



# LITR11043 *The Short Story*

## Term 2 - 2023

Profile information current as at 14/12/2025 03:41 pm

All details in this unit profile for LITR11043 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

### General Information

#### Overview

A short story contains multiple points of view and myriad narrative strategies. Moreover, as Patricia Hampl notes, the short story is 'acknowledged to be the most exquisite kind of prose fiction, requiring the perfect craft, the form in which the smallest slip can bring the whole contraption—plot, character, narration—down in a crash. A delicate business'. The aim of this unit is to provide students with an opportunity to explore the complexity and delicacy of the short story while developing their text-based interpretative and analytical techniques.

#### Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 1*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 7

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

#### Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

There are no requisites for this unit.

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

#### Offerings For Term 2 - 2023

- Online
- Rockhampton

#### Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

#### Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

## Class and Assessment Overview

### Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

### Class Timetable

#### [Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

#### [Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

### Assessment Overview

#### 1. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 20%

#### 2. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 40%

#### 3. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 40%

### Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

## CQUniversity Policies

**All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).**

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

## Previous Student Feedback

### Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

#### Feedback from SUTE UNIT COMMENTS

##### **Feedback**

Some students feel that the unit could be condensed down and added to another unit.

##### **Recommendation**

Review whether it is appropriate to condense the unit to add the content to another unit.

#### Feedback from SUTE UNIT COMMENTS

##### **Feedback**

Some students feel there is too much literature to closely examine. Some students feel that to analyse text you are averse to is difficult. They also suggest looking at current literature, authors from recent decades who convey powerful messages that impact our lives.

##### **Recommendation**

Rewrite or reorganise modules where appropriate, to incorporate a thematic approach to literature analysis.

#### Feedback from SUTE UNIT COMMENTS

##### **Feedback**

Students identified a lack of set talkings regarding the points for assignments (such as methods of identifying theme, genre discussion etc).

##### **Recommendation**

Conduct a how-to session/video on the assessments, and make this available in the assessment tab. Consider wording of assessments so that ambiguity in topics is removed as much as possible, and specify formatting.

#### Feedback from SUTE UNIT COMMENTS

##### **Feedback**

Some students felt it may be beneficial to deliver information in a different way or provide transcripts to read.

##### **Recommendation**

The unit content will be more explicitly sign-posted in relation to what section of text/resource is under discussion and emphasize how it links to unit learning outcomes and development of skills.

## Unit Learning Outcomes

### **On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:**

1. interpret, analyse and evaluate selected short stories from the nineteenth and twentieth century using a variety of advanced text-based interpretative and analytical techniques;
2. analyse and compare selected short stories within a framework of issues such as ideology, gender, race and the politics of literature;

N/A

## Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



N/A  
Level



Introductory  
Level



Intermediate  
Level



Graduate  
Level



Professional  
Level



Advanced  
Level

### Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes	
	1	2
1 - Written Assessment - 20%	•	•
2 - Written Assessment - 40%	•	•
3 - Written Assessment - 40%	•	•

## Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes	
	1	2
1 - Communication	•	•
2 - Problem Solving	•	
3 - Critical Thinking	•	•
4 - Information Literacy	•	•
5 - Team Work		
6 - Information Technology Competence		
7 - Cross Cultural Competence		•
8 - Ethical practice		•
9 - Social Innovation		
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures		

## Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Written Assessment - 20%		•	•							
2 - Written Assessment - 40%	•	•	•	•		•				
3 - Written Assessment - 40%	•	•					•	•		

## Textbooks and Resources

### Textbooks

**There are no required textbooks.**

### IT Resources

**You will need access to the following IT resources:**

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

## Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)  
For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

## Teaching Contacts

**Stephen Butler** Unit Coordinator  
[s.butler@cqu.edu.au](mailto:s.butler@cqu.edu.au)

## Schedule

### Week 1 - 10 Jul 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Introducing the Short Story	Eudora Welty, 'A worn path'	

### Week 2 - 17 Jul 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Analysing the Short Story	Kate Chopin, 'Desiree's baby'	

### Week 3 - 24 Jul 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The 19th Century American Short Story	Nathaniel Hawthorne, 'The minister's black veil'; Edgar Allen Poe, 'The oval portrait'; Ambrose Bierce, 'An occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge'	

