

## ***Fall/Winter 2019-2020***

**AP/EN 2130 6.0A (Y)**

### ***The Short Story***

**Course Director:**

Instructor: Agnes Whitfield  
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**Delivery Format:**

Fully Online

**Time:**

N/A

**Description:**

Since its inception in multiple cultures in the early 19th century the short story has flourished among writers in the Anglophone World. With a focus on the evolution of the short story as narrative genre in English, this course will examine the shift from the Classic to the Modernist Short Story at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, and the influence of post-modernism and post-colonialism on the contemporary short story.

At the same time, through the analysis of a broad spectrum of short stories from different regions and perspectives in the Anglophone World (Great Britain, the United States, Nigeria, South Africa, Canada, New Zealand, among others), students will develop an understanding of how literary and social contexts have influenced the multi-faceted development of the short story in English, and enrich their knowledge of this fascinating literary genre.

Students will have an opportunity to read and reflect critically on a diverse sampling of short stories including works by Chinua Achebe, Anita Desai, Arthur Conan Doyle, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mavis Gallant, Nadine Gordimer, Katherine Mansfield, Alice Munro, Flannery O'Connor, M. NourbaSe Philip, Rabindranath Tagore, Mark Twain, Edith Wharton and Virginia Woolf.

The course pedagogy is learner-centred. Students will be encouraged to reflect on their own knowledge and point of view as readers and writers, to build on and enhance this knowledge through readings and discussions of short stories, and to incorporate theoretical concepts within a holistic approach to literary meaning.

**Category:**

B

**Historical Requirement:**

N/A

**Requirements:**

First term research paper (2000 words): 20%  
First term reading test: 20%  
Second term research paper (2000 words): 20%  
Final reading test: 20%  
Internet postings and participation: 20%

**Reading List:**

Chinua Achebe, "The Sacrificial Egg," <http://spring2012english215.pbworks.com/w/file/51716082/achebe-stories.pdf>; Anita Desai, "A Devoted Son," <https://digestablewords.wordpress.com/short-story-a-devoted-son-by-anita-desai/>;

Arthur Conan Doyle, "The Cabman's Story," <http://www.online-literature.com/doyle/3118/>;

F. Scott Fitzgerald, "The Ice Palace," <http://www.online-literature.com/fitzgerald/2911/>; Mavis Gallant, "Florida," <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/florida-a-new-short-story-by-mavis-gallant-1423409.html>; Nadine Gordimer, "Loot," [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/1991/gordimer-prose-e.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1991/gordimer-prose-e.html); Henry James, "Miss Gunton of Poughkeepsie," <http://www.henryjames.org.uk/missgu/home.htm>; Katherine Mansfield, "The Young Girl" and "The Voyage," *The Garden Party and other stories*, [http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1429/1429-h/1429-h.htm#link2H\\_4\\_0029](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1429/1429-h/1429-h.htm#link2H_4_0029); Alice Munro, "Deep-holes" and "Free Radicals," <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2008/06/30/deep-holes>; Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is hard to Find," <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~drbr/goodman.html>; M. NourbeSe Philip, "Burn Sugar," <http://lit.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/blfi/view/1000061070>;

Rabindranath Tagore, "The Child's Return," <http://www.online-literature.com/tagore-rabindranath/stories-from-tagore/4/>; Mark Twain, "A Dog's Tale," <http://www.online-literature.com/twain/316/>; Edith Wharton, "The Dilettante," <http://www.online-literature.com/wharton/2065/>; Virginia Woolf, "Kew Gardens," [http://www.online-literature.com/virginia\\_woolf/862/](http://www.online-literature.com/virginia_woolf/862/). Other stories available online will also be assigned.

**Open To:**

YR 2, 3

Course Credit Exclusions: PRIOR TO SUMMER 2015 : Course credit excusions : APEN 4130 3.0, AP/EN 413.0 6.0