

## ENGL 3450.001 | The Short Story

### Instructor

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### Class Time & Location

Monday and Wednesday, 2:00-3:30 p.m., LANG 204

### Office Hours

GAB 543  
Monday and Wednesday 12:30-1:45 p.m. or by appointment.

**Note: This syllabus provides the framework for the social contract of this course. You are accountable for the information it contains, and for complying with all Instructor and University policies pertaining to this course.**

### Required Books

[Find Books at B&N UNT](#)

Use the ISBN to make sure you have the correct edition. Each of these editions are required for this class. No e-texts are approved for this course.

- Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah. *Friday Black* 978-1328911247
- Octavia Butler. *Bloodchild and Other Stories* 978-1583226988
- Roxane Gay. *Best American Short Stories 2018* 978-0544582941
- Zora Neale Hurston. *Complete Stories* 978-0061350184
- S. T. Joshi. *American Supernatural Tales* 978-0143105046
- Kelly Link. *Magic for Beginners* 978-0812986518
- Flannery O'Connor. *A Good Man Is Hard to Find and Other Stories* 978-0156364652
- Adrian Tomine. *Killing & Dying* 978-1770463097
- Celia Zapata. *Short Stories by Latin American Women: The Magic and the Real* 978-0812967074

Bring the assigned text to class every day. Students who do not bring the assigned text to class may be asked to leave and will receive a 0 for Engagement for that day.

## Catalog Description

3 hours

Comparative survey of the short story from its inception in the 19th century to the present day, comprising representative works by African, Asian, British, Russian, North and South American, and European writers, in English or in translation.

Prerequisite(s): None.

## Core Category

Language, Philosophy and Culture

## Core Objectives

This course addresses the following University Core Curriculum Objectives:

- **Critical Thinking Skills**, including creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communication Skills**, including effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- **Empirical and Quantitative Skills**, including the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- **Teamwork**, including the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- **Personal Responsibility**, including the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

## Course Goals

There are three broad goals for this course:

- to instill an understanding of different genres of short fiction and to develop skills in literary analysis;
- to give students the opportunity to think broadly, outside their cultural and aesthetic comfort zones; and
- to give students a framework for encountering literary traditions associated with diverse texts and authors.

A small word of caution:

Many of the texts in this course address adult themes, sometimes using adult language, and contain frank representations of difficult topics that may include racial discrimination and violence, gender discrimination and violence against women, and religious discrimination and violence motivated by and against specific religions. Students are expected to approach these issues with maturity and respect. Conversation must in all cases be courteous, and honor difference as represented in these texts, and as represented by your classmates. Students

should expect a certain amount of discomfort in discussing these issues, but are strongly encouraged to talk about that discomfort in class and with the instructor. See “Acceptable Student Behavior” below.

## Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with notice. The most current information will always be on [Canvas](#).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
January 14	Introduction	
January 16	The Loudest Voice	Syllabus Quiz Due
January 21	MLK Day - No Class	Assign Single Author Review
January 23	Narrative	
January 28	Point of View	
January 30	Figurative Language	Single Author Review Draft Due
February 4	American Supernatural Tales Peer Review Meetings	Peer Reviews Due
February 6		
February 11	Zora Neale Hurston	Single Author Review Due
February 13		
February 18	Latin American Women Peer Review Meetings	Assign Themed Anthology Review
February 20		
February 25	Flannery O'Connor	
February 27		Themed Anthology Review Draft Due
March 4	Peer Review Meetings	Peer Reviews Due
March 6		

March 11-13	Spring Break - No Class	
March 18	Best Of...	Themed Anthology Review Due
March 20		Assign Anthology Editing Project
March 25	Octavia Butler	Theme Description Due
March 27		
April 1	Graphic Shorts	
April 3		
April 8	Adrian Tomine	
April 10		Introductory Essay Draft Due
April 15	Kelly Link, Anya DeNiro Peer Review Meetings	Peer Reviews Due
April 17		
April 22	Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah	
April 24		April 26 - Anthology Projects Due
April 29	Anthology Pitches	
May 1	Anthology Pitches	

## Instructor Policies

### Communication

UNT-provided email is the only approved method of communication for this class. Please do not use the messaging system in Canvas.

Class-related email should be treated as formal business communication. If you are unsure of the standards for formal written communication, please read [this](#) before sending me an email.

Please include **ENGL 1310.014** at the beginning of your Subject line, followed by a brief summary of your question; e.g. “**ENGL 1310.014 Question about MLA citations.**” Email not following this format risks going unanswered. Note that I am not able to discuss any information relating to academic records through email.

As a general rule, I read and respond to email between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and commit to responding within one business day. **If you receive an Out of Office message, I will respond on the date that the message indicates I will return to the office.**

### Attendance and Absences

1. Attendance is not optional. **No student missing more than 20% of classroom instruction will pass this course; missing more than 20% of scheduled classes will result in an F for the class.** Writing courses are by nature participatory, collaborative, and discussion-based. *This is not a lecture course.* Not participating in class may also result in missed grades for a class period. Please arrange any planned absences with me ahead of time in order to avoid penalization.
2. In class work cannot be made up.
3. Absences for religious observance, sport participation, or other authorized official university activity (Policy 06.039) must be cleared with the instructor in advance.
4. **Verification from the Dean of Students must be provided for any absence due to serious illness or other extenuating circumstance. See *Absence Verification* on the [Dean of Students' Resources](#) page.**

### Technology in Class

Laptops and tablets are acceptable in class for taking notes and accessing course materials only. Any student using laptops or tablets for social media, email, or other activities unrelated to class will lose their tech privileges for the rest of the semester and receive a 0 for engagement for that session. Mobile phones must be powered off and put away during class. Use of a mobile phone during class will result in loss of tech privileges for the rest of the semester and a 0 for engagement for that session.

