



## RENG300 – Short Story

### Master Course Syllabus

### Course Overview (QM Standards 1.2)

**Course description:** In this class, we will study the literary and structural conventions of short stories written by American authors, with an emphasis on multicultural texts. Through a brief overview of several literary theories and major literary movements, students will have the opportunity to situate their study of a number of short stories within cultural, thematic, and temporal contexts. This course *is* writing and reading intensive; however, the writing is "I" centered and not research based. "I" centered writing will be explained in greater detail with each written assignment.

This eight week course schedule is broken into four Learning Modules with multiple parts for ease of access and completion, or what we consider "snack learning"--learning activities that you can complete in short periods of time so that before you know it you have "devoured" the course. Each Module will offer students opportunities to test their knowledge with interactive exercises, practice assessments, and personal response journal entries. There will be two essays, one at mid-term and one at the end of the class. Those essays serve as your mid-term exam and final exam. In addition to the primary learning outcomes, students are encouraged to explore their connections to the short stories we read in a personal response journal. The personal response journal is not graded as other written assignments are graded, but it will count toward your overall grade and class participation. Because the journal is private, it will not be shared with other students. Refer to the Personal Response Rubric for more information on how that activity will be assessed.

### Course Goals:

1. Identify the literary and structural conventions of short stories
2. Analyze the content of short stories
3. Apply various theories and reading techniques to their reading of short stories
4. Classify major movements in literary theory, and
5. Classify different literary movements.

### Pre-Requisites (QM Standard 1.6)

There are no course prerequisites for this course other than being an RBA (Regents Bachelor of Arts) student.

## **Minimum Technical Requirements and Online Resources (QM Standards 1.5 & 1.7)**

In addition to a web browser (preferable Firefox) that is Blackboard compatible, you will need the other WVROCKS supported technologies outlined in the student policies section.

**Online Resources:** This course makes use of many online resources. I have made every effort to make sure the links I have are up-to-date. However, due to the changing nature of the web, you may find that a resource is temporarily unavailable or has been removed. If this should happen, please send me an email and I will find an alternative resource or modify the assignment accordingly.

## **Instructor Information (QM Standards 1.8 & 5.3)**

Individual instructors complete this information.

### **Virtual Office Hours**

I am available in my virtual office by appointment only. Send me an email to set up an appointment.

### **Personal Commitment**

My personal commitments to you as a participant include:

- I will reply to course mail messages within 24 hours;
- I will read all discussion postings and will reply where appropriate within 3 days
- I will acknowledge my receipt of every course mail message immediately upon reading it. If I am unable to respond to the request or concern at the time of initial reply, I will give you an estimated time for my next reply.
- If I am going to be away from the course space for more than a day or two, I will send a message to you indicating the length of my absence.
- I will regularly update information regarding due dates in the course announcements.

## **Optional/Required Course Materials (QM Standard 4.6)**

You will find your required textbook information in the course catalog at <http://ilearn-wvrocks.wvnet.edu>. All other materials are found in the individual course modules.

## **Grading Policy (QM Standard 3.2)**

### **Evaluation and Grading**

Course Requirements and Weights:

Content Quizzes (25%)

Personal Response Journal Entries (25%)

Culminating Essays (2 @ 25% for a total of 50%)

\*These essays take the place of mid-session and final exams.

### List of Course Assignments with Point Values

<b>Assignment/Assessment</b>	<b>Point Value</b>
MOA1 Class Bio Discussion	20
MOA2 Orientation Quiz	10
MOA3 Orientation Assignment	5
M1Q1 Reading Quiz	40
M1A1 Journal #1	20
M1Q2 Reading Quiz	30
M1A2 Journal #2	20
M1Q3 Reading Quiz	40
M1A3 Journal #3	20
M1Q4 Reading Quiz	40
M1A4 Journal #4	20
M2Q1 Reading Quiz	44
M2A1 Journal #5	20
M2Q2 Reading Quiz	40
M2A2 Journal #6	20
M2Q3 Reading Quiz	40
M2A3 Journal #7	20
M2A4 Mid-Term Essay	100
M3Q1 Reading Quiz	40
M3A1 Journal #8	20
M3Q2 Reading Quiz	44
M3A1 Journal #8	20
M3Q2 Reading Quiz	44
M3A2 Journal #9	20
M3A3 Journal #10	20
M4Q1 Reading Quiz	40
M4A1 Journal #11 (Rough Draft)	20
M4Q2 Reading Quiz	40
M4A2 Final Essay	100
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>893</b>

### Module Objectives and Assessments (QM Standard 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4, 3.5, 5.1)

#### Module 1: Short Story Overview

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

1. Identify the five elements of a short story
2. Define the conventions of a short story, and
3. Apply various reading techniques to the reading of short stories.

## **Module 2: Literary Conventions**

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- Define the literary conventions of point of view, style, tone, symbol, allegory, image, and motif
- Identify the author's use of point of view, style, tone, symbol, allegory, image, and motif in their short stories to engage readers
- Apply your understanding of point of view, style, tone, symbol, allegory, image, and motif in a discussion of the short stories and short films in this module, and
- Synthesize your awareness of the significance of point of view, style, tone, symbol, allegory, image, and motif in mediating issues in your own life.

## **Module 3: Literary Theory**

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

1. Define literary theory, specifically psychoanalytic and gender theory, as well as graphic storytelling.
2. Analyze short stories based on different literary theories.
3. Apply your understanding of literary theory by analyzing short stories and short films in this module.
4. Synthesize your awareness of literary theory in mediating issues in your own life.

## **Module 4: Modernism and Post-Modernism**

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

1. Define modernism and post-modernism.
2. Analyze short stories based on the principles of modernism and post-modernism.
3. Synthesize your awareness of modernist and post-modern principles in mediating issues in your own life.