### Week 4 - 31 Jul 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The 19th Century Continental Short Story	Nikolai Gogol, 'The overcoat'; Guy de Maupassant, 'A country outing'; Anton Chekhov, 'The lady with the pet dog'	

### Week 5 - 07 Aug 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The 19th century British Short Story	Charles Dickens, 'The signalman'; Rudyard Kipling, 'At the end of the passage'; Thomas Hardy, 'The withered arm'	<b>Short Paper</b> Due: Week 5 Friday (11 Aug 2023) 11:59 pm AEST

### Vacation Week - 14 Aug 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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**Week 6 - 21 Aug 2023**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
British Modernism	James Joyce, 'A painful case'; Katherine Mansfield, 'The garden party'; Virginia Woolf, 'The mark on the wall'	

**Week 7 - 28 Aug 2023**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Continental Modernism	Franz Kafka, 'A hunger artist'; Thomas Mann, 'Mario and the magician'; Jorge Louis Borges, 'Borges and I' & 'Everything and nothing'	

**Week 8 - 04 Sep 2023**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
American Modernism	Ernest Hemingway, 'Hills like white elephants'; Katherine Porter, 'The grave'; John Cheever, 'The country husband'	

**Week 9 - 11 Sep 2023**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
American Postmodernism	John Updike, 'Leaves'; Donald Barthelme, 'At the end of the mechanical age'; David Foster Wallace, 'Suicide as a sort of present'	<b>Close Reading Journal</b> Due: Week 9 Friday (15 Sept 2023) 11:59 pm AEST

**Week 10 - 18 Sep 2023**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Continental Postmodernism	Alain Robbe-Grillet, 'The shore'; Thomasso Landolfi, 'Gogol's wife'; Julio Cortazar, 'Axolotl'	

**Week 11 - 25 Sep 2023**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Australian Stories	Herb Wharton, 'Boat people-big trial'; Jared Thomas, 'The healing tree'; Tara June Winch, 'Wantok'; Archie Weller, 'Johnny Blue'; Michael Wilding, 'The words she types'; Mandy Sayer, 'The birthday present'	

**Week 12 - 02 Oct 2023**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
A Global Form	Jamaica Kincaid, 'Girl'; Chinua Achebe, 'Dead man's path'; Isabelle Allende, 'And of clay we are created'; Frederick Brown, 'Solipsist'; Margaret Atwood, 'Happy endings'	<b>Research Essay</b> Due: Week 12 Friday (6 Oct 2023) 11:59 pm AEST

**Review/Exam Week - 09 Oct 2023**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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**Exam Week - 16 Oct 2023**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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## Assessment Tasks

### 1 Short Paper

#### Assessment Type

Written Assessment

#### Task Description

Amongst other things, the formal elements (genre conventions) of the short story include:

- A compressed setting and time frame;
- A particular narrative point of view;
- A small set of characters revealed through action, dialogue and epiphany;
- A plot-structure beginning *in media res*, passing through exposition, complication, climax, and resolution;
- Use of figurative and sensual language.

Choose one [1] of the set stories (from any weekly module) and write a short paper (750-1000 words) discussing how the formal elements support or relate to the story's meanings, themes, and broader significance.

#### Assessment Due Date

Week 5 Friday (11 Aug 2023) 11:59 pm AEST

Marked assessments will be returned ASAP

#### Return Date to Students

ASAP after submission (within two weeks)

#### Weighting

20%

#### Assessment Criteria

The Short Paper will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Understanding of the formal elements and conventions of the short story genre;
2. Ability to interpret the meanings and broader significance of the particular short story;
3. The extent to which your responses reflect an interest in and understanding of unit concepts and issues.
4. Express yourself clearly (including spelling and grammar); and, acknowledge all your sources using the Harvard (author-date) referencing style.

#### Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

#### Submission

Online

#### Learning Outcomes Assessed

- interpret, analyse and evaluate selected short stories from the nineteenth and twentieth century using a variety of advanced text-based interpretative and analytical techniques;
- analyse and compare selected short stories within a framework of issues such as ideology, gender, race and the politics of literature;

#### Graduate Attributes

- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking

### 2 Close Reading Journal

#### Assessment Type

Written Assessment

#### Task Description

Bennet and Royle (2015, pp. 60-62) recommend the following approaches to interpreting a short story.

