 7

Albert Camus, "The Guest" (1957)
 John Cheever, "The Country Husband"* (1958).
 Joyce Carol Oates, "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" (1970)

Remembrance Day Long Weekend: Nov. 10-11-12 inclusive.

Sunday, Nov. 11 (Remembrance Day).
 Monday, Nov. 12: Fri. Nov. 10. No Classes.

November 14

Doris Lessing, "A Woman on a Roof" (1963)
 Doris Lessing, "Our Friend Judith"* (1963).
 Nadine Gordimer, "Good Country, Friendly Inhabitants"* (1965).
 And/or "A Company of Laughing Faces" (1965)

2nd Major Essay
 Weighting: **30%** of the course grade.
 2000-2500 word essay (about 8-10 typed pages)
 Due Date: November 21, 2007

November 21 Raymond Carver: "What We Talk About When We Talk about Love"* (1981).

"Cathedral" (1983).
 "A Small, Good Thing" (1983).

November 28

Alice Munro, "How I Met My Husband" (1974)
 "Boys and Girls"* (1968).
 "Miles City, Montana"* (1986).

December 5

Jorge Luis Borges, "The Garden of Forking Paths" (1941).
 Gabriel Garcia Marquez, "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" (1955).

END OF COURSE

Addendum

- Depending on time constraints, *a few* of the following additional stories *may* also be assigned as required reading:
 1. Margaret Atwood, "Happy Endings" (1983).
 2. Alice Munro, "Wild Swans"* (1978).
 3. Alice Munro, "The Beggar Maid"* (1978).
 4. Ernest Hemingway, "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place" (1933)
 5. Angela Carter, "A Souvenir of Japan"* (1974).
 6. Margaret Atwood, "Scarlet Ibis"* (1983).
 7. Salman Rushdie, "The Prophet's Hair"* (1995).
 8. Raymond Carver, "So Much Water So Close to Home"* (1981).
 9. Flannery O'Connor, "Revelation" (1965)
 10. John Cheever, "The Swimmer" (1964)
 11. Nadine Gordimer, "A Company of Laughing Faces" (1965)