

**Texas A&M - Central Texas**  
**ENGL 4319-115 Literary Genres**  
**ENGL 5340-115 Studies in Modern Fiction**  
**Summer 2018**  
**ONLINE**

**Instructor**

Dr. Geoffrey Stacks  
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\*I only teach online courses and don't live locally, so the only way to get a hold of me is to email me or to send me a message through Canvas.

**Course Description**

This is a cross-listed course. Some of you are undergraduates (those registered for ENGL 4319), and some of you are grad students (5340). We will all be reading the same material, but the assignments will be different.

This course will focus on the genre of the short story. Although the genre itself might seem to limit its own variety, we will read a wide range of stories that demonstrate a rich possibility of options. We will read stories—ranging from realistic narratives to experimental prose—by authors from a variety of times and places. Throughout the course, we will see if we can develop some questions about this relatively new genre: What is possible within the genre of the short story? Can we say anything at all about all short stories? How does this genre overlap, if it does, with poetry and novels? What is possible within a few pages? And how are these stories connected? I also hope that practice in reading and writing carefully about short fiction will help you develop your interpretive skills for all kinds of texts.

**Required Text**

Here is the book you'll need for this course.

- *The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*  
edited by Richard Bausch and R.V. Cassill  
the Shorter 8th Edition  
<http://a.co/8JyjNj9>  
ISBN-13: 978-0393937763  
ISBN-10: 0393937763

**Grade**

- Exercises (50%)  
I use the term “exercises” to cover a variety of smaller assignments. We will do several “exercises” throughout the course. These will range from short papers (usually a page or less) to online posts in discussion boards. The grades for all of your exercises will be averaged for this grade.
- Short Essays (30%)  
We will have three short essays (2-3 pages long, give or take) due after Units 1, 2, and 3. Each of these essays will be worth 10% of your final grade.

- Final paper (20%)  
This will be a longer paper due at the end of the course.

### Schedule

Here is an overview of the course and how it's organized. This is just a broad overview. For specific deadlines and the titles of specific stories you need to read, please look at the calendar or click on "Assignments."

Date	Subject Matter	Stories*
Week 1 June 4 – 9	Introduction to genre.	Poe's "Fall of the House of Usher" Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper"
Week 2 June 10 – 16	Unit 1: Unity	Crane's "The Open Boat"
Week 3 June 17 – 23	Unit 2: Epiphany	Joyce's "Araby" and "The Dead" Carver's "Cathedral"
Week 4 June 24 – 30		
Week 5 July 1 – 7	Unit 3: Day in the Life	Welty's "A Worn Path" Updike's "A&P"
Week 6 July 8 – 14		Salinger's "Perfect Day for a Bananafish" (I'll provide this story; it's not in the anthology)
Week 7 July 15 – 21	Unit 4: Experimentation	Stories by Borges, John Barth, and others
Week 8 July 22 – 27	Work on final	

\*The stories listed here are just examples. We will read the ones listed here but plus many more.

### Technology Requirements

For this course, you will need reliable and frequent access to a computer and to the Internet. All of course will take place through Canvas. We will communicate through Canvas and sometimes through email. Note: Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement. Please make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.

### Late work

All assignments must be completed and turned in/uploaded/submitted before the day and time on which they are due. I will deduct 10% for each day (24 hours) the assignment is late. For example, if an assignment is due at 11:00 p.m. on a Tuesday, then at 11:01 p.m., it's a day late. At 10:59 p.m. on Wednesday night (the next day), it's still just one day late. Then at 11:01 on Wednesday night, it becomes two days late and so on.

### Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University - Central Texas expects all students to maintain high standards of personal and scholarly conduct. Students guilty of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an

examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. The faculty member is responsible for initiating action for each case of academic dishonesty. Depending on the severity of a student's act of academic dishonesty, a student found to have committed any of the above infractions will receive nothing less than a zero on the assignment on which the infraction occurred and nothing more than expulsion from the university. A minor infraction includes but is not limited to improper citations or allusions to a source never cited. A major infraction includes but is not limited to the undocumented lifting of a phrase from a source that finds its inspiration some place other than the student.

### **Disability Support Services**

If you have or believe you have a disability, may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to the Academic Support Programs Coordinator. Students are encouraged to seek information about accommodations to help assure success in this class. Additional information can be found at [www.TAMUCT.org/StudentAffairs](http://www.TAMUCT.org/StudentAffairs).