University of Chicago, Graham School
Subject Area: Literature

American Short Story Masterpieces: Spring 2019
Meeting Times: Tuesdays 1:30pm-4pm
Location: Gleacher Center

Professor Bruce Gans
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312 402 8517

Note: Readings are subject to change. All readings are handouts and can be obtained from the professor either class handouts or through his email address when necessary. Please contact the instructor to receive the first two stories to be discussed during the first class.

Week One: April 2: Course Overview and Universal Themes.
Readings: “Wooing of Ariadne” by Harry Mark Petrakis
“Beach Umbrella” by Cyrus Colter

Week Two: April 9: Minimalism and Understatement
Readings: “Clean Well-Lighted Place” by Ernest Hemingway
“Night School” by Ray Carver

Week Three: April 16 Prose Contrasts in Pathos and Compassion
Readings: “Signs and Symbols” by Vladimir Nabokov
“Gimpel the Fool” by Isaac Bashevis Singer

Week Four: April 23 The Sacred and The Profane
Readings: “Forks” by J.F Powers
“Stickman’s Laughter” by Nelson Algren

Week Five: April 30 The Unreal and Higher Reality.
Readings “Bartleby the Scrivener” by Herman Melville
“Altar of the Dead” by Henry James

Week Six: May 7 Innovation in Style and Insight
Readings” “Spotted Horses by William Faulkner

Week Seven: May 14 Fathers and Children
Readings: “Je Suis Perdue” by Peter Taylor
“The Lame Shall Enter First” by Flannery O’Connor.

Week Eight: May 21 Comic and Tragic Visions
Readings: “Let’s Hear It for a Wonderful Guy” by Bruce Jay Friedman.
“The Philosopher” by Sherwood Anderson