The Short Story in Women’s Literature (4370/5370)
T/TH 12:15-1:30
Fall 2009
Dr. Mary Ruth Marotte
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Office phone: 450-5122
Office Hours: MWF 8:30-10; T/Th 10-12


Aug. 20 - Introduction to Course
The Short Story in Women’s Literature

25 – Austen, “Love and Freindship” 461; Shelley, “A Mortal Immortal” 500; Gaskell, “The Old Nurse’s Story” 573
27 – Alcott, “My Mysterious Mademoiselle” 1133; Woolson, “Miss Grief” 1206; Jewett, “The Town Poor” 1243; “The Revolt of Mother” 1346

Volume 2
Sept. 1 – Chopin, “A Matter of Prejudice,” “At the Cadian Ball,” “The Storm,” “Desiree’s Baby”
3 – Wharton, “The Angel at the Grave” 31; “The Other Two” 43; Austin, “The Walking Woman” 66; Cather, “Coming, Aphrodite” 93
15 – EXAM I

17 – Lavin, “In a Café” 619; Olsen, “Tell Me a Riddle” 660; Sheldon, “The Women Men Don’t See” 687; Lessing, “One off the Short List” 810
24 – O’Connor, “Good Country People” 893; Ozick, “The Shawl” 932; Munro, “Floating Bridge” 1026

6 – EXAM II
8 – No Class—I will be away at a conference

13 – Freed, “Under the House” 1304; Butler, “Bloodchild” 1307; Silko, “Yellow Woman” 1332; Kincaid, “Girl” 1339
15 – Fall Break

20 – Cisneros, “Woman Hollering Creek” 1400; Erdrich, “The Shawl”; Viramontes, “The Moths” 1414; Brown, “Forgiveness” 1432
27 – Jen’s “Just Wait,” “Chin,” “In the American Society,” “House, House, Home”

Nov. 3 – Lahiri’s Interpreter of Maladies
5 – Interpreter of Maladies
10 – Interpreter of Maladies
12 – Readings TBA

17 – Readings TBA
19 – EXAM III

24 – Thanksgiving holiday
26 – Thanksgiving holiday

Dec. 1 – Journal Presentation
3 – Review for Final Exam
Final Exams: Dec. 7-11
EXAMS: Exams will be a combination of identification and essay. Note-taking is essential in this course. Read the biographical information pertaining to the authors that come before each text, as well.

JOURNALS: The readings are an important part of this course. You will be required to submit a journal entry each class that consists of a brief (about one page, typed, double-spaced) evaluation of at least two readings for that day. Journal entries are due at the beginning of each class starting on August 25. Journal entries should not just consist of a summary of the reading. Instead, they should evaluate the reading. For example, they might consider one of the following prompts: What have I learned about the protagonist of the story? What does the setting reveal about the character(s) in the story? Are we given a satisfying conclusion? What, if anything, did I learn from this story? Is there an implicit argument in this story? If so, what is it? Can I make thematic connections between two of these stories?

Points: (up to) 10 for each journal entry

You will not be given credit if it is apparent that you have not done the readings. There will NO credit for late entries!!!

Grade Distribution:
EXAMS: 4@ 20% each
Journals: 20%

Course Organization:

I try to foster an environment that is a community of learning, an environment in which you are both encouraged and rewarded for sharing your (informed) opinions about the daily readings. I will do my fair share of lecturing about these fascinating texts, but I also want you to enter each class prepared to discuss.

This is a reading and writing intensive course. I take for granted that you are here because you want to explore women’s literature and learn as much as possible. Participation is vital, both to your grade and to the success of this class!

Attendance: You will be allowed three absences; after that, I will drop you from the course. The three allowed absences include excused absences; therefore, there is no need to contact me to explain your absence (although you are welcome to do so if you’d prefer). An extended illness would create an exception to these rules: please let me know as soon as possible if you will be missing a significant number of classes due to illness or other long-term problem.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism does not refer only to flagrant copying; it includes also the uncredited use of any phrases, quotations, or ideas. Please be sure to cite any outside sources which you use. That said, I will not tolerate cheating in this class. If you are caught plagiarizing or otherwise cheating, you will immediately lose two letter grades off your final grade. If the assignment in question is a major assignment, you will automatically fail the course.

Conferences: If you are unsure about the reading, want feedback on an weekly writing, or would like to talk about a text or idea, please come to my office during office hours.

University Policy and Disabilities: If you have any questions about a university policy, including Academic policies and the Sexual Harassment policy, please see the Student Handbook. The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, contact the UCA Office of Disability Services at 450-3135.