course syllabus
for course number:  U350-611
course title:  The Contemporary Short Story
publishing year:  2002

Number of credits or CEUs:  3  credits

Prerequisites:  Introductory course in literature or consent of instructor

Course materials:
Required
1. Course guide

Optional

Course description:  Written at the same academic level as U350-610 (and using the same text), this course looks at some of the most provocative short fiction of our time. Students will examine high-interest contemporary issues: relationships (couples, parents, and children), self-discovery, poverty, career and workplace, and escape from reality (fantasy, science fiction, horror). Authors include Raymond Carver, John Updike, Joyce Carol Oates, Louise Erdrich, Richard Ford, Stephen King, Ray Bradbury, and Iris Murdoch. Students have the option of completing an additional unit for extra credit.

Unit topics:
• Relationships: Male/Female Perspectives
• Relationships: Troubled Marriages/Divorce
• Relationships: Parents and Children
• Self-Discovery: Adolescent Epiphany
• Self-Discovery: Adult Epiphany
• Gothic Literature/Horror Fiction, Science Fiction, and Fantasy
• Gothic Literature/Horror Fiction, Science Fiction, and Fantasy (Continued)
• Poverty and the Individual
• Career, Workplace, and the Individual
• Optional Unit with Reading of Choice

Written assignments:  This course has 9 written assignments.

Exams:  You will need to take a final exam after you have completed Unit 9.

Grading information:  Your grade in the course will be a weighted average of the grades you receive on the written assignments and your grades on the exam. To earn a passing grade in the course, you must earn a passing average among these components. The following grades will be used: A—Excellent; AB—Very Good; B—Good; BC—Moderately Good; C—Fair; D—Poor; F—Failure.