



**Instructor:** Mark Levene

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**Course Number:** ENG213H5F

**Course Title:** The Short Story

**Course description:** Readers are passionate in their attraction to the short story or in their aversion to it. There seems to be something essential about the short story. It seems “truer” to human experience than does the novel: hence, both the attraction and the aversion. This course will focus on a range of short fiction from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and will consistently center on questions about the reading processes that the genre evokes. We will consider the importance of beginnings and the nature of endings, in particular the very unstable notion of the “epiphany.” There are a number of groupings for the stories: among them, the Gothic, the comic, the fantastical, and the mythic.

**Required Reading:** Selections from Short Fiction: An Anthology, eds Rosemary Sullivan and Mark Levene (Oxford University Press). Writers will include Hawthorne, Poe, Chekhov, James, Kafka, Joyce, Lawrence, Hemingway, Beckett, O’Connor, Carver, Gallant, Munro, MacLeod, Stone, Erdrich, Moore, and others.

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**First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:** Malouf, Rhys, Naipaul.

**Method of Instruction:** Lecture/discussion

**First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:** Raymond Carver, Anton Chekhov, Samuel Beckett.

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**Requirements and Evaluation:** Two essays, 30% each, due October 18 and November 22; term test 10%; \*participation 10%; final test 20%. The cost of delays in submitting essays is 2% a day.

**\*Participation:** This element will be a composite of attendance and responses to questions posed in class. If the first test is missed for documented medical reasons, it can be taken on another, agreed-upon date. Policy regarding academic integrity is set out in the “University of Toronto Code of Behaviour in Academic Matters,” Section B. Please Note: Essays submitted as e-mail attachments will not be accepted. E-mail protocol will be discussed in class.