

Vesalius College
Course description

Course title: The Short Story and Novella

Course code: LIT 241E

Teacher responsible: Patricia Costa, Ph. D., Associate Professor of Literature Studies at Vesalius College

Course description:

The short story and novella took shape as distinct literary genres in the 19th century, but developed from myth and folktale as well as from various medieval predecessors. Their medium is language but both have close affinities with other art forms, most particularly painting and photography. LIT 241E focuses on the literary conventions, linguistic structures and modes which the short story and novella use to communicate and the various strategies that readers use to make sense of, and enjoy, their readings.

Course objectives: LIT 241E (a major elective in the Communications curriculum) aims to develop: understanding of the linguistic and literary conventions at work in the short story and novella; the ability to identify, analyse and interpret how those conventions function; awareness of the strategies at work in the reading, analysis and interpretation of short fiction, in particular, and of written communication generally; understanding of narrative in the broad sense, and of the short story and novella as particular forms of short narrative; appreciation of the verbal art at work in the short story and novella, and of the various modes of reality they create, reflect and project; understanding of the purpose, problems and structure of a short story collection; a sense of what the short story and novella share in terms of technique and effect with other art forms, especially film; and the critical vocabulary necessary to analyse short fiction with precision.

Grade weighting scheme:

Short papers	25%
Short assignments	20%
Mid-term examination	20%
Final examination	20%
Participation, including oral presentation	10%
Group report on short story collection	10%

Course material:

The Longman Masters of Short Fiction. Dana Gioia and R.S. Gwynn, eds. New York: Longman, 2002.

An edition of James Joyce's short story collection, *The Dubliners*.

Supplementary material in the form of hand-outs provided during the semester

Used course material (handbooks, readers, readings, newspapers, magazines) and references:

The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction. Shorter 7t ed. R.V. Carrill and Richard Bausch, eds. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2005.