

**Syllabus for Short Story Class  
School Year 2020–2021**

**Tentative Speech Night Date: Friday, 6:30 p.m., May 21, 2021**

**Important Notice:**

Assignments will be posted online by Thursday evening every week. The syllabus indicates what the lesson will cover as well as what assignments will be due the following week. I may slightly alter the syllabus as we progress through the semester. In addition to the reading and study guide questions listed, the students will be assigned two independent book reports/analyses as well as four critical compositions and one speech to write. Students should note when the compositions are due and plan ahead. Always be prepared for a pop quiz on the reading material. Not all of the essays are listed in this syllabus; some will be listed in the study guide material which will be posted online.

**September**

*Week 1*

What is fiction? Brief history of the short story as a genre. Oral history

*Week: Read Arabian Nights, the Grimm’s Fairy Tales; Oscar Wilde’s “The Remarkable Rocket” Complete study guide material.*

*Week 2*

Oral History

*Assignment: Read Washington Irving’s “Rip Van Winkle.” Complete study guide material. independent reading book assigned.*

*Week 3*

Stories of Romance and Adventure

*Assignment: Read Edgar Rice Burrough’s “Witch Doctor Seeks Vengeance” and “Balin and Balan.” Complete study guide material.*

*Week 4*

Stories of Romance and Adventure

*Assignment: Read Frank Stockton’s “The Lady or the Tiger” and Erckman-Chatrian’s “A Forest Betrothal.” Complete study guide material. Essay or short story assigned.*

**October**

*Week 4*

Stories of Romance and Adventure

*Assignment: Read Frank Stockton’s “The Lady or the Tiger” and Erckman-Chatrian’s “A Forest Betrothal.” Complete study guide material. Essay or short story assigned.*

*Week 5*

Stories of Realism

*Assignment: Read Francois Coppee's "A Piece of Bread," Guy de Maupassant's "The Blind Man" and "The Diamond Necklace." Complete study guide material. Essay due.*

### *Week 6*

#### Stories of Realism

*Assignment: Read de Maupassant's "My Uncle Jules," Anton Chekhov's "The Cook's Wedding," O. Henry's "The Cop and the Anthem," and Leo Tolstoy's "Alyosha the Pot." Complete study guide material.*

### *Week 7*

#### Stories of Realism

*Assignment: Read Alexander Pushkin's "The Shot" and Ambrose Bierce's "Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge." Complete study guide material.*

### *Week 8*

Naturalism: Definition of term; biographies of Sherwood Anderson and Jack London.

*Assignment: Read Stephen Crane's "Blue Hotel" and Jack London's "To Build a Fire." Complete study guide material.*

## **November**

### *Week 9*

#### Satire

*Assignment: Read Voltaire's "Micromegas" and Nikolai Gogol's "The Cloak." Complete study guide questions. Essay assigned.*

### *Week 10*

#### Local Color

*Assignment: Read Kvaran's "A Dry Spell," Willa Cather's "On the Divide," and Bret Harte's "Outcasts of Poker Flat." Complete study guide questions. Essay due.*

### *Week 11*

#### Detective and Mystery

*Assignment: Read Wilkie Collins' "Mr. Linsmore and the Widow" and A. C. Doyle's "Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb." Complete study guide questions.*

## **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

## **December**

### *Week 12*

#### Moral Tales, Emblems and Symbols

*Assignment: Read Bjornson's "The Father," Leo Tolstoy's "The Candle," and Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Celestial Railroad."*

### *Week 13*

#### Moral Tales, Emblems and Symbols

*Assignment: Read Mansfield's "Her First Ball," Anderson's "The Egg," and Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Wakefield." Independent Reading book report is due.*

### Week 14

Moral Tales, Emblems and Symbols

*Assignment: Read Anton Chekhov's "The Bet" and Katherine Mansfield's "Her First Ball." (TBA). Speech assigned.*

## CHRISTMAS BREAK

### January

#### Week 15

The Modern Psychological Short Story

*Assignment: Read James Joyce's "Araby" and Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Minister's Black Veil."*

#### Week 16

The Modern Psychological Short Story

*Assignment: Read Katherine Mansfield's "Miss Brill," "An Ideal Family," and Joseph Conrad's "Secret Sharer." Speech due.*

#### Week 17

Science Fiction Stories

*Assignment: Read H.G. Wells' "New Accelerator" and Philip K. Dick's "The Gun."*

#### Week 18

Art talking about Art

*Assignment: Read Hawthorne's "Drowne's Wooden Image" and "Artist of the Beautiful"; Franz Kafka's "Hunger Artist" and Jean Aicard's "Vase of Clay." Second Draft of Speech Assigned.*

### February

#### Week 19

The Epistolary Novel

*Assignment: Read excerpts of Richardson's "Pamela" and Francis Burney's "Cecelia."*

#### Week 20

The Novel: Realism

*Anthony Trollope's The Warden*

#### Week 21

The Novel: Realism

*Anthony Trollope's The Warden*

#### Week 22

The Novel: Realism

*Anthony Trollope's The Warden*

### March

#### Week 23

The Novel: Realism

*Anthony Trollope's The Warden*

*Week 24*

The Novel

*Assignment: Begin reading Austen's Mansfield Park.*

*Week 25*

The Novel

*Assignment: Begin reading Austen's Mansfield Park..*

*Week 26*

The Novel

*Assignment: Jane Austen's Mansfield Park.*

**April**

**Easter Break**

*Week 27*

The Novel

*Assignment: Jane Austen's Mansfield Park.*

*Week 28*

The Novel

*Assignment: Jane Austen's Mansfield Park.*

*Week 29*

The Novel

*Assignment: Jane Austen's Mansfield Park..*

*Week 30*

*Study for Speech Night*

**May**

*Week 31*

*Study for Speech Night*

*Week 32*

*Study for Speech Night*

*Week 33*

**Speech Night at 6:30**

*Study for the Comprehensive Test*

*Week 33*

Comprehensive Test

***Books to Borrow***

Jane Austin, *Mansfield Park* (1813)

Anthony Trollope, *The Warden* (1855)

***Choice of books for the independent reading assignment***

Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* (1719)

Samuel Richardson, *Pamela* (1740)

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (1847)

Charles Dickens, *Bleak House* (1853)

George Eliot, *Silas Marner* (1861)

Rudyard Kipling, *Kim* (1901)

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *House of the Seven Gables* (1851)

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (1925)

Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952)