## COURSE OUTLINE

# **English 115 Introduction to Fiction**

#### I. Catalog Statement

English 115 introduces students to a variety of structural and stylistic elements, critical concepts, and themes that help them analyze and appreciate works of fiction. Students are encouraged to express their interpretations of readings in classroom discussions, and they learn and practice effective methods of writing about works of fiction.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0 **Total Course Units: 3.0** 

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

**Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0** 

Prerequisite: Eligibility for English 101

#### **II.** Course Entry Expectations

Skills Level Ranges: Reading 6; Writing 6; Listening/Speaking 6; Math 1

Prior to enrolling in this course, the student should be able to:

- 1. organize and write thesis-based essays;
- 2. use detailed examples, facts, logical explanations, and other appropriate support for thesis statements;
- 3. critically analyze selected prose works dealing with important contemporary issues
- 4. summarize, analyze, and synthesize information, express and apply standards for judgment, compare and contrast, and evaluate evidence in order to form and state reasoned opinions;
- 5. demonstrate a command of grammar, diction, syntax, and mechanics sufficient for college level work: Control of standard English at the sentence level, with few major errors in grammar and punctuation.

#### III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- 1. acquire an understanding of fictional elements such as characterization, setting, plot, tone, point of view, symbol and theme, and of key critical concepts such as realism, naturalism, minimalism and fabulism;
- 2. practice the methods of interpreting and critically analyzing works of fiction;
- 3. practice effective techniques of organizing and developing critical essays about works of fiction.

## **IV.** Course Content

## **Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48 hours**

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Α.	Elements	OΙ	ricu	on

24 hours

- 1. Plot
  - a. Exposition
  - b. Conflict
  - c. Crisis
  - d. Resolution
  - e. Epiphany
- 2. Character
  - a. Round vs. flat
  - b. Characterizing by detail
  - c. Characterizing by action
  - d. Characterizing by image
- 3. Setting
  - a. Setting and mood
  - b. Setting and metaphor
- 4. Tone
  - a. Identifying the tone
  - b. Irony and burlesque
- 5. Point of view
  - a. First persons: reliable and unreliable narrators
  - b. Second person: limits and advantages
  - c. Third person: omniscient and limited
- 6. Symbol/metaphor
  - a. Details as symbols
  - b. Action as metaphor
  - c. Organic vs. inorganic approaches
- 7. Theme
  - a. How themes are developed
  - b. Explicit vs. implicit themes
- 8. Short Story vs. Novel
  - a. Plot and subplot
  - b. Unified vs. split points of view

#### B. Critical Concepts

21 hours

- 1. Realism
- 2. Naturalism
- 3. Satire
- 4. Aestheticism
- 5. Existentialism
- 6. Absurdism
- 7. Minimalism
- 8. Fabulism

C. Critical writing

3 hours

- 1. Expressing and supporting an interpretation
- 2. Applying a literary or philosophical concept
- 3. Focusing on a single element
- 4. Comparing two or more works

### V. Methods of Instruction

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

- lectures, directed class discussions, small-group discussions, peer group writing workshops, individual conferences, small-group conferences, and student presentations;
- 2. films, audio-visuals, slides, and hand-out materials may be used to supplement lectures, discussion, and readings;
- 3. debate, play-reading activities, group projects, or other active learning;
- 4. guest speakers from related disciplines may be invited to present special topical material;
- 5. student ownership and presentation of assigned course material.

## VI. Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:

- 1. attendance at plays with subsequent, reflective essays;
- 2. essays of analysis, evaluation, argumentation;
- 3. documented research paper that includes close reading of primary and secondary sources and that incorporates the principles of logic, analysis, and argument
- 4. reading journal;
- 5. preparation for oral presentations and group projects;
- 6. annotated bibliography.

#### VII. Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

- 1. Documented research paper with primary & secondary sources;
- 2. four 500-750 word essays or four 300-500 word essays plus a short term paper;
- 3. quizzes on readings;
- 4. term project;
- 5. final examination.

#### VIII. Textbooks

Barnet, *The Harper Anthology of Fiction*, New York: HarperCollins, 1997. 14th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: # 978-0673396341.

Charters, *An Introduction to Fiction*, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Longman, 2009. 14th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: # 978-0205687886.

Charters, *The Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction*, New York: Bedford, 2010.

14th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: # 978-0312596231.

## IX. <u>Student Learning Outcomes</u>

Upon successful completion, the student will be able to:

- 1. understand critical concepts in fiction such as realism, naturalism, minimalism, and fabulism;
- 2. read critically in order to analyze literary works for themes and other literary elements;
- 3. write thesis-centered essays which analyze and interpret works of fiction.