

About the Instructor

Professor Nancy Ruff

Email: nruff@siue.edu

Office Hours in Zoom: Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm (or email me for an appt at another time)

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. I've been co-leading summer study abroad programs in Greece for many years – more on that in Blackboard (Bb)'s Course Information.

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. If you prefer, you can visit me during ZOOM office 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](#) **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). All course information, announcements, assignments, and some readings will be in Bb, and you will submit your homework there as well. We may also use another online program, **PackBack**. Both are available free from SIUE.

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 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](#). 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.
- Reach out to 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](#).

Course Schedule: This is a list of all reading/writing assignments and due dates. **Written assignments are always due by noon.** **Class discussion assignments are due by 11:59pm.** There is a link to this Course Schedule in our Bb course (in the black box on the left of the screen).

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

Due Dates	<p style="text-align: center;">Assignments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
12/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
12/20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
12/21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
12/22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O'Connor, Flannery: "Good Country People" (SW 1027 ff.) • Carver, Raymond: "Cathedral" (SW 191ff) 2. Submit your written responses (one on each story) in Bb by 12 noon. 3. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
12/23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smiley, Jane. "Long Distance" (Bb) • Walker, Alice. "Everyday Use" (SW 1334 ff.) 2. Submit your written responses (one on each story) in Bb by 12 noon. 3. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
12/24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garcia Marquez, Gabriel: "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" (SW 446 ff.) • Bambara, Toni Cade: "The Lesson" (SW 82 ff.) 2. Submit your written responses (one on each story) in Bb by 12 noon. 3. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
12/25	Reading Day
12/26	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
12/27	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johnson, Charles: "Menagerie: A Child's Fable" (Bb Readings) • Jackson, Shirley: "The Lottery" (SW 586 ff.) 2. Submit your written responses (one on each story) in Bb by 12 noon. 3. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm

Due Dates	<p style="text-align: center;">Assignments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
12/28	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
12/29	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vonegut, Kurt: "Harrison Bergeron" (SW 1328 ff.) • Bradbury, Ray: "August 2026: There will Come Soft Rains" (SW 172 ff.) 2. Submit your written responses (one on each story) in Bb by 12 noon. 3. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
12/30	<p>Read: Kafka, Franz: Metamorphosis Part I (SW 719-730)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit your written response in Bb by 12 noon. 2. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
12/31	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
1/1	Reading Day
1/2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jones, Edward P. "Bad Neighbors" (SW 646 ff.) • Hurston, Zora Neal. "Gilded Six Bits" (SW 556 ff.) 2. Submit your written responses (one on each story) in Bb by 12 noon. 3. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
1/3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gilman, Charlotte Perkins: "The Yellow Wallpaper" (SW 462 ff.) • Chopin, Kate: "The Story of An Hour" (SW 282 ff.) 2. Submit your written responses (one on each story) in Bb by 12 noon. 3. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm
¼	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
1/5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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

Due Dates	<p style="text-align: center;">Assignments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
1/6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allen, Woody: Kugelmas Episode (Bb) • Atwood, Margaret: "Happy Endings (SW 54 ff.) 2. Submit your written responses (one on each story) in Bb by 12 noon. 3. Contribute to the DB by 11:59pm 4. Final Exam Questions Assignment due today in DB.
1/7	Final Exam Preparation Day: Final Exam Discussion Boards will be open to help you study until 6am on 1/8.
1/8	Final Exam Due at 11:59pm

Subject to change notice

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with your instructor, review the course site regularly, or communicate with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.

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.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

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>.

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](#). Students are responsible for complying with University policies about academic honesty as stated in the [University's Student Academic Conduct Code](#).

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 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](tel: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](#)
- [Academic Success Sessions](#)
- [Tutoring Resource Center](#)
- [The Writing Center](#)
- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)
- [Campus Events](#)
- [Counseling Services](#)

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.siu.edu or by calling [618-650-2842](tel: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](tel: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](#), or search the [ITS Knowledge Base](#) for various how-to and troubleshooting guides.

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COVID-19 Pandemic Policies Related to Classroom Instruction (Fall 2022)

Although our course is entirely online, faculty have been asked to include the following information for all students.

Health and Safety

The measures outlined below are required and any student who does not comply may be in violation of the *COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy*, as well as the University's *Student Code of Conduct*.

The full text of the *COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy* can be found here:

<https://www.siu.edu/policies/Covid.shtml>

Classrooms, Labs, Studios, and Other Academic Spaces

Under current University policy, SIUE will only require masking in campus healthcare settings. See, <https://www.siu.edu/about/announcements/coronavirus/safety-guidelines-support/index.shtml>.

Individual faculty of record may determine that masking will be required in their classrooms and are asked to communicate accordingly with students. Face masks may be required in other campus sites following guidance from governing regulatory agencies.

- Students who forget to wear a face covering when masking is required will be reminded of their obligation to comply with SIUE's *COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy* and temporarily asked to leave the class until they are able to conform to the policy. Students who forget or lose their face coverings when masking is required may be able to obtain replacements from a friend, a faculty member, or a nearby departmental office. Face coverings are also available for purchase in the Cougar Store (MUC).
- Students who refuse to wear a face covering when masking is required will be asked to leave the classroom and referred to the Dean of Students for non-compliance with community health and safety protocols. Repeated

non-compliance may result in disciplinary actions, including the student being administratively dropped from an on-ground/face-to-face course or courses without refund if no alternative course format is available.

- If a student has a documented health condition which makes wearing a face covering medically intolerable, that student should contact ACCESS to explore options with the understanding that ACCESS will not grant accommodations which excuse the need for a face covering while on campus or in the classroom. ACCESS will work with qualifying individuals to find reasonable alternatives, whenever such solutions are available. Please call or contact the ACCESS Office via email to schedule an online appointment to discuss potential alternatives. ACCESS office (Student Success Center, Room 1203, 618-650-3726, and myaccess@siue.edu).

General Health Measures

Students and employees are expected to review the [siue.edu/coronavirus](https://www.siue.edu/coronavirus) website (<https://www.siue.edu/about/announcements/coronavirus/>) to better understand prevention strategies and safety expectations.

- Students and employees are expected to maintain healthy hygiene practices.
- Students and employees are expected to follow COVID-related guidelines and directions.
- Students and employees are expected to conduct a daily health self-assessment and isolate themselves if COVID-related symptoms are present. COVID-related symptoms include:
 - o Fever (100.4 degrees or above) or chills
 - o Cough
 - o Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - o Fatigue
 - o Muscle or body aches
 - o Headache
 - o New loss of taste or smell
 - o Sore throat
 - o Congestion or runny nose
 - o Nausea or vomiting
 - o Diarrhea

Academic Integrity

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Potential for Changes in Course Schedule or Modality

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, there remains a possibility that planned classroom activities will need to be adjusted. Depending on circumstances and following state-issued recommendations, potential changes include alterations to distancing requirements, course modality (e.g., transition from face-to-face to online, hybrid, or hy-flex, mask wearing, in-course activities, etc). These changes would be implemented to ensure the successful completion of the course while preserving health and safety. In these cases, students may be provided with an addendum to the class syllabus that will supersede the original version. If the course schedule or modifications significantly alt

Course Schedule of Assignments:

See the Course Schedule link in Bb's Course Information link.

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