**Short Stories**

**Syllabus 2011-2012**

Ms. Casarez

“Short stories, like houses– or cars, for that matter– should be built to last. They should also be pleasing, if not beautiful, to look at, and everything inside them should work.” - Raymond Carver

**Contact Information**

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School Phone: (920) 668-8686 ext. 612

Prep Hour: 3rd hour (9:23-10:08)

Room Number: 212

**Course Description**

Short Stories is a semester long course that focuses on the in-depth exploration of reading strategies, the writing process, and the close analysis of fiction. An emphasis on increasing reading, writing, and critical thinking skills is integrated throughout all units of study.

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**Course Objectives**

* Students will analyze literary and nonliterary texts.
* Students will develop and strengthen their writing skills in preparation for writing at the college level.
* Students will develop higher cognitive thought processes through the application of various literary theories.
* Students will prepare and deliver oral presentations.

**Assessment—General Framework**

Students will be evaluated on their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in the following manner.

* Participation in discussions (online and in class).
* Individual, partner, small group, and large group activities.
* Oral presentations
* Essays
* Quizzes
* Tests
* Projects
* Written forms of communication

**Points**

Your quarter grade is made up of two basic categories: 9 week projects (20%) and everything else (80%). Each of the two categories is a cumulative point total; therefore, the percentage for each category is calculated as follows:

* Add up all the points you have earned to date.
* Divide your points by the total points possible.

Your semester grade consists of 3 categories: Quarter 1 (40%), Quarter 2 (40%), and the final exam (20%).

**Grading Scale**

100-99 A+ 89-87 B+ 79-77 C+ 69-67 D+

98-93 A 86-83 B 76-73 C 66-63 D

92-90 A- 82-80 B- 72-70 C- 62-60 D-

59 and below F

**Missed Class/ Missing Assignments**

You will have two (2) school days to turn in any work that you missed during an excused absence. This does not apply to prearranged absences. If you know in advance that you are going to be gone, all work must be handed in before you leave. **It is your responsibility to find out what you missed while you were absent.** I strongly recommend making friends with someone in your section to ensure that you get the correct notes and are aware of any quizzes or assessments given during that class period. I will not find you to tell you that something is missing, nor will I make copies of lecture notes. Please do not use class time to ask me for your make-up work.

**Late Work Policy**

All late work (with the exception of 9 week projects and daily work that is gone over that class period) will receive a 50% grade reduction. In addition, work assigned during a particular unit must be handed in prior to the unit test to receive credit.

* Because daily work is intended to prepare students for class discussion that takes place the day it is due, students cannot make up any daily assignments (typically close reading assignments).

Due to the amount of time students have to complete 9 week projects, I do not accept late assignments for any reason. If you are absent the day this is due, it is **your** responsibility to make sure it is submitted to Turnitin.com **when the assignment is due, not the next day**. Printer problems and other technical difficulties are not acceptable excuses for failure to hand in your 9 week project on time. To avoid such common problems, you should print out and proofread the final draft of your paper well before the time the project is due. I also strongly recommend backing up your work.

* To receive full credit for any assignment, the assignment must be handed in at the beginning of your class period.

**Cheating**

Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for that assessment. Plagiarism, regardless of how much material is plagiarized, is considered cheating. Students who supply their peers with answers will have the same consequences of those who use the plagiarized material.

**Course Materials**

Bring the following materials to class daily—

* Binder- All handouts, graded assignments, and class notes should be kept throughout the unit for future reference.
* Paper—either a notebook or loose-leaf paper.
* Writing utensil.
* Appropriate text—The Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction by Ann Charters, any assigned supplement text and/or readings.

**Short Stories Syllabus**

My signature below acknowledges that I have read and understood the syllabus for this course.

*\*Additional copies of this syllabus can be printed out at* <http://casarez.weebly.com>

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Student name (printed)

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Student signature Date

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Parent/guardian signature Date