

Bergen Community College  
School of English  
Department of Composition and Literature  
Course Syllabus

## **LIT 210 – Introduction to the Short Story**

Instructor:  
Office  
Phone:  
E-mail:  
Office Hours: TBA

### **Course Description**

**Introduction to the Short Story** is a study of short fiction: the stylistic and technical qualities of the genre, its kinship with narrative forms that stretch to the earliest literatures of diverse cultures, and the range of themes expressed in short stories, by authors writing in English and a variety of other languages.

3 Lecture Hours, 3 Credits

Prerequisite: WRT 101

### **Student Learning Objectives**

1. Read a wide range of short stories from various time periods and regions around the world. (PLG 1-4)
2. Identify and discuss a variety of literary techniques and styles used in short stories. (PLG 1,3,7)
3. Recognize and demonstrate understanding of the relationship between form and meaning in the construction of short stories. (PLG 5, 7)
4. Respond critically to short stories through discussion and writing, demonstrating an understanding of analytic approaches to the themes, ethics and world views represented in the works. (PLG 5, 8)
5. Demonstrate competency by identifying, evaluating, and using a variety of research tools to locate literary scholarship. (PLG 10, 11)

6. Integrate scholarly information such as attained through academic journals and books of criticism, into written analyses of works studied in the course using MLA citation style and rhetorically coherent strategies. (PLG 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11)

### **Assessment of Student Learning**

Students will be required to do the following:

1. Demonstrate class participation and understanding of the course's instruction on the course readings, through discussions, summaries, journals, reading responses, reading comprehension questions, quizzes. (Meets student learning objectives 1-4)
2. Write at least three (3) multi-paragraph, academic critical response essays of at least 500 words that analyze short stories by authors of various cultural, geographic, ethnic and historical backgrounds.  
(Meets student learning objectives 1-4)
3. Conduct independent research and write a 10-15 page research paper using MLA formatting and citation style conventions.  
(Meets student learning objectives 2-6)

### **Course Content**

This course begins with the study of the technical elements of short stories: narrative perspectives, plot devices, and the varied uses of style, tone and voice. Following this foundation, there will be much reading and discussion of short stories with a view to understanding the varied purposes and manifestations of the genre across history and cultures. Finally the course centers on a number of renowned movements in the modern short fiction tradition, and ends with a theme-based consideration of short stories in the contemporary global context.

### **Recommended Texts**

*A World of Short Stories*. Ed. Yvonne Collioud Sisko

*Readings on Reserve*

*Handouts*

## Course Requirements

### Class Participation

The primary focus of this course is the close examination of the assigned literature. This is primarily a reading discussion class; students taking this course must therefore be self-directed, motivated and dedicated to performing the readings assigned. The student is expected to come to every class having completed the readings. The reading and discussion framework is the course's forum of education: the student benefits from the instructor's teaching, the exchange of ideas with other students, and the independent work of evolving a personal process of intellectual growth in connection with the literary works covered in the course. Completing reading assignments is assumed a basic accomplishment; it is in developing well thought out perspectives through engagement with the class, thereby writing interestingly, and being an engaging and informative contributor to discussions, that the student really meets the challenge of a literature course.

### Reading Tests

Students can expect their close reading to be assessed each week, through both oral and written tests on the selected readings.

### Written Work

There will be three short critical response papers in this course, and a 7-10 page research paper.

Evaluation of student performance **Recommended Percentage**

in LIT-XXX is based on the

Student Learning Objectives.

Students will show their

achievement of these objectives

through the following:

#### Assignment Type

Critical Response 1	15%
Critical Response 2	15%
Critical Response 3	20%
Research Paper	25%
Class Participation	25%

#### Recommended Grading Scale

100-90	A
89-85	B+
84-80	B
79-75	C+
74-70	C
69-60	D
59 and below	F