Course Policies and Requirements for The Short Story

Professor: Jack Peters
Course: English 3450, Section 001
176 Sage Hall 9:00-9:50 a.m. M W F

Text:
The Story and Its Writer (Eighth Edition; Bedford/St. Martin's)
James Joyce, Dubliners (Norton)

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Office Hours:
10:00-1100 a.m. M W F, by appointment,
or most times I'm in my office

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Course Requirements:
The requirements for this course are as follows: a mid-term exam (worth 40%), a final exam (worth 40%), and reading quizzes (worth 20%). There will be 1 make-up quiz for those who miss a quiz as a result of excused absences. I will also drop the lowest quiz score.

Course Subject Matter:
This course will be an investigation of the short story. We will study how to read and write about literature, and we will look at different aspects of literature and different approaches to studying it. We will also consider various movements (such as romanticism, modernism, etc.) as they appear in the various works we study this semester. We will also look at the stories in the context in which they appeared. The goal of this class is for you to gain a greater appreciation of the short story form and the cultures that produced it.

Course Policies:
Attendance/Promptness: You are allowed 3 unexcused absence without penalty. You can use the unexcused absences for any reason, but use them wisely. Their purpose is to allow you to miss class if something important comes up that does not constitute an excused absence. Illness, family emergency (e.g., death in the family), observance of religious holidays, and university-excused absences (e.g., participation in intercollegiate athletic events, etc.) are the only reasons for excused absences; work is not an excused absence, nor are traffic, car trouble, being in a wedding, bad weather, being in jail, and so on; also, all excused absences are subject to my judgement and require proof on your part. You also must attend at least 75% of class to get credit for attending class on any particular day. If you have 4 unexcused absences, I will drop your final grade for the class by 4%, and I will drop your final grade for the class by an additional 2% for every unexcused absence after that. If you miss more than 12 classes, I will probably ask you either to drop the class or take an incomplete (only in the case of excused absences). Each case will be treated individually, though. I will send around a roll at every class. It is your responsibility to sign the roll. If you don’t sign the roll and I don’t remember that you were in class, then I will assume you were absent on that day. Even though you have 3 unexcused absence to work with, you should try not to miss class unless it is absolutely necessary; it will be to your benefit to attend class, since the material discussed in class is what appears on the exams. Also, quizzes missed because of unexcused absences cannot be made up. As a result, students who chronically miss class generally don’t do very well in the course. Although I have no standard tardiness policy, if you are chronically late (in my judgment), I will count a certain number of tardy days as one unexcused absence. Also, reading
quizzes are usually given only at the beginning of class, so if you arrive late you would have less than the full
time to complete the quiz, or you may miss the quiz entirely. Quizzes missed because of tardiness cannot be
made up unless the tardiness is a result of a good, documented reason (comparable to the reasons for excused
absences). In addition, whether you're present or absent, you're responsible for all material we cover in class,
including any changes in due dates, policies, or reading assignments. So make sure you check the notes of
other students for any classes you miss. Finally, if you miss an exam, you must have a good, documented
excuse or you will probably not be allowed to make it up.

Accommodations: In accordance with the terms and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section
504, Rehabilitation Act, I cooperate with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable
accommodations for you if you qualify as a student with disabilities. Please register with ODA, and present
your written request to me within the first week of class if possible.

Texts and Readings: The texts should be on sale at the student bookstore. You are welcome to use other
editions of the book, although the page numbering will likely differ and some of the material will be different.
I have also placed a copy of the books on reserve in the library, but they may be different editions. Some of the
material may also be available at Project Gutenberg or Online Books or elsewhere. You should read ahead for
any heavier reading periods.

Mid-Term and Final Exams: The mid-term exam will be a one-hour exam and will likely be multiple choice
consisting of interpretative questions. The exam is expected to determine your knowledge and understanding
of the material we have covered to that point. The final exam will be a two-hour exam and will likely be
similar to the mid-term in makeup. If necessary, I scale mid-term exam and/or final exam grades. I do not
give early or late mid-term or final exams, except in extremely unusual circumstances (similar to those
constituting excused absences).

Final Grades: Your final class grade will be calculated based on the percentages noted earlier. I use standard
percentages for grades (0%-59.4%=F; 59.5%-69.4%=D; 69.5%-79.4%=C; 79.5%-89.4%=B; 89.5%-100%=A). If necessary, I scale final grades, either by lowering the standards for a single grade or multiple
grades or by scaling the entire class, depending on the type of scale required in a particular situation. There
are no extra credit assignments in this course.

Reading Quizzes: Reading quizzes are unannounced and are usually given during the first 10 minutes of class.
You may not have a quiz each class, but there will be a fair number of them. The purpose of reading quizzes is
to determine whether you have read the material, not necessarily whether you have understood the material.
As a result, if you have read the material carefully, you should do well on the quizzes, but if you have not read
you will probably not do well. I do not scale quiz scores.

Make-Up Quizzes: A make-up quiz will be given once during the semester. It will cover the reading for that
day and will be taken only by those who have missed quizzes as a result of an excused absence. I will then take
the score for the make-up quiz and replace the zero on the missed quiz with the score on the make-up quiz.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Finally, if you plagiarize the term paper or cheat on an exam or quiz, you will receive the maximum penalty
allowed to me, and I’ll report you to university standards for disciplinary action, regardless of your past
performance or class standing.
August 28: Introduction to course
August 30: Kate Chopin, “The Story of an Hour”
September 2: No Class, Labor Day
September 4: F. Scott Fitzgerald, “Babylon Revisited”
September 6: Ernest Hemingway, “Hills Like White Elephants”
September 9: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”
September 11: William Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily”
September 13: Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery”
September 23: Tadeusz Borowski, “This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen”
September 25: John Updike, “A & P”
September 27: Alice Walker, “Everyday Use”
September 30: Philip Roth, “The Conversion of the Jews”
October 2: Albert Camus, “The Guest”
October 7: Richard W. right, “The Man Who Was Almost a Man”
October 9: Ambrose Bierce, “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge”
October 11: Guy de Maupassant, “The Necklace”
October 14: Jack London, “To Build a Fire”
October 16: Mid-Term Exam
October 18: Ursula K. Le Guin, “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas”
October 21: Stephen Crane, “The Open Boat”
October 23: Leo Tolstoy, “The Death of Ivan Ilych”
October 25: Jorge Luis Borges, “The Circular Ruins”
October 30: Eudora Welty, “Why I Live at the P.O.”
November 1: James Joyce, “The Sisters” from Dubliners
November 4: James Joyce, “An Encounter” from Dubliners
November 6: James Joyce, “A Raby” from Dubliners
November 8: James Joyce, “Eveline” from Dubliners
November 11: James Joyce, “After the Race”; James Joyce, “Two Gallants” from Dubliners
November 13: James Joyce, “The Boarding House” from Dubliners
November 15: James Joyce, “A Little Cloud” from Dubliners
November 18: James Joyce, “Counterparts” from Dubliners
November 20: James Joyce, “Clay” from Dubliners
November 22: James Joyce, “A Painful Case” from Dubliners
November 25: James Joyce, “Ivy Day in the Committee Room” from Dubliners
November 27: James Joyce, “A Mother” from Dubliners
November 30: No Class, Thanksgiving
December 2: James Joyce, “Grace” from Dubliners
December 3: James Joyce, “The Dead” from Dubliners
December 5: James Joyce, “The Dead” from Dubliners continued; Course conclusion
December 11: Final Exam 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.