

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 333
<b>ENGLISH 333: THE SHORT STORY</b>	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

English 333 acquaints students with the wide range and varied forms of the short story as it developed in America, Europe, and other continents. Readings will include works by male and female authors of different genders, periods and nationalities, and some attention may be paid to the historical development of the short story as a genre, as well as the cultural contexts in which the assigned stories were written.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

English 201 or English 121

C. Student Outcomes

Students will

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts.
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts.

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

Since instructors teach this course with a variety of approaches, no single text is required; the following are recommended:

*The Eye of the Heart: Short Stories from Latin America*, Howes (Avon)  
*The Story and Its Writer*, Charters (St. Martin's)  
*American Short Stories*, Current-Garcia and Hitchcock (Scott, Foresman)  
*The Story*, Bergman (MacMillan)  
*The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*, Cassill (Norton)  
*Story: Fiction Past and Present*, Litzinger and Oates (Heath)  
*The Dimensions of the Short Story*, Miller and Slote (Dodd, Mead)  
*The Houghton Mifflin Anthology of Short Fiction*, Hampl (Houghton Mifflin)

*The Best Short Stories of the Modern Age*, Angus (Fawcett)

E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students will be responsible for reading approximately twenty-five short stories and passing quizzes on some of them. A midterm examination and a final will be given, and either a long term paper or a series of short essays will be assigned. Students may be asked to keep regular journals to record their responses to the readings, and they may be expected to participate in small group discussions. Final grades will be based on overall class work, including written assignments, tests, quizzes, and class participation.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students who successfully complete this course can expect the following learning outcomes:

- Students will be able to discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.

*Measurement: in-class presentations and discussion, workshops, writing assignments, and final research paper*

- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts.

*Measurement: in-class presentations and discussion, workshops, writing assignments, and final research paper*

- Students will be able to critique the complexities within and differences among course texts.

*Measurement: in-class presentations and discussion, workshops, writing assignments, and final research paper*

- Students will be able to write clear, grammatically correct sentences in well-organized paragraphs.

*Measurement: writing assignments*

- Students will be able to write well-developed, thesis-driven argument and analysis essays, using evidence from literary texts and incorporating research.

*Measurement: writing assignments*

- Students will be able to frame research questions, plan research strategies, find and evaluate sources using the BMCC library and the BMCC library website, and present the results of research.

*Measurement: in-class presentations and discussion, workshops, writing assignments, and final research paper*

- Students will be able to complete a research paper with documentation in MLA format, correctly using the conventions of MLA documentation and citation, including a “Works Cited” page.

*Measurement: final assigned research paper*

**F. General Education Outcomes:**

Below are the college’s general education goals that students who successfully complete the course can expect to have achieved:

- Communication skills: students will write, read, listen, and speak critically and effectively.

- Arts and Humanities: students will develop knowledge and understanding of the arts and

literature.

- Values: students will make informed choices based on an understanding of personal values, human diversity, multicultural awareness, and social responsibility.

### **College Attendance Policy**

At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

### **Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

### **BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's web site, [www.bmcc.cuny.edu](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu). For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

## **G. Outline of Topics**

Week 1: Introduction: Course Procedures and Terminology

Weeks 2-5: Historical Backgrounds: Periods and Contexts

A. Areas of Development: the American South after the Civil War, Serf days in Russia, Ireland in the early 1900s, South Africa under apartheid and after, India under British rule, the Caribbean in postcolonial times

B. Short Story Genres--Psychological, Detective, Protest, etc.

C. Short Stories and the Public: Who reads them and why?

D. Short Story Authors: Who writes them and why?

Weeks 6-9: Major Themes in the Short Story

- A. Alienation: Insanity, the Individual and Society
- B. Gender Roles and Relations
- C. Family Interactions
- D. Coming of Age
- E. Religion
- F. Courage and Heroism

Weeks 10-14: Ethnic Diversity in Short Fiction

- A. African American Authors and American Society
- B. Hispanic Authors in the Americas
- C. Asian-American Authors in a Multicultural Society
- D. American Jewish Authors
- E. Native American Stories