

SHORT FICTION: ANALYSIS AND ENJOYMENT

Edward Friedman

OSHER, Vanderbilt University, Spring 2023

**Dates: Wednesday, March 22, March 29, April 5, April 12, April 19, April 26,
3:30-4:45 p.m.**

The course will emphasize techniques for analyzing and interpreting short works of narrative fiction. The aim is to add to the appreciation and enjoyment of literature by focusing on a variety of approaches and a broad range of selections. The number of participants will be limited, so that there can be a comfortable atmosphere for productive dialogue and sharing of ideas. There will be a reading assignment for each session, with an average of 35-40 pages per week. Course materials will be available online.



SESSION 1

**Readings: Kate Chopin, “The Kiss,” “A Respectable Woman,” “Regret”
Oscar Wilde, “The Nightingale and the Rose”**

SESSION 2

**Readings: Harriet Beecher Stowe, “A Scholar’s Adventures in the Country”
Herman Melville, “The Fiddler”
Arthur Conan Doyle, “The Story of B24”
Katherine Mansfield, “Miss Brill”**

SESSION 3

Readings: Guy de Maupassant, “Two Friends”
O. Henry, “The Furnished Room”
H. H. Munro (SAKI), “The Disappearance of Crispina
Umberleigh”
James Joyce, “Eveline”
Shirley Jackson, “Call Me Ishmael”
Alice Munro, “Voices”

SESSION 4

Readings: Colette, “The Other Wife”
Armando Palacio Valdés, “The Love of Clotilde”
Italo Calvino, “The Man Who Shouted Teresa” and “The Black
Sheep”
Clarice Lispector, “The Hen”
Miguel de Cervantes *The Force of Blood (La fuerza de la sangre)*

SESSION 5

Readings: Zora Neale Hurston, “Sweat”
Junius Edwards, “Liars Don’t Qualify”
Ralph Ellison, “Cadillac Flambé”

SESSION 6

Readings: Benjamin Franklin, “The Whistle”
Antón Chekhov, “The Head of the Family”
Ana María Matute, “The Boys”
Philip K. Dick, “The Eyes Have It”
John Chu, “The Water That Falls on You from Nowhere”
Ray Bradbury, “The Last Night of the World”