

Course: EN212-T&NT Introduction to Short Fiction
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Fall 2026 (Sessions 1-2)
Time and Place: MW 1:00 – 2:20pm E ED 105
Instructor: Tim Hange, tim.hange@calvary.edu

**About This Class: This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.*

**About Changes to this Syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course, but any changes made will only be done after clearly communicating the need for the change and the specific change to be made via in-class announcement and Canvas announcement.*

I. DESCRIPTION

Introduction to Short Fiction is an engaging genre course that enables the student to learn critical reading and literary analysis with a particular focus on the elements of literature as characterized in short literary fiction. The course includes a variation of author styles, national cultures, and subject matter to increase student awareness of contextual relevance. Essay responses present literary analysis of the readings. No prior literature courses are required. (**Prerequisite:** EN112)

II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved. You will:

1. Improve critical reading skills through critical analysis of literary texts (PLO 1; Assignments B-E).
2. Participate effectively in group discussions with emphasis on careful listening, critical thinking, and appropriate response (PLO 1, 3; Assignment A-C).
3. Develop the ability to research about literature (PLO 1-4; Assignments D, E).
4. Identify the various cultural, linguistic, and sociological characteristics as presented in the literary works (PLO 1; Assignments A-E).
5. Evaluate individual short stories according to the Biblical worldview (PLO 1, 3; Assignments A-E).

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. You will be able to:

1. Carefully read and analyze literary works from a number of cultures (PLO 1-4; Assignments A-E).
2. Apply the literary elements to literary works in discussion and research (PLO 1-4;

- Assignments A–E).
3. Compare and contrast the Biblical worldview with that of the authors studied (PLO 1, 3; Assignments A–E).

III. REQUIRED MATERIALS

A. Required Textbooks

- **The Bible** is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.
- There will be no literature textbook required. All of the stories we read will be provided for you in the form of web resources or documents. Resources detailing historical context for stories and literary analysis will also be provided.

B. Suggested Resources

- MLA Handbook, 8th Edition. ISBN 978-1603292627. \$14.40

IV. REQUIREMENTS

- A. (Before Class) Reading Assignments and Journals:** Reading assignments are assigned from the required textbook (see below). Complete assigned reading prior to the class period on which it is due. *Do not substitute any kind of Cliff Notes, E-Notes, or online summaries of any kind.*

Once you complete your reading for the week, respond to the reading in the reading journal. The reading journal assignment in Canvas provides ideas for what to write about.

- B. (During Class) Attendance and Participation Activities:** During each class, the professor will assign activities that must be completed by all students (both in-class and online). Follow instructions to complete the activities. These participation activities must be uploaded to Canvas before the next class period.

Students who do not maintain continuous academic activity will be dropped from the course.

- C. (End of course) Creative Project:** Choose one of the stories we have studied and design a creative project, which you will present to the class (uploaded in Canvas). This project contains three components: (1) the project, (2) your reflection, (3) your interaction with your peers' projects.

The Creative Project

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Choose a story from this class and select a research question (we will discuss research questions in class, and each assignment throughout the cycle will help you think about and find your story and your research question). Use class notes, the textbook, supplemental materials, discussion board resources, your own research to answer your research question. Create a 5 minute video to present your findings.

Sample research questions:

- How does the biblical worldview compare to that presented in the story?
- How does a historical event affect this author/story?
- What is this author saying about his/her culture or society?
- What is the theme of ____?
- How does __[literary element]_ affect the reader?
- How does [Story 1] compare with [Story 2]?

Creative project ideas (feel free to come up with your own):

- Commercial
- News broadcast
- Skit
- Animation
- Puppet show
- Speech
- PowerPoint
- Paint/Chalk talk
- Music video

This presentation should be something that *you* create and are the primary presenter in. Do NOT just play someone else's YouTube video, for example.

Reflection

Answer the following questions in roughly 1 double-spaced page total:

- What have you learned about . . .
 - . . . the process of critical reading?
 - . . . literary elements?
 - . . . literary research?
 - . . . the story you chose?
 - . . . interacting with literature from a biblical worldview?

Interaction with Peer Projects

Watch your peers' presentations. Then choose four to respond to. Write a response that includes (1) what you thought of their presentation and (2) what you learned.

Grading Rubric

Creative Project:

Creativity	25
Literary Research	25
Application of Literary Concepts	50
Total:	100

Reflection:

Total: 50

Interaction:

Total: 50

D. Other Assignment Policies

1. *Style Guide:* Follow the MLA style according to the *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition.
2. *Plagiarism:* Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification. Required class research papers must be original and not used for credit for any other class, (high school, college, or graduate/seminary), or resubmitted when retaking a course, without the professor's permission. Late work: -10% from the final grade per day late.
3. *Originality:* Students may not hand in one paper for two different courses—even if the paper has been altered in some way. Students may not hand in a paper that was written for another class in previous courses. All work must be completely new and written solely by the student.

V. METHODS

A. Grading

Possible Points for All Assignments:

Reading Journals (8 x 25)	200 points
Discussion Boards (8 x 50)	400 points
Participation Activities (8 x 25)	200 points
Creative Project (100 for project, 50 for reflection, 50 for interaction)	200 points
Total	1000 points

The Grading Scale can be found in the University Catalog.

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VI. General Schedule (Detailed schedule in Canvas)

	Topic	Assignments
Week 1	Authors: Kate Chopin, Judith Cofer	Reading Reflection Class participation / discussion
Week 2	Authors: William Faulkner, Anton Pavlovich Chekhov	Reading Reflection Class participation / discussion
Week 3	Authors: James Baldwin, Alice Walker	Reading Reflection Class participation / discussion
Week 4	Authors: James Baldwin	Reading Reflection Class participation / discussion
Week 5	Authors: Ernest Hemingway, Tobias Wolff, Leo Tolstoy	Reading Reflection Class participation / discussion
Week 6	Authors: Ray Bradbury, Nathaniel Hawthorne	Reading Reflection Class participation / discussion
Week 7	Authors: Langston Hughes, Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, Anne Beattie	Reading Reflection Class participation / discussion
Week 8	Authors: O. Henry	Reading Reflection Class participation / discussion
	BREAK	Reading Reflection Class participation / discussion
Week 9	Authors: Edgar Allen Poe, Kurt Vonnegut	Reading Reflection Class participation / discussion
Week 10	Authors: Langston Hughes, Anton Pavlovich Chekhov	Reading Reflection Class participation / discussion
Week 11	Authors: Amy Tan	Reading Reflection Class participation / discussion
Week 12	Author: Eudora Welty	Reading Reflection Class participation / discussion
Week 13	Author: Ray Bradbury	Reading Reflection Class participation / discussion
Week 14	Author: O'Connor, Cahan	Reading Reflection Class participation / discussion
Week 15	Presentations and wrap-up	Reading Reflection Class participation / discussion
Week 16	Presentations and wrap-up	

Resources:

- A. Disabilities:** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.
- B. The Clark Academic Center** (email: learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this free service.