English 216
The Short Story
Dr. Keith O’Neill
Spring 2015

Required Text:
Bausch et al. The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction, Shorter 7th Ed. (Norton, 2006). I also recommend a standard desk dictionary, such as Webster’s or American Heritage, and a grammar handbook.

Course Description (from the College Catalogue):
This course is a study of the development of the short story from its beginnings in the nineteenth century to the present day. The works of a number of authors are studied. Emphasis is placed on how contributions by these significant individual authors changed the focus and altered the purpose of the short story during its brief history. Prerequisite: ENG 102.

January 20 Introduction
January 22 Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher” (661-674)

January 27 Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown” (325-334) and
Melville, “Bartleby, the Scrivener” (529-555)
January 29 Melville, cont’d, Tolstoy, “The Death of Ivan Ilych” (725-764)

February 3 Tolstoy, cont’d
February 5 Chekhov, “The Lady with the Dog” (110-122)

February 10 Conrad, “Heart of Darkness” (126-186)
February 12 Conrad cont’d

February 17 NO CLASS
February 19 Cather, “Paul’s Case” (86-100)

February 24 Joyce, “Araby” (351-355) PAPER ONE DUE
February 26 Kafka, “The Metamorphosis” (386-418)

March 3 Kafka, “A Hunger Artist” (418-425)
March 5 Lovecraft, “The Thing on the Doorstep” (handout) and
Hammett, “The Creeping Siamese” (handout)

March 10 MIDTERM EXAM
March 12 Hemingway, “Hills Like White Elephants” (335-339)

March 17 NO CLASS
March 19 NO CLASS
March 24  Fitzgerald, “Babylon Revisited” (269-284)
March 26  Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily” (262-268) and “Barn Burning” (249-262)
March 31  Salinger, “A Perfect Day for Bananafish (Handout) and
          O’Connor, “Everything that Rises Must Converge” (627-638)
April 2   Borges, “Pierre Menard, Author of Quixote” (58-65)
April 7   Cheever, “The Enormous Radio” (101-109)
April 9   Baldwin, “Sonny’s Blues” (21-43)
April 14  LeGuin, “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” (454-458) and
          Dick, “We Can Remember It for You Wholesale” (Handout)
April 16  Garcia Marquez, “The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World” (297-301)
          PAPER TWO DUE
April 21  Carver, “Cathedral” (75-85)
April 23  Mason, “Shiloh” (500-510)
April 28  Munro, “Royal Beatings” (569-585)
April 30  O’Brien, “The Things They Carried” (603-615)
May 5    Saunders, “Sea Oak” (handout)
May 7    FINAL EXAM
May 12   FINAL EXAM

Course Policies:
Attendance - There is no official policy for attendance, since it is of course your choice to attend class
regularly. No one will be dropped for not showing up to class. That said, I will not give a participation grade
to students who are not in class very often. For Eng 216, this means losing 10%, or a full letter grade.

Plagiarism - I have a no-tolerance policy for plagiarism, the intentional (or unintentional) use of someone
else's work as your own. This is cheating, plain and simple, and it's a waste of the money you spent on
tuition. If you are caught plagiarizing, I will give you a zero for the assignment, and you may be reported to
Dean's office.

Classroom Expectations – This is a college classroom, and thus I will expect adult, intellectually mature
behavior from everyone in the room. Classroom discussion is strongly encouraged, but side conversations
are inappropriate. You are expected to be on time for class, and your textbook is absolutely mandatory. Also,
please turn off your cell phone and put it away until class is over. Anyone who does not cooperate with these
parameters may be asked to leave the room.

Assignments/Grade Determination:
Paper 1         25%  Please note that this is a working syllabus: assignments and due
dates are subject to change. I will provide updates and detailed
reading assignments throughout the semester. Please remember
to visit the course website regularly:
http://faculty.sunydutchess.edu/oneill
Midterm Exam    15%
Paper 2         25%
Final Exam      25%
Class Participation 10%