

Department:

English

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to provide a study of the literary genre of the short story, with emphasis on critical analysis and appreciation. The basic elements of short fiction, such as point of view, plot, character, and theme will be discussed and analyzed in terms of how they are applied in individual stories by major writers from various periods and countries. The purpose of such analysis will be to help students understand, appreciate, and enjoy more fully the reading of short fiction.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify and articulate the theme or meanings in a short story.
2. Explain the impact and implications of history, geography, and culture on how stories are perceived by contemporary readers.
3. Identify the narrative point of view and explain its effect on a story.
4. Explain characterization and character development in a story.
5. Describe the basic elements of plot structure.
 - a. Identify exposition, suspense, climax, and denouement in a standard plot structure.
 - b. Explain the impact of variations in standard plot structure.
 - c. Identify foreshadowing and dramatic irony in the plot.
 - d. Explain the importance or relevance of the setting in story development.
6. Analyze a short story in terms of its elements and themes and evaluate its effectiveness in terms of both personal and critical response.
7. Use the features of word-processing software for formatting and source documentation.

Course Content:

- A. Introduction: The Story and Its Writer
- B. Selected Stories
- C. Commentaries
- D. Casebooks

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by level of active participation in class or group discussions, written commentaries, reflection papers, essays, exams, and a final exam.

Instructional Materials:

The Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction, Ann Charters, Eighth Ed., Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2011

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students **must** complete the "Disabilities Self-Identification Form" at this link:
<https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services>.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.