



Tuesday, 2:00-3:15 p.m. October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, November 7.

The six-week course will focus on short stories by an array of international authors. Some will be familiar (Mark Twain, Guy de Maupassant, Toni Morrison, and Margaret Atwood, for example); others will not, and so participants can add to their repertoire. Each selection has something special to offer. We will look at how the individual stories are constructed, how they can be analyzed, how form and content interact, and how every text can best be appreciated. The format will be discussion and dialogue, not lectures. The operating premise is that an understanding of the tools of analysis can add to the enjoyment of reading. The goal, then, is double: enlightenment and enjoyment. The texts and supplementary materials will be provided.

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SCHEDULE

Week 1

INTRODUCTION

Augusto Monterroso (b. Honduras, Guatemala), “The Frog Who Wanted to Be an Authentic Frog,” “The Eclipse” (1959)

Marco Denevi (Argentina), “The Lord of the Flies,” “Apocalypse” (1966)

Stephen Leacock (Canada), “Borrowing a Match” (1910)

Langston Hughes (United States), “Thank You, M’am” (1958)

Week 2

Mark Twain (United States), “The Story of the Bad Little Boy” (1865)

Kate Chopin (United States), “The Story of an Hour” (1894)

Guy de Maupassant (France), “The Adopted Son” (1882)

Julio Cortázar (Argentina), “Continuity of Parks” (1964)

Week 3

Ana María Matute (Spain), “Sin of Omission” (1961)

Nella Larsen (United States), “Sanctuary” (1930)

Jorge Luis Borges (Argentina), “The Ethnographer” (1969)

Rosario Ferré (Puerto Rico), “The Youngest Doll” (1972)

Week 4

Willa Cather (United States), “The Namesake” (1907)

Margaret Atwood (Canada), “Happy Endings” (1983)

Clarice Lispector (Brazil), “The Fifth Story” (1964)

Nadine Gordimer (South Africa), “The Train from Rhodesia” (1952)

Week 5

Jesús Colón (Puerto Rico), “Little Things Are Big” (1950s; published 1982)

Miguel de Unamuno (Spain), *Saint Manuel Bueno the Good, Martyr* (1931)

Week 6

Toni Morrison (United States), “Sweetness” (2015)

Jorge Luis Borges (Argentina), “Emma Zunz” (1948)

Julio Cortázar (Argentina), “The Night Face Up” (1955)

George Saunders (United States), “The Falls” (1996)

SYNTHESIS

