

ENGL 4605-001: Forms of Fiction

The Short Story

Fall 2020

M/W 2:20-3:45 pm

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A creative investigation of the history, forms, and problems of the short story. We will survey and critique canonical short fiction and canonical theories of the short story, sample the global and formal diversity of contemporary short fiction, and test how we can adapt the short story form to our own creative purposes. Throughout, students will write experimental creative imitations of the authors on our reading list to be discussed in peer workshops. Students will also develop and present an original conceptual model of the short story.

Authors to Include:

James Baldwin, Jamel Brinkley, Anton Chekhov, Ernest Hemingway, Shirley Jackson, James Joyce, Franz Kafka, Carmen Maria Machado, Katherine Mansfield, Scholastique Mukasonga, Alice Munro, James Purdy, Joy Williams, Jenny Zhang

Required Texts:

- Brinkley, Jamel. *A Lucky Man*. Minneapolis: Graywolf, 2018
- Joyce, James. *Dubliners*. New York: Oxford, 2000.
- Kincaid, Jamaica. *At the Bottom of the River*. New York: FSG, 2000.
- Mukasonga, Scholastique. *Igifu*. New York: Archipelago, 2020.
- Rankine, Claudia et al. *The Racial Imaginary: Writers on Race in the Life of the Mind*. Albany: Fence, 2016.
- Zhang, Jenny. *Sour Heart*. New York: Lenny, 2017.
- ENGL 4605 Coursepack

