

Text

Bohner, Charles, and Lyman Grant. *Short Fiction: Classic and Contemporary*, 6th ed.

Learning Outcomes

1. Increase each student's cultural literacy through the reading of short fiction from a variety of cultures and time periods.
2. Develop each student's critical thinking skills and communications skills by means of four tests that will require the student to identify key characters and themes and to write essays that explore concepts crucial to understanding the relationship of fiction to the culture from which it is drawn.
3. Develop each student's confidence as a reader, writer, and thinker through the instructor's mentoring support for each student's reading comprehension and writing efforts.

Course Outline

Class Week	Text Coverage	Assignment
September		
Aug. 22	Introduction	
Aug. 25-29	1-29; 935-966; 1293-1295	
3-5(Labor Day-Sept. 1)	528-547	
8-12	259-269; 1237-1238	
15-19	795-819; 272-276	Test #1
22-26	224-251	
October		
Sept. 29-Oct. 3	499-517	
6-8 (Fall Break—10 th)	1073-1114	
13-17	Test #2	
20-24	735-745; 339-354	

27-31 598-601; 603-629

November

3-7 642-671 **Test #3**

10-14 50-56; 1010-1034

17-21 1186-1194

24 (Thanksgiving, 26-28) 373-382; 693-700

December

1-5 45-49; 416-429

10 **Test #4**

*All page numbers refer to the text.

Course Rationale

This semester, we will be studying fiction through what has come to be known as the “short story.” The course will be divided into four segments, each culminating in a test. In the first segment, we will examine the beginnings of the short story through the works of the great American authors of the nineteenth century: E. A. Poe, Hawthorne, Melville, and Kate Chopin.

In the second segment, we will stay in the nineteenth century, but journey to Russia, where authors such as Gogol, Chekhov, and Tolstoy took the form to new levels of realism and psychological complexity.

In the third segment, we will delve into the more experimental short stories from the turn of the twentieth century, ranging from harrowing accounts of humans against the environment in the works of Americans Jack London and Stephen Crane to radical experiments with the story form itself by the Irishman James Joyce and German Franz Kafka.

The final segment will take on modern multi-cultural and ethnic issues, with stories from American Indian writers Sherman Alexie and Leslie Silko, Afro-American writers Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison, Middle Eastern writers Hanif Kureishi and Iqbal Ahmad, and F. Scott Fitzgerald studying Americans living abroad in the 1920s.

Policies and Procedures

Course Outline: The course outline above may have to be revised or amended to meet the specific needs of the class. You should bring your copy to every class and note any necessary changes. If significant revisions are necessary due to weather or other constraints, I will print and distribute a new outline.

Tests: Tests will consist of identification and short essay answer, to include definitions. The grading scale is as follows: A, 90-100; B, 80-89; C, 70-79; D, 60-69; F, below 60. Here is how I will convert the letter grades you receive on the tests to compute your final average: A+=4.0; A=3.75; A-=3.5; B+=3.25; B=3.0; B-=2.75; C+=2.5; C=2.25; C-=2.0; D+=1.75; D=1.5; D-=1.25; F+=1.0; F=0.0.

Quizzes: There will be regular, unannounced quizzes to test your comprehension and preparation. They will consist of several short answer questions that should not be difficult for anyone who has read the assigned material. I will drop the two lowest quiz grades. Quizzes may not be made up.

Grade Weighting:

Tests	70%
Quizzes	30%

Attendance: I subscribe to the 10% Rule described in the USC-L *Bulletin*. If you miss more than 10% of class meetings, I will penalize your final grade.

Academic Honesty: All tests will be administered under an honor system. To help the honor system work, the following policies are in effect: (1) On test days do not bring any books, notes, or paper to the classroom-- only your pen. I will provide all paper. (2) If you observe dishonesty of any kind during the test, please report it to me. I will protect your anonymity. (3) I will investigate any evidence of dishonesty, to include plagiarism on out of class papers, and if such dishonesty is proved, I will impose sanctions. These sanctions may involve failure for the test or essay, failure for the course, or dismissal from the course.

Academic Disturbance Policy: Disturbances in classes, labs, during field trips, lectures, presentations, and other academic activities may result in one or more of the following sanctions: verbal reprimand, written warning, permanent dismissal from the class, suspension from the University for a period of time, or permanent suspension from the University. If a student is dismissed from a class after the last day to withdraw from classes, the student will receive an F grade in the class. A student may appeal verbal reprimand, written warning, or permanent dismissal from the class to the Academic Dean. A student may appeal suspension from the University for a period of time or permanent suspension from the University to the Vice Provost for Regional Campuses.

Office Hours (218 Bradley):

MW: 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; 2:00-3:30 p.m.

TTh: 2:00-3:30 p.m.

F: 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Email: bnims@gwm.sc.edu

Office Phone: 803-313-7047 (with message service)

My home phone is 803-547-0291 and I will accept calls until 9 p.m.

