

Syllabus for ENG 204.WS1

Introduction to Short Fiction

December 18, 2023-January 7, 2024 (Online)

English Department

Winter 2023-2024

# About the Instructor

Professor Nancy Ruff

Email: nruff@siue.edu

## Welcome

## Thanks for enrolling in English 204, Introduction to Short Fiction. I look forward to sharing some great short stories with you! I hope that in our readings you will find some experiences and characters you can relate to and some unfamiliar ones that expand your perceptions of yourself and the world.

## **Bio**

## I have been teaching at SIUE since some of your parents were students! My specialties are ancient literature in translation, Latin and ancient Greek languages, and medieval literature.

## **Communicating with the Instructor**

I am happy to answer your questions. Email me any time—*really*! I turn my devices off when I am not available, so you will not be disturbing me. I will respond as quickly as I can within 24 hours.

# About the Course

## **Course Description/Objectives**

In this *fully online, asynchronous* course, we will read, discuss, and write about short stories. The course will focus on the tools fiction writers use and will introduce you to some of the best writing in the genre.

***Note: This full 3-credit-hour course is usually taught in a 15-week semester; this course is 20 days long!! You will need about 3-4 hours a day, 7 days a week to complete your coursework. No late work will be accepted, no matter how good the reason.***

## **Course Textbooks**

* *The Story and Its Writer*. Eighth edition. Ed. Ann Charters. (SW)
* Readings in Blackboard (Bb)

Please visit the [Textbook Service website](http://www.siue.edu/muc/textbooks.shtml) **right away** to find your options for getting this textbook. Since this course meets over the University break, it’s important to do this early.

## **Other Course Materials**

**Blackboard (Bb) and SIUE Email**

You will need reliable access to Bb and you SIUE email every day of the course. Course information, announcements, assignments, and some readings will be in Bb, and you will submit your homework there as well. You will receive emails from me at your SIUE email address. Contact the University’s Instructional Technology dept at 618 650 5500 for assistance.

# Course Requirements

## **Course Activities and Grading**

* written responses to readings
* discussion board posts and responses
* final exam

## **Submitting Work**

Assignments will be submitted to Bb. If Bb is not working, email your assignment to me. **No late assignments will be accepted.**

**Grading:**

* written responses 35%
* discussion board posts/responses 35%
* final exam 30%

## Follow the instructions for completing these assignments in Bb’s ENG 204 Course Information link.

## Technology Requirements and Capabilities

Technical requirements for students can be found in this [ITS Knowledge Base article](https://kb.siue.edu/104656). Students in this online course should be able to:

* Use MS Word to compose assignments. Other formats may not be readable and will result in a grade of 0. If you do not have MS Word, download a free copy from the SIUE ITS website. Call SIUE’s ITS office, 618 650-5500, and they will help with this and other technical issues.
* Attach files to emails or course areas.
* Navigate websites and course materials.
* Contact tech support staff (618 650-5500) to resolve problems ***as soon as they occur.***

Additional guidance for taking online courses can be found on the [Online at SIUE site](https://www.siue.edu/online/planning-preparation/index.shtml).

