

Syllabus for  
**WRT 405-Literary Genres: Short Stories**  
3 Credit Hours  
Spring 2019

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A workshop that encourages creative expression, with projects concentrating in one genre (e.g., poetry or short fiction). Designed for the serious writer who is capable of developing a writer's discipline. (Students may take two different Genre courses for credit.)

Honors Distinctive: Students who enroll in the honors section of this course need to submit an additional research report and make an additional oral presentation.

II. COURSE GOALS

In general, the course enables the student to develop skills in imaginative writing through examining literary models and by frequent writing exercises both in and out of class. Emphasis is placed on the skills of invention, fluidity, economy, technical proficiency, and aesthetic sensibility—in other words, techniques that produce writing that invites reading. No attempt is made to require uniformity of style or interest, but all students must attempt all genres covered. It is assumed that, notwithstanding the entrance expectations, students may enter the class at various levels of ability; and every effort is made to foster the unique talent and encourage the progress of each. Students are encouraged to submit at least one piece for publication during the semester.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

A. Terminal Objectives

At the completion of this course the student will be able to do the following:

1. Employ written and oral knowledge of the fiction and non-fiction narrative.
2. Write, using the power of the imagination, his or her own life experiences, feelings, and beliefs into a creative journal
3. Apply editorial skills required for publication in contemporary media.

B. Unit Objectives

As a result of successfully completing these units, the student will be able to do the following:

1. Read different types of literature that emphasizes various elements of narrative.
2. Identify various elements of literature involved in creating varieties of narration.
3. Compose original non-fiction and fiction, applying various styles of narrative.
4. Apply publishing tips to getting his or her work ready for publication review.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

A. Required textbooks:

Kelly, Joseph, ed. *The Seagull Reader; Stories*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., NY: W.W. Norton, 2014.  
ISBN-13 978-0393938210

B. Various supplemental handouts.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- A. University Policies and Procedures
1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
  2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
  3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
    - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
    - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
    - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
    - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
    - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
  4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
  5. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
    - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
    - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.
- B. Department Policies and Procedures
1. **Class Assignments**
    - a. Students need to come to class with the appropriate textbooks, course materials, and other supplies as designated by the professor.
    - b. Professors may refuse to accept an assignment if it has inappropriate content, does not meet the assignment's criteria (e.g., not typed, incorrectly documented), is incomplete, is suspected of plagiarism, or is turned in too late.
  2. **Tardies**—Tardies are an inconvenience to the other class members and the

professor, and they prevent the late student from obtaining maximum value from the class. Therefore, excessive tardies may adversely affect the semester grade. It is to the student's advantage to make sure that the professor is informed immediately following the close of the class that the student was tardy and not absent. It is not the professor's responsibility to stop the class to mark the tardy; the student is the one responsible for conveying that information immediately following that class, not at a later time.

3. **Late Work**

- a. The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence, and all work is expected to be completed as scheduled. Late work may result in a lower grade. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. Computer or printer malfunction does not constitute an excuse for late work; students should have their work prepared in time to ensure that they can get it proofread, edited, and printed prior to the instructor's due date. These responsibilities assist the student in professional development.
- b. Any test taken late (except if the absence is administratively excused) incurs the ORU late exam fee (\$15), which must be paid before the late test can be taken.
- c. Assignments missed because of administratively excused absences are accepted with no penalty. Generally, assignments missed from an excused absence, such as sickness or family crises, can be made up and the instructor should be notified as soon as possible to reach an agreement on due dates and possible penalties. Each instructor has his or her own late-work policy that is given to students at the beginning of a course, so a teacher may decide that work missed because of an unexcused absence cannot be made up. Instructors use their own judgment in accepting late work resulting from all other absences. In cases where absences can be anticipated, such as for non-University sponsored mission trips, the work should normally be submitted prior to the absence.

