

# ENG 208: Short Stories

Instructor: Mrs. Cheryl Metcalf

## Course Overview

**ENG 208: Short Stories:** 3 credit hours

### Course Description:

This course is an examination of short fiction from significant writers. The student will become familiar with authors and literary works that are part of the cultural canon of literature in the United States as well as from around the world. In addition, the student will gain the ability to identify and articulate impressions about the characteristic elements of the short story genre, explore and appreciate the deeper understanding of human nature and the human condition, and exercise the skill to think and respond analytically and critically about literary works. Critical reading and writing will be required. This course may require participation in activities and events outside the classroom that relate to the course outcomes.

### Course Objectives:

- Read selected short stories as assigned for class discussion, group interpretation, and occasional quiz grades.
- Participate actively in classroom discussions.
- Complete a weekly paper assignment (following MLA style for documentation) that comprises a short story portfolio for final submission.
- Complete a final examination.

### Reading and Writing Assignments:

**Reading Assignments** run continuously throughout the course. An important element for understanding discussions, lectures, and writing assignments is a dedication by students to critically read all assignments on time. Short cuts to reading, such as viewing a movie, reading explanatory notes, or other vices in replacement of accomplishing the actual reading assignments, will set the student up for failure.

**Writing Assignments** will coincide with all readings. Students will write a variety of assignments, critical and creative. Students are expected to proofread, revise, and edit all work before submitting the final draft for grading. Students may inquire peer editing but all work must be the student's original work. Papers are due and accepted before/on the "due date." Papers will not be graded after the given "due date" regardless of excused or unexcused absence. Any papers received after the due date will be given 50% of the given credit for the assignment with no critique or evaluation of the work. All writing assignments must be the original work of the students.

### **Classroom Discussions:**

Classroom discussion will offer an engagement of ideas among students with facilitating direction from the instructor. Students are required to complete all reading assignments and notetaking in this course to be prepared for effective classroom discussions. Prepared classroom discussions are an important element for effective communication.

### **Course Rationale:**

Basic awareness of literature is a characteristic of the educated individual. Through exposure to the outstanding authors and works of our American literary heritage, students gain understanding of history, psychology, sociology, business, human resources, and cultural diversity. In addition, the skills acquired in this course will help to prepare students for the nuance of communication in the professional world. In relation to college-wide outcomes, this course incorporates activities, assignments, and exercises that develop and improve students' language literacy and cultural literacy.

**Attendance:** Attendance is required for this course. If a student must miss a class, previous permission must be given in order for work to be accepted.

### **Teaching Methods, Aids, and Equipment:**

Several methods of teaching techniques will be used during the course. These include written lectures, tests, discussion, practice writing, formal assignments, and collaborative work. Student access to the Internet will be required and an online device that has use of Microsoft Office is needed. Textbooks, handouts, novel(s) will be either made available or assigned to acquire previous to needed use.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

1. Completing quizzes and assignments.
2. Being prepared for classroom discussions.
3. Regularly check-in to the classroom website for any updates
4. Submit work via online [www.metcalclassroom.com](http://www.metcalclassroom.com) when required
5. Present clean, neat work that adheres to the requirements.

### **Course Outcomes:**

1. Ability to assess and articulate personal responses to literary texts.
2. Acquisition of familiarity with the structures and devices of literary texts.
3. Advanced skill in writing clearly about literary texts, using appropriate textual
4. evidence.
5. Awareness of the discussions and discourses of those who are expert in analyzing
6. and critiquing literary texts.
7. Developed understanding of the many ways human beings respond to life
8. experiences and give meaning to these experiences through art.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Gain overall knowledge of several genres of literature: short story, poetry, plays, and novels.
2. Improve general ability to comprehend, appreciate and enjoy literature.
3. Develop an ability to compose literary analyses of assigned material.
4. Gain skill in participating in discussion activities.
5. Communicate through the written, spoken, and visual expression.

**Assessments:**

1. Read assigned selections on reading list, interpreting meaning, and engaging in discussion.
2. Complete in-class and out-of-class activities as assigned.
3. Complete tests as assigned.
4. Complete written assignments as assigned.

**Course Materials:**

Roberts, Edgar V., and Robert Zweig. *Literature: an Introduction to Reading and Writing*. Pearson, 2015.

A variety of texts will be available in the classroom for students to access. Some texts will be available on the classroom website.

**Course Policies:**

Papers are due and accepted before/on the “due date.” Papers will not be graded after the given “due date” regardless of excused or unexcused absence. Any papers received after the due date will be given 50% of the given credit for the assignment with no critique or evaluation of the work. Students are responsible for all material covered in class; quizzes are unannounced. All papers must be typed.

**Student Evaluation: Grading Policy**

90 – 100 = A

80 – 89 = B

70 – 79 = C

60 – 69 = D

0 – 59 = F

**Contact Information:**

Late work = 50 %

Plagiarized work will result in a failing grade and possible expulsion from the course. All academic dishonestly will be documented.

Students may contact me in person in Room 314 or online by posting a “Question” on the classroom website [www.metcalffclassroom.com](http://www.metcalffclassroom.com) In addition I can be reached by emailing me at [teacher@metcalffclassroom.com](mailto:teacher@metcalffclassroom.com) or [cmetcalf@rollred.org](mailto:cmetcalf@rollred.org) or by calling (740) 282- 9741 ext, 1314.

The above syllabus is subject to change based upon the instructor’s discretion.