



A M B R O S E

Faculty of Arts & Sciences

English 230

Fall 2007

Instructor: Dr. Cornelia Burian

Office: 515

Office Phone: ext. 3997

Class Times: W/F 9:45-11:00

Class Location: 501

Email Address: cburian@auc.nuc.ca

Office Hours: Wed 2:00-3:00

or by appointment

Course Description:

This course explores short stories from various countries. Emphasis will be placed on interpreting plot, character, tone, theme and imagery of this condensed and forceful literary genre, yet equal attention will be given to writing about the reading experience from diverse theoretical perspectives. The selection of texts and approaches reflects the course's commitment to tradition and openness to change.

Course Objectives:

1. This course will further students' knowledge of the short story and its canonical and non-canonical authors.
2. It will also introduce students to a variety of theoretical approaches to literature and thereby allow them to explore a text's form and content with a critical yet open mind.
3. It will furthermore help students to improve their essay-writing skills by focusing on the rules and conventions that govern academic discourse and many other kinds of writing.

Required Text: Ann Charters. *The Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction*. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's: 2007.

Course Schedule:

September	F 7	Introduction to the course; origins and development of the short story
	W 12	Critical Approaches: An overview
	F 14	Raymond Carver, "Cathedral" (168)
	W 19	Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"
	F 21	Leo Tolstoy, "The Death of Ivan Ilych" (1232)
	W 26	Franz Kafka, "Metamorphosis" (687)
October	F 28	Katherine Mansfield, "The Fly" (820)
	W 3	Helena María Viramontes, "The Moths" (1295)
	F 5	D.H. Lawrence, "Odour of Chrysanthemums" (748)
	W 10	Alifa Rifaat, "Distant View of a Minaret" (1132)
	F 12	James Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues" (47)
	W 17	Chinua Achebe, "Civil Peace" (10)
November	F 19	midterm exam
	W 24	Zora Neale Hurston, "Spunk" (559) presentations begin
	F 26	Herman Melville, "Bartleby, The Scrivener" (846)
	W 31	Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown" (526)
	F 2	Henry James, "The Real Thing" (595)
	W 7	James Joyce, "The Dead" (650)
	F 9	Bessie Head, "Woman from America" (536)
	W 14	Gustave Flaubert, "A Simple Heart" (429)
	F 16	Philip Roth, "The Conversion of Jews" (1136)
	W 21	Virginia Woolf, "Kew Gardens" (1361)
	F 23	Ursula K. le Guin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" (780)
December	W 28	Woody Allen, "The Kugelmass Episode" (21) pre-writing work due
	F 30	Margaret Atwood, "Happy Endings" (43)
	W 5	Hisaye Yamamoto, "Wilshire Bus" (1385)
	F 7	review; essay due

Course Requirements

Research Essay (2000 words)	20%
Presentation, participation and class preparation	25%
Midterm	25%
Final Exam	30%

Grading - The Essay

Marking Guide: Your essay will be marked according to these categories:

- 1) Content (insights, depth of thinking, grasp of concepts, understanding of text)
- 2) Organization (focus, paragraph order and structure, logical development)
- 3) Support (persuasive evidence, relevant support, effective use of quotations)
- 4) Language (clarity, concision, word choice, style)
- 5) Professionalism (grammar, punctuation, spelling, word usage, proofreading)

- A An “A” essay is characterized by superior content, excellent organization, compelling support, elegant language and immaculate mechanics. It moreover reveals a depth of understanding that goes beyond what is ordinarily expected at this level.
- B A “B” essay is strong in all categories and essentially error-free. The essay’s organization greatly contributes to and reflects the content.
- C A “C” essay is either good in all categories or it is excellent in most categories but shows minor weaknesses in others. An essay in this category may be highly original, well-argued and nicely organized, but contain several grammatical and punctuation errors.
- D A “D” essay is weak in most categories and satisfactory in at least one area. Essays that make a less-than-compelling argument, but that are grammatically correct, or papers that show some grasp of the subject matter and a few original ideas, but that are poorly organized or flawed by major mechanical problems are marked in this range.
- F A failing mark will be assigned to essays that are weak in all categories. Essays in the F range either do not address the topic at hand, or they contain so many errors that they are unintelligible.

Correspondence between letter grades and percentage

letter grade	description	percentage
A+		96-100
A	excellent	91-95
A-	very good	86-90
B+		82-85
B	good	75-81
B-		72-74
C+		68-71
C	satisfactory	63-67
C-		60-62
D+		56-59
D	minimal pass	50-55
F	failure	<50

Guidelines and regulations:

University policies and deadlines: please familiarize yourself with the University College's calendar.

Pre-writing work: three weeks before your final essay is due, you must hand in an outline containing your tentative thesis statement and a skeletal plan of your essay's structure, as well as some textual evidence that you plan to use in support of your argument. Please retain a copy of your pre-writing work as well as the finished essay. The outline will not be marked, but I will return it to you with detailed comments.

Extensions: I will only grant extensions under exceptional circumstances (such as serious medical reasons, a death in the family or a severe personal crisis).

Preparation: Given the teaching methods of the course (class discussion is a very important component!!!), regular class attendance, active participation and thorough preparation are considered essential.

Absences: If you have to be away from class for a good reason (paid work schedule or minor health problems do not constitute good reasons), please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

**Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns during the term.
Hope you enjoy the class and have a great semester!**