Prerequisites: Rhetoric and Writing 306 and English 316K or their equivalents (e.g., TC 603A & 603B), and three additional semester hours of lower-division coursework in either English or rhetoric and writing.

Description: In this course, we will be studying a wide variety of short stories written by authors from around the world (composed in English or translated from their original languages into English). Simultaneously we will study basic principles of storytelling and writing, focusing on questions of narrative technique, point-of-view, figurative language, emplotment and genre, and other formal considerations of this particular literary format. We will also study the philosophical questions raised by these stories, as well as the cultural specificities of individual work. Students are invited to join this highly enjoyable yet challenging course, which will feature some of the very best of twentieth- and twenty-first century short stories.

Class members will be expected to do the readings conscientiously, to master the content of the syllabus, and to participate in group discussions and exercises. Students will also work on their own writing, honing their skills of verbal self-expression and critical thinking.

Texts: (Available at the University Co-op)

In addition to this book, there will be primary and secondary readings posted on the class Blackboard.

Requirements & Grading:

**Grading Policy**
- 8-10 pop quizzes 15%
- 2 short essays 2-3 pages 20% ea.
- 1 final essay 5-6 pages 30%
- Class participation 15%

Attendance is essential. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the day’s readings. More than two absences will substantially affect a student’s grade for the semester; more than five absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

Please turn off cellphones before class begins.

Policies:
*Documented Disability Statement:* The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd

Web Site: Blackboard

Instructors: Dr. Hannah Chapelle Wojciehowski
[emelli@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:emelli@mail.utexas.edu)
Office: Parlin 227  tel. 1-8386
Schedule:

WEEK 1  DEFINING A GENRE
June 3rd  INTRODUCTIONS
Ama Ata Aidoo, “A Gift from Somewhere”
Hanan Al-Shaykh, “The Keeper of the Virgins”

WEEK 2  PLOT STRUCTURES
June 7th  Aristotle’s Poetics, selections (Blackboard)
June 8th  Julia Alvarez, “Amor Divino”
Martin Amis, “The Immortals”
June 9th  Reinaldo Arenas, “The Glass Tower”
Toni Cade Bambara, “Gorilla, My Love”
June 10th Jorge Luis Borges, “Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius” and
“Pierre Menard, Author of Don Quixote” (Blackboard)
June 11th Raymond Carver, “Are These Actual Miles?”
Vikram Chandra, “Dharma”
First Paper due—2 pages

WEEK 3  DIALOGIC FORMS
June 14th Mikhail Bakhtin, Discourse in the Novel (Blackboard)
June 15th Sandra Cisneros, “Never Marry a Mexican”
Edwidge Danticat, “Night Women”
June 16th Patricia Duncker, “Betrayal”
Duong Thu Huong, “Reflections of Spring”
June 17th Deborah Eisenberg, “The Girl Who Left Her Sock on the Floor”
Víctor Erofeyev, “The Parakeet”
June 18th Nuruddin Farah, “My Father, the Englishman, and I”
Eduardo Galeano, “The Story of the Lizard Who Had the Habit of
Dining on his Wives”

WEEK 4  NARRATION AND POINT OF VIEW
June 21st Carolyn Tate and Allen Gordon, The House of Fiction (Blackboard)
June 22nd Hervé Guibert, “The Hammam”
Kazuo Ishiguro, “A Family Supper”
June 23rd James Kelman, “Remember Young Cecil”
Jhumpa Lahiri, “Sexy” (Blackboard)
June 24th Clarice Lispector, “The Crime of the Mathematics Professor” (Blackboard)
Ian McEwan, “Pornography”
June 25th Haruki Murakami, “The Elephant Vanishes”
Joyce Carol Oates, “The Mark of Satan”
Second Paper due—2 pages

WEEK 5  CHARACTER AND EMPATHY
June 28th Patrick Colm Hogan, “The Reader: How Literature Makes Us Feel,” and “From Mind to Matter: Art, Empathy, and
the Brain,” Cognitive Science, Literature, and the Arts (Blackboard)
June 29th Flannery O’Connor, “A Good Man is Hard to Find” (Blackboard)
Katherine Anne Porter, “The Jilting of Granny Weatherall” (Blackboard)
June 30th Amos Oz, “Where the Jackals Howl”
Francine Prose, “Talking Dog”
Ken Saro-Wiwa, “Africa Kills Her Sun”
Ingo Schulze, “The Ring”
Graham Swift, “Learning to Swim”

**WEEK 6**

**THE TAKE-AWAY: INTERSUBJECTIVITY**

**July 5**
Vittorio Gallese, “Embodied Simulation: From Mirror Neuron Systems to Interpersonal Relations,” (Blackboard)
Gallese and Wojciechowski, Interview (Blackboard)

**July 6**
Tatyana Tolstaya, “On the Golden Porch”
Luisa Valenzuela, “Who, Me a Bum?”

**July 7**
Jeanette Winterson, “The Green Man”
Tobias Wolff, “The Night in Question”

**July 8**
Course Evaluations