### Participation & Civility

We are all members of an academic community where it is our shared responsibility to cultivate a climate where all students/individuals are valued and where both they and their ideas are treated with respect. Therefore, I expect you to conduct yourself in a professional and respectful manner during all class meetings and class-related activities. I expect you to listen to and respect the viewpoints of others, even if you strongly disagree with them. When you do voice disagreement, do so in a civil manner. I expect you to come to class having done the reading and writing assignments assigned for the day and to be prepared to discuss the reading, to participate in draft workshops, or to conduct group work as the case may be. On days that are

allotted for group work, I expect you to come prepared to work in the classroom for the entire period.

Everyone will have multiple opportunities to participate in class. Participation can be many things, including all of the following:

- Participating actively in small group work, class activities, and presentations
- Participating and listening carefully in class discussion
- Bringing all required materials to class
- Completing all homework assignments on time
- Coming prepared to conferences/office hours

### Disruptions

Excessive disruptions of our class time—including talking, sleeping, texting, cell phone usage, and doing work for other classes—hurt the class atmosphere and will hurt your grade should you engage in them. Please respect the class environment by giving your classmates and me your full attention at all appropriate times. Frequent tardiness or disruptions will affect your overall grade for the course.

### Deadlines

We do not have due dates in this course, we have deadlines. As such, you may submit your work via Canvas anytime between the date you receive the assignment and the deadline. Plan accordingly. **Late work will not be accepted.**

### Using Canvas

Announcements, assignments, and grades for this course will all be handled within UNT's Canvas Learning Management System. All students have access to Canvas through their UNT accounts. For more information on using Canvas, see <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>. If you have any questions regarding your use of the Canvas learning management system, please contact the student help desk at: Email: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu), Phone: 940-565-2324.

### Formatting Your Assignments

All written work needs to be typed in word-processing software (i.e. Microsoft Word or Google Docs) and submitted online to our CANVAS site. For all essays, include your name and the page number on the top right header of each page (i.e.: Lastname 1). Please also include a date and the course number (ENGL 1310). Use a text font for all essays (Times Roman or Garamond for example) at 12 points, with all one-inch (1") margins, and double-spacing. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date indicated by the assignment prompt. **Please DO NOT include a cover sheet.**

## Using the UNT Writing Center

It is recommended that you visit the UNT Writing Center with all of your assignments for this class. All writers can benefit from sharing and discussing their work with a trained peer tutor, early and often. A writing tutor can help you get started on a paper or help you decide what to revise on an existing draft. In order to make an appointment with a writing tutor, visit [writing.center.unt.edu](http://writing.center.unt.edu), call 940-565-2563, or stop by Sage Hall 150. During your appointment, a writing tutor can help you develop your ideas, organize your thoughts, and clarify your prose.

## Evaluation & Grading

### Grade Breakdown

- Engagement 20%
  - Single Author Collection Review 20%
  - Themed Anthology Review 20%
  - Anthology Editing Project 40%
- Total 100%**

Note: You must complete each assignment above in order to receive a passing grade in the course. Skipping any one of the writing projects will earn an F for the course.

### Grading Policies and Tips

This course has a demanding reading and writing load commensurate with an upper level literature class. Students will be expected to read all assigned texts carefully and to come to class prepared to discuss the texts analytically and critically on the day that they are assigned. Much of our class time will be spent discussing course readings, practicing writing, and working together collaboratively. If you do not understand or need help, please make arrangements to talk to me right away.

Please also keep up with all writing assignments. Evaluating, revising, and editing our writing together is a vital part of this class.

Sometimes we will also engage in collaborative or individual assignments or activities during class. When we talk as a class, I encourage you to move beyond simply talking about what parts of the texts that you “like.” Look for ways that class readings and discussions are relevant in the world around you. Pay attention to what your classmates say and build off of their ideas when you can. Encourage, support, and learn from each other.

### Rubrics and Scoring Systems

For the purposes of this course:

- “A” WORK will constitute a final score of 90-100% of total points, and will represent an overall response that is impressively sophisticated and illuminating: inventive, balanced, justified, effective, mature, and expertly-situated in time and context
- “B” WORK will constitute a final score of 80-89.99% of total points, and will represent an overall response that is thorough and systematic: skilled, revealing, developed, perceptive, but not unusually or surprisingly original
- “C” WORK will constitute a final score of 70-79.99% of total points, and will represent an overall response that is acceptable but limited: coherent, significant, and perhaps even insightful in places, but ultimately insufficient in organization, articulation, perception, and/or effectiveness
- “D” WORK will constitute a final score of 60-69.99% of total points, and will represent an overall response that is incomplete and severely lacking: incoherent, limited, uncritical, immature, undeveloped, and overall not reflective of the performance expected of UNT undergraduates
- “F” WORK will constitute a final score of 0-59.99% of total points, and will represent an overall response that is unacceptable.

### Citations & Plagiarism

Citations should follow [Modern Language Association](#) standards.

Students who cheat or plagiarize will receive a "0" for that particular assignment. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. A second offense of any sort will result in a failing grade for the class, and referral to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. See: [“Academic Integrity”](#) below.

## [UNT Policies](#)

### Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation].

### ADA Accommodation Statement

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's



specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu).

## Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

## Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

## Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct).

## Access to Information

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: <http://my.unt.edu>. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: <http://eagleconnect.unt.edu>

## Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at [www.spot.unt.edu](http://www.spot.unt.edu) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

## Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648

**You are not alone. We are here to help.**