4. **Attendance**

- a. **Excused and Unexcused Absences**—As stated in the university policy section of this syllabus, class attendance is mandatory, but because unavoidable circumstances can prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss class the number of times per week a class meets. This allowance is intended for illness, personal business, and emergency. Work missed because of an excused absence (e.g., illness, family emergency) can be made up; however, it is up to the teacher's discretion whether or not to accept work missed due to an unexcused absence (e.g., oversleeping, skipping class). If a student exceeds this number of absences, the student may lose points due to late work or for excessive absences, which may affect the semester grade. Extended illnesses are handled on an individual basis and require verification from a doctor.
- b. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Only absences that are required by approved University activities are given administrative excuses. Students who must miss class for University-sponsored activities must follow these procedures:
  - (1) Inform the professor before the event and make arrangement for the work to be submitted prior to the absence or at a mutually

- agreed upon deadline.
- (2) Present an administrative excuse form with appropriate signatures when he or she returns to class. Doctors' or nurses' notes, or letters from groups sponsoring mission trips or activities do not qualify a student for an administratively excused absence.
  - (3) Obtain information covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled.
  - (4) Not commit to class presentation (oral reports, speeches, group presentations, etc.) on a date that the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily committed to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.
5. **Plagiarism**—Each student attending Oral Roberts University is required to do his or her own academic work and must not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments.
- a. Students must document all sources and ideas that are not their own original information by following correct MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation procedures. Failure to do this produces a plagiarized paper, which results in an F for the paper. Flagrant cheating results in an F for the course.
  - b. Students may be asked to submit their assignments to Turnitin.com (an online anti-plagiarism program) or have their work submitted to D2L, which also submits work to Turnitin.com.
6. **Incompletes**—As stated in the University catalog, incompletes are granted only for “good cause,” such as extended hospitalization, long-term illness, or a death in the family. Students must petition for an incomplete using the form available in the English and Modern Languages Department. Very few incompletes are granted.
7. **Whole Person Assessment**—If this course requires an ePortfolio assignment, it is listed in the next section (“Course Policies and Procedures”) and explained in the WPA Handbook at <http://eportfolio.oru.edu>. Students need to comply as indicated in this syllabus, by the instructor, and in the WPA Handbooks.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. **Grades**

The final grade is based on the following requirements:

- a. Assignments, quizzes, exams, attendance and participation in class and other assigned activities.
- b. Students should not expect extra credit to help raise a grade.
- c. Grading Scale  
A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=59% and below

2. **Evaluation Procedures**

	Points
3 non-fiction essays	180
3 short stories	180
1 one-act play	60
1 research report	80
Class participation	100
Final Course Portfolio, with drafts and revisions	<u>200</u>
TOTAL	800

- a. All the work done outside of the class must be typed and double-spaced

on one side of the page with one-inch margins. Each student must provide typed, photocopied copies of works in progress for the professor and each class member at regular intervals, according to assignment schedule, and participate in oral readings and critiques of individual student works. In commenting on the works of class members, absolute candor, with kindness, in the context of constructive criticism is expected. After each critique, student author revises work and places both copies in a portfolio, with at least ten selections submitted for the final portfolio

- b. Each student should plan to submit one or more of his or her works to *Promethia* and at least one to a refereed literary journal for publication review.
- c. The student will prepare a comprehensive final portfolio consisting of five non-fiction or fiction narratives, with drafts and revisions. Final portfolios should be paginated, neatly ordered, and placed in a special binder with a title page and a table of contents.
- d. The student (1) practices various techniques of literary writing, and (2) composes 5 or more original works, which will be revised after class evaluation, with all submitted as a final portfolio.
- e. In addition to composing their own narratives, the student demonstrates knowledge of the essential elements of non-fiction in an exam.

3. **WPA Requirements**

There is no Whole Person Assessment assignment for this class.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Weeks 1-5	Elements of non-fiction
6-10	Elements of fiction
11-14	Elements of drama
15	Final Portfolio due

## Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes

### WRT 405 - Literary Genres: Short Stories Spring 2017

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
<b>1</b>	<b>Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge			X	
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit			X	
1C	Evangelistic capability			X	
1D	Ethical behavior	X			
<b>2</b>	<b>Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives				X
2D	Aesthetic appreciation	X			
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			
<b>3</b>	<b>Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X
<b>4</b>	<b>Outcome #4 – Socially Adept</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills	X			
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences			X	
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity			X	

(Revised 9/15/06)