

**Skyline College  
Official Course Outline**

**Date:** April 2007

**1. TITLE:**

Literature 111: The Short Story  
3.0 units, 3 lecture hours per week  
Prerequisite: English 100 or English 105 or equivalent

**2. COURSE CLASSIFICATION:**

Credit course applicable to the Associate Degree  
Credit/No credit or letter grade

**3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Catalog Description:**

Three lecture hours per week. Prerequisite English 100 or 105 or equivalent. Reading, discussing and writing about a diverse selection of classic and contemporary short fiction. Exploration of a spectrum of voices, styles, formal structures and themes will lead to an understanding and appreciation of stories from different cultures and perspectives. Independent study will encourage in-depth reading of the work of one author. Transfer: UC, CSU (C2).

**Schedule of Classes Description:**

Readings, discussions and writing about short fiction to promote an understanding and appreciation of different voices, styles, structures and themes in this distinct literary form. Transfer: UC, CSU (C2).

**COURSE JUSTIFICATION:**

Credit course applicable to the Associate Degree in two areas: 1) Specific Area/English; 2) Specific Area/Ethnic Diversity; and 3 )General Education/Humanities. Transferable to CSU in Areas C2 and IGETC applicable in Area 3B.

**4. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs):**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify, analyze, and evaluate major themes in a diverse selection of short stories
- Apply critical thinking skills to short stories in order to analyze an author's Strategy and purpose
- Formulate original ideas and perceive themselves as accomplished thinkers and writers

**5. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

During the course, students will be asked to:

- Write coherent, well- organized and analytical responses to short stories

- Employ historical, sociological, political and biographical contexts as well as literary conventions such as character, imagery, symbols, point of view and theme in the study of short stories
- Utilize collaborative learning as a way to formulate new ideas and explore themes
- Evaluate short stories in terms of the chronological, cultural and stylistic range of short fiction

## 6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

Units can include:

- Classic short stories -- 19th century
- Modern and postmodern stories -- 20th & 21st centuries
- American short stories
- International short stories
- Stories grouped by type: science fiction/fantasy, realism, satire, minimalist, etc.
- Survey of all of the above

Reading materials can include:

- Critical and scholarly writing about short stories
- Biographical and autobiographical writing about authors studied
- Contemporary reviews in publications such as *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The New York Review of Books*, etc.

## 7. **REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Methods of instruction can include but are not limited to lecture, demonstration/modeling, reading, focused discussion, small group discussion and activities, written assignments from spontaneous in-class writing to reading response journals and analytical essays, oral presentations and seminars, quizzes, collaborative/creative projects and library and on-line research. Students will focus on the work of one author through independent research and extended reading.

## 8. **ASSIGNMENTS:**

Typical assignments might include the following:

- **Readings** -- One or two stories per class session as well as background reading and research when required
- **Writing Assignments** -- Reading Response Journals or other types of evaluative written responses to each story read, at least one analytical and/or research-based essay as well as opportunities for creative/original written responses to readings.

- **Projects/Seminar Presentations** -- Oral and/or written presentations of individual and collaborative research as well as creative responses to stories and authors presented in seminar format

<b>Student Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Typical Assignment</b>	<b>Method of Evaluation</b>
Identify, analyze, and evaluate major themes in a diverse selection of short stories.	Students write Reading Response Journals for each story read with specific instructions to identify, analyze and evaluate theme(s).	Instructor reads each Journal, dialogues on paper with student, assesses student learning and grades Journal accordingly.

<b>Student Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Typical Assignment</b>	<b>Method of Evaluation</b>
Apply critical thinking skills to short stories in order to analyze an author's strategy and purpose.	Students will write discussion questions for one another focused on author's strategy and purpose to be used during group discussion.	During group discussion, each student's question will be evaluated by instructor and given points/grade indicating level of critical thinking skills employed.

<b>Student Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Typical Assignment</b>	<b>Method of Evaluation</b>
Identify and evaluate an author's writing style and the specific techniques utilized.	Students will write an analytical essay identifying writing style and tracking techniques used in a given story.	Instructor will read and grade student essay.

## 9. EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:

Grade option will typically be based on:

- Written assignments -- Organized, coherent and developed writing demonstrating understanding of the material and presenting original analysis supported by references to the texts

- Participation -- Active participation in class discussions, small group work and all reading assignments
- Homework -- Completion of Reading Response Journals and/or other types of evaluative writing as well as research-based and creative/collaborative assignments
- Quizzes -- Quizzes may be used to test comprehension and participation
- Final Exam/Final Project -- A final exam and/or project to assess students' overall understanding and to offer an opportunity to synthesize learning

#### 10. **RECOMMENDED TEXTS and/or AUTHORS:**

Instructors are encouraged to select texts appropriate to the course, to consult with other faculty for text recommendations, to review lists of past texts used, and to visit the bookstore to see current text selections in comparable courses. Here is a list of some suggestions:

Bohner, Charles & Grant, Lyman. *Short Fiction Classic and Contemporary*. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006.

Martin, Wendy. *The Art of the Short Story*. New York: Houghton Mifflin , 2006.

*The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction, 7th edition*. Eds. Richard Bausch & R.V. Cassill. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2005. ISBN 0-393-92611-7

Silverman, Jay et al. *Rules of Thumb A Guide for Writers*. New York: McGraw Hill, 2008.

#### **Supplemental texts:**

By Individual authors:

- *Collected Stories of Anton Chekhov*
- *Cathedral* by Raymond Carver
- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
- *Open Secret* by Alice Munroe
- *Collected Stories of Langston Hughes*