

Time: Mon and Wed: 10:30 – 11:50 a.m.
Venue: Room 2306
Instructor: Lisa L. M. Wong
(Rm. 2358, Tel: 23587790, Email: hmlmlisa@ust.hk)
Office Hours: Mon and Wed: 2:30 – 4 p.m.

Teaching Assistant: Carson Ka Hang Leung
(Rm. 3001, Email: khleungaf@connect.ust.hk)
Office Hours: Mon and Wed: 12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Course Description

This course will introduce to students representative works of Western short stories produced in the 19th and 20th centuries. It covers some of the most well-known examples from Europe and America, as well as literary works produced in ex-colonies in Africa and South America. The stories selected range in style from realism to fantasy, modernism, and postmodernism.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students will be able to

- (1) appreciate a short story by looking into various literary techniques (such as plot, point-of-view, setting, characterization, and symbol);
- (2) do a critical analysis of themes and different styles of fiction writing;
- (3) gain a deeper understanding of human experience and western outlooks on life;
- (4) write a critical essay on selected topics;
- (5) formulate clear and logical arguments orally and in written form.

Reference on Reserve

- James H. Pickering, ed. *Fiction 100: an Anthology of Short Stories*. 8th Ed. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1997.
- Editors of The Reader's Digest, eds. *Great Short Stories of the World*. New York: The Reader's Digest Association, 1972.
- Joseph F. Trimmer and C. Wade Jennings, ed. *Fictions*. 4th Ed. New York: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1998.
- Irving Howe and Ilana Wiener Howe, eds. *Short Shorts: An Anthology of the Shortest Stories*. New York: Bantam Books, 1983.

Syllabus and Schedule

Week 1 (1 Feb.)

Introduction

Spencer Holst, "The Zebra Storyteller"

Week 2 (6 - 8 Feb.)

Alice Munro, "Boys and Girls"

Ernest Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants"

Week 3 (13 - 15 Feb.)

Guy de Maupassant, "The Necklace"

Nikolai Gogol, "The Overcoat"

Weeks 4-5 (20 - 27 Feb.)

Katherine Mansfield, "The Singing Lesson"

D. H. Lawrence, "Odours of Chrysanthemum"

Weeks 5-7 (1 - 15 March)

***Presentation 1: Problems in Human Relationships** (1 March)

William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily"

Ivan Bunin, "A Cold Autumn"

Week 8 (20 - 22 March)

***Presentation 2. Individuals in Historical Contexts** (20 March)

Edgar Allen Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado"

Week 9 (27 - 29 March)

Anton Chekov, "The Bet"

Franz Kafka, "A Hunger Artist"

Writing Assignment Due on 5 April

Week 10 (3 - 5 April)

***Presentation 3. Morals and Values from Different Perspectives** (3 April)

Amy Tan, "A Pair of Tickets"

Week 11 (10 - 19 April)

Nadine Gordimer, "Home"

Sandra Cisneros, "The House on Mango Street"

Italo Calvino, "Continuous Cities 2"

***Presentation 4. The Sense of Home in the Contemporary World** (19 April)

Week 12 (24 – 26 April)

Gabriel Garcia Marquez, “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings”

Ron Carlson, “Grief”

Jamaica Kincaid, “Girl”

Week 13 (8 May)

Review

Margaret Atwood, “Happy Endings”

Assessment Scheme

Discussion	(Participation & exchange of views)	15%
Presentation	(Explication of ideas & response to questions)	15%
Writing Assignment	(A critical essay of 1000 words)	30%
Examination	(I. Short essay questions on specific literary styles and techniques & II. An essay on selected discussion topics)	40%

****Assessment for group presentation:***

1. All students in the same team normally share the same marks based on their team performance. Students who respond to the Q and A section more actively will score higher. Under very special circumstances like sick leave, the instructor has the discretion to assign make-up assessments for an individual student who misses the team work. In such case the said student will not share the marks with other teammates.
2. In order to ensure fairness in team contribution and to discourage free riding, all teammates should participate in preparatory meetings for the presentation. Before the end of the semester, each student should write a peer assessment of all the teammates, describing their individual contribution to the project. If the instructor is convinced that a student fails to contribute to the team project as is normally expected, she will exercise her discretion not to let the student share the same marks with other teammates.