# **COURSE OUTLINE**

**English 115**

**Introduction to Fiction**

1. **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.

#### Units – 3.0

Lecture Hours – 3.0

Prerequisite: Eligibility for English 101

1. **Course Entry Expectations**

Skills Level Ranges: Reading 6; Writing 6; Listening/Speaking 5; Math 1

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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. gather and organize information through library research

demonstrate a command of grammar, diction, syntax, and mechanics

sufficient for college level work as specified by the English 120 rubric.

1. **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. learn and practice the methods of interpreting and critically analyzing works of fiction.
3. learn and practice effective techniques of organizing and developing critical essays about works of fiction.

**IV.** **Course Content**

A. Elements of Fiction 24 hours

1. Plot
   1. Exposition
   2. Conflict
   3. Crisis
   4. Resolution
   5. Epiphany
2. Character
   1. Round vs. flat
   2. Characterizing by detail
   3. Characterizing by action
   4. Characterizing by image
3. Setting
   1. Setting and mood
   2. Setting and metaphor
4. Tone
   1. Identifying the tone
   2. Irony and burlesque
5. Point of view
   1. First persons: reliable and unreliable narrators
   2. Second person: limits and advantages
   3. Third person: omniscient and limited
6. Symbol/metaphor
   1. Details as symbols
   2. Action as metaphor
   3. Organic vs. inorganic approaches
7. Theme
   1. How themes are developed
   2. Explicit vs. implicit themes
8. Short Story vs. Novel
   1. Plot and subplot
   2. 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. Comparison of two or more works
5. **Methods of Presentation**
6. readings in fiction from a large number of places and periods.
7. **Assignments and Methods of Evaluation**
8. four 500-700 word essays
9. quizzes on readings
10. final examination essay
11. **Textbooks**

Barnet, The Harper Anthology of Fiction, 0673396347, HarperCollins, 1991

Kennedy, An Introduction to Fiction, 11th edition, 0205687881, 2009

Charters, The Story and Its Writer, 7th edition, 0312442718, Bedford, 2006

Stanford, Responding to Literature, 5th edition, 0079296278X, McGraw-Hill, 2005

1. **Student Learning Outcomes**

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.