- Think small
- Begin with the title

- Be suggestible
- Look out for repetition
- Talk about the plot
- Effects of intertextuality
- Ask yourself
- What is the time?
- Who's talking?

Apply one approach to one [1] story each week for nine [9] weeks. Focus on a short passage or a small set of quotations and perform a "close reading" in order to interpret the story's significance. Each piece should be 150-200 words and take the form of a well-constructed paragraph with a clear "thesis statement".

Choose your best six [6] responses for inclusion in the Close Reading Journal and upload it to Moodle by the due date. Bonus marks may be awarded to students that post their responses to the weekly discussion forum. Further guidelines for this assessment item are available on Moodle.

### **Assessment Due Date**

Week 9 Friday (15 Sept 2023) 11:59 pm AEST

### **Return Date to Students**

Marked assessments will be returned ASAP

### **Weighting**

40%

### **Assessment Criteria**

**The Short Answer Journal will be evaluated according to the following criteria:**

1. Ability to apply Bennett and Royle's approaches to the chosen stories;
2. Ability to interpret the meanings and broader significance of the chosen short stories;
3. Ability to express yourself clearly (including spelling and grammar); and,
4. Ability to acknowledge all sources (if any) using the Harvard (author-date) referencing style.

### **Referencing Style**

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

### **Submission**

Online

### **Submission Instructions**

See instructions above.

### **Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- interpret, analyse and evaluate selected short stories from the nineteenth and twentieth century using a variety of advanced text-based interpretative and analytical techniques;
- analyse and compare selected short stories within a framework of issues such as ideology, gender, race and the politics of literature;

### **Graduate Attributes**

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence

## **3 Research Essay**

### **Assessment Type**

Written Assessment

### **Task Description**

**Address one of the the following topics:**

- According to Rohrberger (1979, p. 3): 'Everything in a short story tends to stand for something else, and because it



does meanings can multiply even though the story is usually limited to a single major character involved in a single action'. Discuss this statement using textual analysis of at least three set short stories to support your interpretive argument.

- According to Terry Eagleton (2007, p. 50): 'The meaning of a narrative is not just the "end" of it, but the process of narration itself.' In other words, for a critical reader, the genre elements and literary devices of a text are just as important as what happens to the characters. Discuss the implications of the statement in relation to several short stories.

- Focusing on the interaction of genre elements (character, setting, plot, point of view, language, etc) trace the evolution of views on personal identity (class, gender, race, and sexuality) as they manifest in a selection of set short stories from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

- Choose at least three set short stories and show how their content (meanings, themes, etc.) and form (genre elements) exemplify aspects of realism, modernism and postmodernism.

- According to Kusch (2016, p. 128) 'literature [*the short story*] is 'a space where human experience can be explored through language, and through analysis, we can make a place for ourselves as creators of meaning.' Compare and contrast three of the set stories in terms of this statement.

**Length:** 1500 words

**Assessment Due Date**

Week 12 Friday (6 Oct 2023) 11:59 pm AEST

**Return Date to Students**

Exam Week Friday (20 Oct 2023)

Marked assessments will be returned ASAP

**Weighting**

40%

**Assessment Criteria**

This assignment will be evaluated on your ability to:

1. Interpret the meanings and broader significance of the chosen short stories;
2. Develop a clear argument based on textual analysis using recommended critical concepts;
3. Support your argument with references to scholarly secondary sources;
4. Express yourself clearly (including spelling and grammar); and, acknowledge all your sources using the Harvard (author-date) referencing style.

**Referencing Style**

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

**Submission**

Online

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- interpret, analyse and evaluate selected short stories from the nineteenth and twentieth century using a variety of advanced text-based interpretative and analytical techniques;
- analyse and compare selected short stories within a framework of issues such as ideology, gender, race and the politics of literature;

**Graduate Attributes**

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice

## Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

### What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

### Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

### Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

### What can you do to act with integrity?



#### Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



#### Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



#### Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem