

## Summer 2021

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| <b>AP/EN 2130 6.0A (SU)</b>    | The Short Story   |
| <b>Course Director:</b>        | Professor Marilou McKenna<br>mckenna@yorku.ca<br>email inquiries answered within 24 hrs during the week<br>telephone appointments can be arranged with the instructor   |
| <b>Time:</b>                   | Monday/Wednesday 16:00-17:30  |
| <b>Delivery Format:</b>        | <b>REMOTE</b> – (synchronous delivery) – There are scheduled meeting times for this course. Students should plan to be available for course-related activities during the appointed times.  |
| <b>Description:</b>            | <p>Short stories can be very short indeed—hence the popular terms micro fiction, flash fiction, hint fiction, sudden fiction, and so on. In this survey course, we will sample some of these recent genres of short fiction, but our focus will be on short stories of a more traditional length. In a variation of a popular saying, Henry David Thoreau is said to have commented in 1857 on the topic of story length in a letter to a friend: “Not that the story need be long, but it will take a long while to make it shorter.” Thoreau here refers to “the art of saying less but meaning more,” and it is the art of short fiction that will concern us in this course.</p> <p>We shall survey the development of the genre of short fiction from its origins in fables and fairy tales to its blossoming in the nineteenth century and subsequent periods of innovation in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, paying attention as we go to both the formal aspects of the genre and to the evolving theory about the nature of the short story and its distinctiveness from longer fiction such as the novel; as such, we shall be focused on what practitioners of the short story have had (and do have) to say about their art. The course will be provided online through twice-weekly lectures on eclass, in conjunction with an online discussion forum.</p> |
| <b>Category:</b>               | B   |
| <b>Historical Requirement:</b> | N/A   |
| <b>Requirements:</b>           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 2 Writing Exercises (3-4 double-spaced pages @ 20% each—40% in total)</li> <li>2) Midterm Test (online, timed @ 20%)</li> <li>3) Final Test (online, timed @ 20%; held in the final class)</li> <li>4) Twice weekly participation in online discussion forum @20%</li> </ol>  |

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|                      | (asynchronous activity)   |
| <b>Reading List:</b> | <p><b>All required texts will be available at the Yorku Bookstore.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) <i>The Broadview Anthology of Short Fiction</i>. Ed. Laura Buzzard and Marjorie Mather. 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian ed. Broadview Press, 2020.*</li><li>2) Additional short fiction will be available on eclass or through links provided there.</li></ol> <p>*May be purchased as an ebook from the publisher.</p> |
| <b>Open To:</b>      | Open  |