SHORT STORIES:
ANALYSIS AND ENJOYMENT

Edward Friedman
Summer 2021
"Short Stories: Analysis and Enjoyment"
Edward Friedman

The course will focus on short stories by authors from the United States, Canada, Europe, and Latin America. 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 target number of participants is 25. The format will be discussion and dialogue, not lectures. The first session will be an introduction, and each of the other five sessions (of one hour and 15 minutes) will accentuate several short stories. The reading assignment for a given session will be a maximum of 20 pages. There will be “points to consider” for every selection. The goal is double, as the title suggests: enlightenment and enjoyment.

***

Edward Friedman has just retired from Vanderbilt, where he was Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor in the Humanities. During his twenty years at Vanderbilt (and over forty in the profession), he taught Spanish and comparative literature. For eleven years, he served as director of the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities. Email address: edward.h.friedman@vanderbilt.edu