



COURSE: American Short Story

American Short Story Course Description:

This course is designed to provide students with concrete techniques to practice reading, thinking critically, and discussing literature; writing basic literary analysis essays with claims and support; learning advanced, academic vocabulary; and mastering higher-level grammar and style skills. Upon completing this course, students will be well prepared to engage in the work in any American high school, including top institutions.

This course includes a total of 25 classes, divided into five units of study. The first five meetings will focus on the analysis of the elements of short fiction and, just as importantly, will involve improving students' familiarity with the discussion-based method of traditional English instruction. The second five sessions will focus on grammatical and stylistic writing techniques, with writing assignments focused on close reading of passages from the text. The third set of five sessions will focus on close reading skills, providing concrete instruction on annotation techniques. The fourth set of sessions will focus on creative writing techniques and personal writing, and the last five sessions will focus on writing an analytic composition on two selected short stories, the final project for the course. For all essays, students will practice using MLA style and formatting requirements.

Taught by a highly experienced and successful English teacher from an elite private school, this course will help you build key, foundational skills necessary to excel in any high school English class.

MATERIALS:

All diagnostic and practice materials will be taken from free, online sources and/or provided by the instructor in advance of each lesson. For all online sessions, the students should have access to a high-speed internet connection with working microphone and webcam and all students should be able to access zoom.us for lessons. All smartphone apps are also available as downloads for desktop/laptop/tablet computers; no special equipment is required.

You do not need to purchase additional textbooks or other materials.

SYLLABUS (subject to change, depending on instructor discretion and student ability)

DATE	LESSON CONTENT	DO BEFORE CLASS
(1)	1) Introduction to the course policies and instruction 2) Define/Identify in text basic literary	

	<p>devices: Symbolism, Metaphor</p> <p>3) Begin reading “Hills Like White Elephants” together</p>	
(2)	<p>1) Define/Identify in text basic literary devices: Theme, Characterization, Tone</p> <p>2) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions</p> <p>3) Fun Quiz on Story</p>	<p>STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 1</p> <p>READ: “Hills Like White Elephants” by Ernest Hemingway</p> <p>DO: Email in old writing sample (In English from a previous assignment)</p>
(3)	<p>1) Define/Identify in text basic literary devices: Imagery, Irony, Parallelism</p> <p>2) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions</p> <p>3) Hemingway Rhetorical Techniques</p>	<p>STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 2</p> <p>READ: “Indian Camp” by Hemingway</p> <p>WRITE: Complete this activity for Indian Camp: http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/homepage/cmurphy/File/Hemingway-English_III/Indian_Camp_Questions.pdf</p>
(4)	<p>1) Define/Identify in text basic literary devices: Personification, Hubris, Point of View</p> <p>2) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions</p>	<p>STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 3</p> <p>READ: “To Build a Fire” by Jack London</p> <p>WRITE: One page double-spaced response to “To Build a Fire” on the following prompt: Compare/Contrast the man and the dog in the story. How do these differences contribute to their ultimate fates?</p>
(5)	<p>1) Define/Identify in text basic literary devices: Style, Voice, Mood</p> <p>2) Compare/Contrast Response</p> <p>2) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions</p>	<p>STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 4</p> <p>READ: “The Cask of Amontillado” by EA Poe</p> <p>WRITE: Passage analysis of one page double-spaced for one of three previous stories, see assignment sheet.</p>
(6)	<p>1) Passage Analyses, workshop</p>	<p>STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 5</p> <p>READ: “The Tell-Tale Heart” by EA Poe; <i>prompt and sample student responses</i></p>



	2) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions 3) Basic English grammar crash course 101: Comma rules	WRITE: Revise passage analysis/ Reading response to reading: How does Montresor ultimately feel about his actions?
(7)	1) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions 2) Checking in on final passage analysis 3) English grammar crash course: Sentence Structure	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 6 READ: “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez WRITE: Paragraph summary on <i>Characterization</i>
(8)	1) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions 2) English grammar crash course: Semi-colons and colons	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 7 READ: “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras Couty” WRITE: Paragraph summary on use of <i>Metaphor and Symbolism</i>
(9)	1) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions 2) Paragraph summaries 3) English grammar crash course: Fragments and Run-ons	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 8 READ: “The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin WRITE: Paragraph summary of <i>Author Message</i>
(10)	1) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions 2) Paragraph summary 3) English grammar crash course: Clauses	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 9 READ: “Cathedral” by Raymond Carver WRITE: Paragraph response on <i>Tone</i>
(11)	1) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions 2) Annotation Techniques: Characters	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 10 READ: “What you Pawn I will Redeem” by Alexie Sherman WRITE: Reading Questions on Sherman short story
(12)	1) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions 2) Annotation Techniques: Themes	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 11 READ: “The Chrysanthemums” by John Steinbeck WRITE: Reading questions on Steinbeck



(13)	1) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions 2) Annotation Techniques: Meta-thought	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 12 READ: “Guests of the Nation” by Frank O’Connor WRITE: Reading questions on O’Connor
(14)	1) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions 2) Annotation Techniques: Symbolism and Metaphor	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 13 READ: “A&P” by John Updike WRITE: Reading Questions on Updike
(15)	1) Narrative essay writing fundamentals 2) Discussion of “Shooting an Elephant”	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 14 READ: “Shooting an elephant” by George Orwell DO: Respond to reading questions on the Orwell essay
(16)	1) Reading Questions/Discussion of “The Chase” 2) Narrative writing exercise with music	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 15 READ: “The Chase” by Annie Dillard DO: Reading Questions on Dillard
(17)	1) Discussion of “Salvation” 2) Narrative essay workshop	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 16 READ: “Salvation” by Langston Hughes DO: Write a narrative essay (roughly two pages double spaced)
(18)	1) Everyday Use questions/discussion 2) Narrative essay editing, revision	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 17 READ: “Everyday Use” by Alice Walker DO: Write the Heirloom description (about one page double spaced)
(19)	1) Discussion/reading questions for “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” 2) Heirloom Description workshop	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 18 READ: “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” by Ernest Hemingway DO: Respond to reading questions
(20)	1) Discussion of text/reading questions on YGB 2) Outlining/Structuring essays/Topic Sentences	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 19 READ: “Young Goodman Brown” By Nathaniel Hawthorne WRITE: Write an outline for an essay comparing/contrasting two characters, authors, or stories.
(21)	1) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 20 READ: “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County” by Mark Twain

	2) Introductions and Hooks	WRITE: An introduction for the essay between 1/2 page and 2/3 of a page double spaced
(22)	1) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions 2) Checking on introductions 3) Integrating evidence into your writing, exercises	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 21 READ: “A Perfect Day of Banana Fish” by JD Salinger WRITE: Revise Introductions/reading response to Banana Fish
(23)	1) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions 2) Analyzing evidence in essay writing	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 22 READ: “Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonegut WRITE: Write one body paragraph of essay
(24)	1) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions 2) Workshop on essays: Flow	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 23 READ: “The Things They Carried” by Tim O’Brien, Part 1 WRITE: Complete <i>rough</i> draft
(25)	1) Discussion of Text/Reading Questions 2) Workshop on essays: Polish	STUDY: Vocabulary Tests for Freshman – Unit 24 READ: Finish “The Things They Carried” by Tim O’Brien WRITE: Revise first draft for final