**Course Schedule:**

**Written assignments are always due by noon. Class discussion assignments are due by 11:59pm.**

**Please do not print out this schedule. Some assignments may change. The online copy in Bb will always be up-to-date.**

| **Due Dates** | **ENG 204 Course Schedule of Assignments****Instructions:**1. Read the assigned story(ies).
2. Following the instructions for written responses in Course Information, complete your response and submit to the Assignment in Bb before 12 noon.
3. Submit discussion assignments to the Discussion in Bb before 11:59pm.
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| Mon 12/18 | 1. Introduce yourself in the Discussion Board (DB) in Blackboard (Bb)
2. Read John Updike’s “A & P” (SW 1313 ff.)
3. Submit your written response in Bb by 12 noon.
4. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
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| Tue 12/19 | 1. Read: de Maupassant, Guy: "The Necklace" (SW 871 ff.)
2. Submit your written response in Bb by 12 noon.
3. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
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| Wed 12/20 | 1. Read Faulkner, William: “A Rose for Emily” (SW 409 ff.)
2. Submit your written response in Bb by 12 noon.
3. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
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| Thu 12/21 | 1. Read:
* O'Connor, Flannery: "Good Country People" (SW 1027 ff.)
* Carver, Raymond: “Cathedral” (SW 191ff)
1. Submit your written responses (one on each story) in Bb by 12 noon.
2. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
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| Fri 12/22 | 1. Read:
* Smiley, Jane. ["Long Distance"](http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/87jan/distance.htm) (Bb)
* Walker, Alice. “Everyday Use” (SW 1334 ff.)
1. Submit your written responses (one on each story) in Bb by 12 noon.
2. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
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| Sat 12/23 | 1. Read:
* Garcia Marquez, Gabriel: "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" (SW 446 ff.)
* Bambara, Toni Cade: "The Lesson" (SW 82 ff.)
1. Submit your written responses (one on each story) in Bb by 12 noon.
2. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
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| Sun 12/24 | 1. Read: Poe, Edgar Allen. “The Cask of Amontillado” (SW 1105 ff.)
2. Submit your written response in Bb by 12 noon.
3. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
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| Mon 12/25 | Reading Day. No assignment due. |
| Tue 12/26 | 1. Read
* Johnson, Charles: "Menagerie: A Child's Fable" (Bb Readings)
* Jackson, Shirley: “The Lottery” (SW 586 ff.)
1. Submit your written responses (one on each story) in Bb by 12 noon.
2. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
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| Wed 12/27 | 1. Read: Baldwin, James: “Sonny’s Blues” (SW 58 ff.)
2. Submit your written response in Bb by 12 noon.
3. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
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|  Thu 12/28 | 1. Read:
* Vonegut, Kurt: “Harrison Bergeron” (SW 1328 ff.)
* Bradbury, Ray: “August 2026: There will Come Soft Rains” (SW 172 ff.)
1. Submit your written responses (one on each story) in Bb by 12 noon.
2. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
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| Fri 12/29 | 1. Read: Kafka, Franz: Metamorphosis Part I (SW 719-730)
2. Submit your written response in Bb by 12 noon.
3. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
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| Sat 12/30 | 1. Read: Kafka, Franz: Metamorphosis Parts II and III (SW 730-753)
2. Submit your written response in Bb by 12 noon.
3. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
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| Sun 12/31 | 1. Read:
* Gilman, Charlotte Perkins: "The Yellow Wallpaper" (SW 462 ff.)
* Chopin, Kate: “The Story of An Hour” (SW 282 ff.)
1. Submit your written responses (one on each story) in Bb by 12 noon.
2. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
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| Mon 1/1 | Reading Day. No assignment due. |
| Tue 1/2 | 1. Read:
* Jones, Edward P. “Bad Neighbors” (SW 646 ff.)
* Hurston, Zora Neal. “Gilded Six Bits” (SW 556 ff.)
1. Submit your written responses (one on each story) in Bb by 12 noon.
2. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
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| Wed 1/3 | 1. Read: Hawthorne, Nathaniel: “Young Goodman Brown” (SW 522 ff.)
2. Submit your written response in Bb by 12 noon.
3. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
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| Thu 1/4 | 1. Read: Kundera, Milan: "The Hitchhiking Game" (Bb)
2. Submit your written response in Bb by 12 noon.
3. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
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| Fri 1/5 | 1. Read:
* Allen, Woody: Kugelmas Episode (Bb)
* Atwood, Margaret: “Happy Endings (SW 54 ff.)
1. Submit your written responses (one on each story) in Bb by 12 noon.
2. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
3. Final Exam Questions Assignment due today in DB.
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| Sat 1/6 | Final Exam Preparation Day: Final Exam Discussion Boards will be open to help you study until 6am on 1/8. |
| Sun 1/7 | Final Exam Due at 11:59pm |

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# **Subject to Change Notice**

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. It is your responsibility to do the following at least twice a day:

* Check your SIUE email and respond when needed to instructor.
* Review the course in Bb to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.
* Email your instructor when you have questions.

# Course and University policies

Attendance and Participation

Since this is an asynchronous course, there is no “attendance.” Participation, on the other hand, means active thoughtful questions and responses submitted in your written responses and discussion board assignments.

It is vitally important that our course environment promote the respectful exchange of ideas, including being sensitive to the views and beliefs of one another. Your success in this course will depend on your communication, consistent engagement, and active participation, adhering to the deadlines given in the Course Schedule. Timely participation in class discussions is very important and is not optional.

