

4012th Grade English

Course Syllabus
School for Excellence

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Course Description: In this course we will consider the art of the short story writing as it has been practiced in America over the past two hundred years. We will consider context, technique, and theme, looking for patterns and connections as well as variations and innovations. We will also examine some of the attempts to theorize about the short story as an art form. Finally, each student will select a single writer for additional study.

Class Expectations: Everyone has the right to, and should expect to, learn. Each individual is worthy of respect. Classroom orderliness is necessary for an effective classroom. Hard work is necessary for learning. This course is being conducted as a college level course and your behavior will reflect that.

Learning Outcomes:

- You will gain an understanding of the development of the American short story over the past 200 years, including its association with romanticism, Gothicism, realism, naturalism, modernism, and post-modernism.
- You will become aware of the changing technique used in short story writing.
- You will recognize the short story as reflecting the patterns and preoccupations of American society, among them nature, sexuality, race, ethnicity, the irrational, self-formation, and human isolation.
- You will develop an increased understanding of one author of your choice.
- You will develop your skill in text analysis and evaluation, research, and oral and written communication.

Class Materials: Each student is expected to bring to class each day their three ring binder or notebook, a pen or pencil and a folder. Failure to be prepared means you are prepared to fail!

Each reflection is expected to be typed or neatly hand written on loose leaf that is not ripped out of their notebook.

Grading Policy

Classwork /Participation

Percentage

40

Homework and organization

10

- *Reflections*

Projects/Exams

30

- *Presentations*

- *Papers*

Quizzes and small assignments

20

General Rule: Be on time, be prepared, be respectful and be responsible.

Course Requirements:

- Students are expected to attend every class with the text read and in hand and whatever assignment is due that day. This will allow you the opportunity for the fullest participation, which, in turn, will have a positive effect on your learning and your grade.
- Students are expected to be in the classroom, prepared to learn on time.
- Lateness is unacceptable and frequent lateness, even with a pass, will result in loss of points for your overall grade.
- Classroom courtesy requires that you make every effort to not leave during class except for emergencies.
- Bullying or harassing another student in this classroom is inappropriate and unacceptable. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this behavior.
- As per the new school rule there are no cell phones in class. If you are caught with your cell phone out at any time, it will be confiscated. There are no excuses or attitudes!
- There are no electronic devices OF ANY KIND allowed in class.

If a student disregards rules repeatedly they will be referred to the Dean for further disciplinary action.

Absences: A quiz or exam missed can be made up after school. A missed presentation CAN NOT be made up and will result in an automatic ZERO and possible failure for the quarter! If a student fails to make up work after school after an absence, that student will receive a ZERO for that assignment.

Late Work: Late work will be accepted with a deduction to the student's grade for only one week after the work is due. For each day that work is late 5 points will be deducted from the assignment. DO NOT TURN WORK IN LATE IF YOU EXPECT FULL CREDIT FOR THE ASSIGNMENT.

Extra Help: I will make myself available to you before and after school. There are plenty of opportunities for you to get the help you need. It is your responsibility to ask for that help. Anyone looking for extra help may see me or e-mail me to arrange a meeting place during those times.

You can reach me by email at cdeangelo1982@gmail.com at anytime. I check email frequently, so feel free to email me about any questions or problems you may be having in class. There should be no excuses for not having your best work done on time and not having your best attitude.

Parent/Guardian Communication: Your parents/guardians are an integral part of your education, and I am pleased to speak with guardians at any time. Any parent/guardian who would like to discuss a child's progress should email me at cdeangelo1982@gmail.com.

Plagiarism: Is the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author/person and the representation of them as one's own original work. My policy is that any student who plagiarizes an assignment will fail that assignment and possibly the course. There is NO option for resubmission or re-grading of said assignment.

Reflection and Oral Presentation

Your reflection paper should be kept in your binder and you are expected to have it each class. If you miss a presentation, it cannot be made up. If you foresee that you need to miss a presentation, you may switch stories with another student, provided I am informed beforehand.

Reflection: In preparation for each discussion class, the assigned story should be read and everyone be prepared to discuss. For each story you read, select a key passage of around 25-50 lines for reflection writing. At the head of each journal entry, record the date, title of story, the page number/s and the opening words of the passage. This passage chosen should be what you think is "the most important" part of the story. Write an entry of 250-300 words focused on the passage, "close-reading" it. Then reflect on its relation to the work as a whole. (Think about theme, symbolism, characterization, etc.) Check the length of each journal to make sure it is long enough to be useful. These entries will be used as the basis of class discussion.

Story Presentations: When you are assigned to make a presentation, follow the directions for the reflection entries, except that you will choose 2 related passages. As part of your presentation for your presentation, try to frame several questions about each passage that will lead us to a deeper understanding of the passage and its relation to the story or the author's craft. When you present your passages, put them into context (why is the passage important? At what point does it occur?), read each passage aloud, and then, in the form of questions and commentary, discuss the passage with us. Please don't just read your journal entry, as this often forestalls discussion. As with the reflections, choose your passages with care – key passages rather than ones that deal with details. Choose passages that allow you to focus on the text. Don't just read and make a few comments. The idea is to promote discussion.

Reflection papers will be collected once the discussion is completed.

Presentation on Author or time period: Before we discuss the short story we will need to know something about the person who wrote it or the time in which the story was written. You will choose to present on either one of our featured authors or the story's association with a certain period (i.e. romanticism,

Gothicism, realism, naturalism, modernism, and post-modernism). You will research your topic of choosing; prepare a PowerPoint presentation and present for ten to fifteen minutes. These presentations will give us necessary information to understand the story better. You may use whatever sources you find helpful and will list the sources in the last slide of your presentation. You may use Wikipedia but that CAN NOT be your only source! You are expect to use and list a minimum of 5 sources. Plagiarism is unacceptable!

Critical Analysis Paper: You will be required to complete one critical analysis paper per quarter. This paper will focus on one or two stories that we have read in class. Your task will be to write a 3-5 page response supporting or critiquing an idea presented. This paper will be discussed at length during the school year.

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Reading List

Please note that we are not limited to these stories and more may be added throughout the school year.

Washington Irving: **Rip Van Winkle**

The Adventure of the German Student

Nathaniel Hawthorne: **Wakefield**

Rappaccini's Daughter:

Edgar Allan Poe: **Ligeia**

The Fall of the House of Usher

Herman Melville: **Bartleby**

Henry James: **The Jolly Corner**

Mark Twain: **The Celebrating Jumping Frog**

William Dean Howells: **Editha**

Sarah Orne Jewett: **The Courting of Sister Wisby**

Kate Chopin: **Desiree's Baby**

Charlotte Perkins Gilman: **The Yellow Wallpaper**

Stephen Crane: **The Open Boat**

Edith Wharton: **Roman Fever**

Sherwood Anderson: **I Want To Know Why**

F. Scott Fitzgerald: **Babylon Revisited**

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

Ernest Hemingway: **Big Two-Hearted River**

Zora Neale Hurston: **The Gilded Six-Bits**

William Faulkner: **Red Leaves**

That Evening Sun

Richard Wright: **The Man Who Was Almost a Man**

Flannery O'Connor: **A Good Is Hard to Find**

Bernard Malamud: **The Magic Barrel**

James Baldwin: **Sonny's Blues**

John Updike: **The Doctor's Wife**

John Barth: **Lost in the Funhouse**

Joyce Carol Oates: **Daisy**

Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been? -

Robert Stone: **Helping**

Raymond Carver: **Cathedral**