

THE SHORT STORY
ENGL 210
Summer II 2009

Instructor: Ben Sword
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Office Hours:

Monday: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Thursday: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Text: Charters, Ann. *The Short Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction*. 7th.
Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007.

Prerequisites:

Tarleton State University requires you to have successfully completed the freshman-level composition courses (ENGL 111 and ENGL112 or their accepted equivalent from another university/college) before enrolling in this class.

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to give the student the opportunity to engage the major authors of short fiction, along with the themes and strategies that establish short fiction as a literary genre.

This course also intends to help the student understand short fiction by the close reading and discussion of representative samples. Considerable attention will be given to the elements of fiction, to several types of critical approaches that can influence the understanding of a work, and to the significance of the story's thematic issues to society then and now.

Course Requirements:

There are three major examinations over the course of the semester. The material for each exam will come from the selections we will read and any material given in class lectures and handouts.

There will also be one out of class paper for this class. It will be a 3-5 page paper that demonstrates your ability to produce an academic work in keeping with the level of this class. You will need to demonstrate your ability to produce a work that is well documented using MLA style, as well as, a work that is clear, well developed, and free of mechanical errors. Any paper that is turned in without proper documentation of outside sources will receive an F.

Plagiarism:

Do your own work and avoid the temptation of having someone else "correct," revise, or even copy your assignments before you hand them in, even if that person is your roommate, mother, father, sibling, or high school English teacher. In all of these cases, you are still committing academic dishonesty, which is also known as "plagiarism," or, more bluntly put, "cheating."

If I find out that a major assignment has been plagiarized, I will automatically give it a failing grade and make a request to the English Department head that the student be given a failing grade for the course. *For legitimate help on writing assignments, go to the Writing Center (located in the O. A. Grant Humanities Building, Room 210).*

Grades:

Exam 1	20%	
Exam 2	20%	
Exam 3	20%	
Paper	15%	
Professionalism	25%	(quizzes, plot summaries, attendance, discussion)

You are expected to turn in ALL of your papers and take ALL of your exams, including the final, in order to pass the class. Failure to turn in any of these major assignments will result in a failing grade for the semester.

Participation:

Regular attendance is expected in order to demonstrate your professionalism as a student. Remember that we will have daily reading quizzes/plot summaries for the stories that are assigned. If you choose to miss 3 days of class activities (an entire week of a 5 week course) you will not pass the course. Of course participating doesn't mean simply attending class. It means taking part in class and/or group discussion. To be successful in this class you must turn off your cell phone, participate in class activities and be a part of what we are examining as a class. Failing to do so will negatively affect your professionalism grade.

Late Work:

I WILL NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK. Your papers are due on the date listed on the assignment sheet. If the paper is not turned in on the day, and at the time listed on the sheet, I will not accept it. Because you must complete all tasks to pass the course, failure to get an assignment turned in on time will result in failure of the course.

Learning Disabilities:

If you have a certified learning disability, please be sure that it is on record with at the Office of Student Services. *I cannot legally consider a student's disability (or even talk about it) unless it is a matter of official record.* See the director of Disabilities Services, Trina Geye, (Math Building, Room 201) for information. Then, please set up a time to visit with me to go over a plan for your accommodations.