## Plagiarism and Academic Conduct Code

Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words or ideas without crediting that person. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and may lead to failure on an assignment or in the class, or dismissal from the University, per the [SIUE academic dishonesty policy](http://www.siue.edu/policies/1i6.shtml).

Students are responsible for complying with university policies on academic honesty as stated in the [University’s Student Academic Conduct Code](http://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml).

Students are reminded that the expectations and academic standards outlined in the Student Academic Code (3C2) apply to all courses, field experiences and educational experiences at the University, regardless of modality or location. The full text of the policy can be found here: <https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>.

## Late or Missed Assignments

***Late or missed assignments receive a grade of 0*.** If Bb is not working, email your written response to me **before the deadline**. No assignments can be made up, regardless of how good the reason.

## Services for Students Needing Accommodations

It is the policy and practice of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment of achievement—such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content or the use of non-captioned videos—please contact Accessible Campus Community and Equitable Student Support (ACCESS) as soon as possible. To properly determine reasonable accommodations, students must register with ACCESS either online at [siue.edu/access](http://siue.edu/access) or in person in the Student Success Center, Room 1203. You can also reach the office by emailing us at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling 618-650-3726.

If you feel you would need additional help in an emergency situation, please notify your instructor to discuss specific needs for assistance.

**Diversity and Inclusion**

SIUE is committed to respecting everyone’s dignity at all times. To learn, exchange ideas, and support one another, our virtual and physical classrooms must be places where students and teachers feel safe and supported. Systems of oppression permeate our institutions and our classrooms. All students and faculty have the responsibility to co-create a classroom that affirms inclusion, equity, and social justice, where racism, sexism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, xenophobia, and other social pathologies are not tolerated. Violations of this policy will be enforced in line with the SIUE Student Conduct Code.

The Center for Student Diversity & Inclusion https://www.siue.edu/csdi is an excellent resource for students for support and community. Any person who believes they have experienced or witnessed discrimination or harassment can contact Ms. Jamie Ball, Director in the Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX Coordination at (618) 650-2333 or jball@siue.edu. There is also an online form for reporting bias incidents at <https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SIUEdwardsville&layout_id=10>.

**Recordings of Class Content**

Faculty recordings of lectures and/or other course materials are meant to facilitate student learning and to help facilitate a student catching up who has missed class due to illness. As such, students are reminded that the recording, as well as replicating or sharing of any course content and/or course materials without the express permission of the instructor of record, is not permitted, and may be considered a violation of the University’s Student Conduct Code (3C1), linked here: <https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c1.shtml>.

# Additional Support

## Academic and Other Student Services

As an enrolled SIUE student, you have a variety of support available to you, including:

* [Lovejoy Library Resources](http://www.siue.edu/lovejoylibrary/)
* [Academic Success Sessions](http://www.siue.edu/retention/sass/index.shtml)
* [Tutoring Resource Center](https://www.siue.edu/soar/tutoring.shtml)
* [The Writing Center](http://www.siue.edu/lss/writing/index.shtml)
* [Academic Advising](http://www.siue.edu/advising/)
* [Financial Aid](https://www.siue.edu/financialaid/)
* [Campus Events](http://www.siue.edu/events/)
* [Counseling Services](https://www.siue.edu/counseling/)

If you find that you need additional support, please let me know.

## Cougar Care

Dealing with the fast-paced life of a college student can be challenging, and I always support a student's decisions to prioritize mental health. Students have access to counseling services on campus (Student Success Center, 0222). Make an appointment by visiting [cougarcare.siue.edu](http://cougarcare.siue.edu/) or by calling 618-650-2842.

## Technical Support

Since this is an online course, you are expected to have reliable Internet access on a regular basis. It is your responsibility to address any computer problems that occur. Such problems are not an excuse for delays in meeting expectations or for missing course deadlines.

Contact ITS at 618-650-5500 or at help@siue.edu with any technical concerns. You can also check the functionality of University systems, including Blackboard, at the [ITS System Status page](https://status.siue.edu/), or search the [ITS Knowledge Base](http://kb.siue.edu) for various how-to and troubleshooting guides.