

## Course Outline: The Short Story

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH | FALL/WINTER 2026-2027

*Note for students: This short course outline is provided for planning purposes only. Course information is tentative and subject to change; the final course syllabus will be available by the first day of classes.*

### Course Code

AP/EN 2130 6.0A (Y) – The Short Story

### Course 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 19<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the influence of post-modernism and post-colonialism on the contemporary short story.

Through the analysis of a broad spectrum of short stories from different regions and perspectives in the Anglophone World (Canada, Great Britain, India, New Zealand, Nigeria, South Africa, and the United States), the course will also explore how literary and social contexts have influenced the multi-faceted development of the short story in English.

Students will have an opportunity to enrich their knowledge of this fascinating literary genre by reading critically a diverse sampling of short stories including works by Chinua Achebe, Anita Desai, Arthur Conan Doyle, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mavis Gallant, Nadine Gordimer, Pauline Johnson Tekahionwake, Stephen Leacock, Katherine Mansfield, M NourbeSe Philip, Ernest Thompson Seton, Rabindranath Tagore, Mark Twain, and Virginia Woolf.

The course takes as starting point that reading literary works, in this case, short stories, is a great source of personal enrichment. By deepening our understanding of the breadth of the human condition we add meaning to our own lives. For this reason, 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 close readings and discussions of short stories, and to incorporate theoretical concepts within a holistic approach to literary meaning.

### Course Delivery

Delivery Mode: ONLN

There are no designated meeting times and days. The course is given on an asynchronous basis. Each week is set out as a separate learning module on eClass, providing students with links to a wide range of learning resources, including short lecture notes, video walk throughs of weekly concepts, worksheets to help students apply the weekly concepts, interviews with authors and film adaptations of the stories being discussed. Students are expected to read the required readings and participate weekly in small online discussion groups, around structured learning activities. All four assignments, including two essay assignments and two readings tests, are submitted over eClass. Students receive individualized feedback on their assignments and have an opportunity to use this feedback to revise their work to improve their skills and mark. Students are encouraged to see learning as a process and to develop learning skills they can apply to enhance their academic success and their path to lifelong learning.

## Course Materials

Chinua Achebe, "The Sacrificial Egg," <http://spring2012english215.pbworks.com/w/file/fetch/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); Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake), "As It Was in the Beginning," <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/tbacig/cst1030/1030anth/epauline.html>; Stephen Leacock, "My Financial Career" and "A Manual of Education," <http://www.online-literature.com/stephen-leacock/>; 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); M. NourbeSe Philip, "Burn Sugar," <http://lit.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/blfi/view/1000061070>; Ernest Thompson Seton, "Lobo," and "Raggylug, the Story of a Cottontail Rabbit." *Wild Animals I Have Known*; [http://www.gatewaytotheclassics.com/browse/display.php?author=seton&book=wild&story=\\_contents](http://www.gatewaytotheclassics.com/browse/display.php?author=seton&book=wild&story=_contents); 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/>; Virginia Woolf, "Kew Gardens," [http://www.online-literature.com/virginia\\_woolf/862/](http://www.online-literature.com/virginia_woolf/862/). Other stories available online may also be assigned.

**Sample course materials assigned for the week on Stephen Leacock's short stories:** LEACOCK, Stephen. "My Financial Career," "A Lesson in Fiction," and "A Manual of Education." *Literary Lapses*. <http://www.online-literature.com/stephen-leacock/>; "Literary Sketch." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/art/literary-sketch>; Gerald Potterton's National Film Board animated film "My Financial Career," [https://www.nfb.ca/film/my\\_financial\\_career/](https://www.nfb.ca/film/my_financial_career/)

## Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
First-term essay assignment	20	Asynchronous	November 2, 2026
First-term test	20	Asynchronous	January 7, 2027
Second-term essay assignment	20	Asynchronous	March 3, 2027
Final test	20	Asynchronous	April 22, 2027
Participation	20	Asynchronous	April 5, 2027
	100%		

## Additional Information

Category:	B
Historical Requirements:	N/A
Open To:	Yr 2,3 (EN, ENPR, CRWR students only)