

Fall Quarter 2015
Short Story Masterpieces
Michael Krasny, Professor

Course Text: THE STORY AND ITS WRITER (Ninth Edition) edited by Ann Charters. Bedford/St. Martins

The reading schedule features concentration on a pair of stories each week with a third added for us to key in on should time permit. Required reading also includes essays listed which are all in the Commentaries section (Part II). Be certain also to read the biographical page of each writer under study which can be found before each story begins. Two of the stories included can be found on line. Other stories by those two authors, if you are interested, are in the Charters text.

If you are taking the course for credit you must turn in notes on all the stories assigned as well as a final critical essay of eight to ten pages on one or more of the stories due no later than the Thursday following the last class. Reading assignments by weeks:

WEEK # 1 (9-24) Stories by Washington Irving ("Rip Van Winkle" on pages 812 thru 823) and Mark Twain ("The Celebrated Frog of Calaveras County" on pages 293 thru 297). Also read Kate Chopin ("Desiree's Baby" on pages 284 thru 289) and commentaries on pages 491, 413 & 1412.

WEEK # 2 (10-1) Stories by Anton Chekhov ("The Darling" on pages 271 thru 282) and D.H. Lawrence ("The Horse-Dealer's Daughter" ON LINE). Also read Willa Cather ("Paul's Case" on pages 238 thru 251) and commentary on 1528.

WEEK # 3 (10-8) Stories by James Joyce ("The Dead" on pages 879 thru 708) and Katherine Mansfield ("The Garden Party" ON LINE). Also read Edith Wharton ("The Other Two" on pages 1329 thru 1343) and commentaries on 1422 and 1497 and 1468.

10-15 NO CLASS. HOMECOMING.

WEEK # 4 (10-22) Stories by Jorge Luis Borges ("The South" on pages 137 thru 141) and Isabel Allende ("The Art of Vengeance" on pages 20 thru 25). Also read Roberto Bolano ("Jim" on pages 134 thru 135) and commentaries on 1631 thru 1645.

WEEK #5 (10-29) Stories by William Faulkner ("That Evening Sun" on pages 460 thru 472) and Flannery O'Connor ("Everything That Rises Must Converge" on pages 1005 thru 1016). Also read Bobbie Ann Mason ("Shiloh" on pages 867 thru 876) and commentary on 1424 and 1608.

WEEK #6 (11-5) Stories by John Cheever ("The Swimmer" on pages 253 thru 260) and Raymond Carver ("A Small, Good Thing" on pages 219 thru 227). Also read Philip Roth ("The Conversion of the Jews" on pages 1167 thru 1178) and commentaries on 1409 and 1557 thru 1569).

WEEK #7 (11-12) Stories by Sherman Alexei ("The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven" pages 14 thru 19) and Louise Erdrich ("The Red Convertible" on pages 445 thru 452). Also read Leslie Marmon Silko ("Yellow Woman" on pages 1209 thru 1214) and commentaries on 1390, 1393 and 1516.

WEEK #8 (11-19) Stories by Zora Neale Hurston ("The Gilded Six Bits" on pages 594 thru 602) and Richard Wright ("The Man Who Was Almost a Man" pages 1370 thru 1379). Also read Alice Walker ("Everyday Use" on pages 1312 thru 1318) and commentaries on 1434, 1438 and 1535).

11-26 NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING.

WEEK #9 (12-3) Stories by Tim O'Brien ("The Things They Carried" on pages 990 thru 1003) and Donald Barthelme ("At the Tolstoy Museum" on pages 84 thru 95). Also read Art Spiegelman ("Prisoner on the Hell Planet" on pages 1218 thru 1221) and commentaries on 1494 and 1522, 1649 and 1652.

WEEK #10 (LAST CLASS) Stories by Edwidge Danticat ("Night Women" on pages 386 thru 388) and Alice Munro ("Age of Faith" pages 927 thru 942). Also read Ha Jin ("Saboteur" on pages 660 thru 667) and commentary on 1481.