

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

Course: EN 221 Short Story

Credits: 3

Prerequisites

Students taking English 221 shall have successfully passed English 102.

Description

The general goal of this course is to develop within the student an appreciation of the short story as a unique genre form. The focus in the course is on either a historical approach **or** a thematic approach to the study of selected stories with the emphasis on form, theory, and interpretation.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Evaluate the short story as a unique genre form;
- Explain the various techniques utilized in structuring the short story as a literary form;
- Critically read and analyze short stories for their universal thematic threads;
- Apply more thoroughly the critical thinking and writing skills initiated in EN 101 and reinforced in EN 102.

Related General Education Outcomes

Humanistic Perspective

- Students will describe commonly used approaches and criteria for analyzing works.
- Students will analyze works and applying commonly used approaches and criteria.

Topical Outline

To implement achieving the goals of this course, the student will be held responsible for the following work: daily reading assignments and in-class discussion of these assignments; thought assignments on various stories; a minimum of 3 short critical reaction papers; a long critical reaction comparison/contrast project.

EN 221 can be taught by focusing on a historical approach. This approach can focus on either the chronological presentation of short story writers and their productions **or** on a historical focus of various critical theories (such as analytical, historical, feminist, **postmodern**) evident in various stories.

EN 221 can also be taught by focusing on a thematic approach, as such, a tentative outline might be as follows:

- Introduction to the short story: the short story as a recent art form; toward a critical working definition of the short story; a short history of short fiction; overview of critical vocabulary for reading short fiction and for writing about short fiction;

- Introduction to thematic core #1: Parents and Children; critical discussion of a variety of stories under this heading;
- Introduction to thematic core #2: Adolescence, Initiation and Maturation; critical discussion of a variety of stories under this heading; critical reaction paper #1;
- Introduction to thematic core #3: Men and Women: Love, and Marriage; critical discussion of a variety of stories under this heading; critical reaction paper #2;
- Introduction to thematic core #4: Alienation; critical discussion of a variety of stories under this heading;
- Introduction to thematic core #5: Death; critical discussion of a variety of stories under this heading; critical reaction paper #3; project paper.

Required Texts and Other Materials

An Introduction to Fiction by Kennedy, Gioia, eds., 11th edition: Longman/Pearson.

Student Assessment

Since there will be no comprehensive final examination in this course, the evaluation procedure will include the following: in-class participation and any thought assignments = about 10% of the grade; the semester project = about 20% of the grade; the brief critical analyses = about 70% of the grade. **NB:** however, the assignments of the second half of the semester will weigh heavier so that the final grade reflects any improvement the student may have made in his/her writing and critical thinking skills.

Entrance and Exit Criteria:

Entrance Criteria for EN 221:

Students who have passed English 102 shall have

- acquired the ability to write a logically organized, fully developed critical analysis of a work of literature, a critical explication in which a thesis statement is specifically supported in at least three paragraphs of illustration;
- written a minimum of three such critical reaction papers one each for the following genre forms: short story, drama, poetry;
- written a 6-9 typed paged research paper on a literary topic, a research project that utilizes the MLA format.

Exit Criteria for EN 221:

Students shall have

- successfully implemented critical thinking skills in a minimum of three logically structured, coherently argued reaction papers;
- successfully developed a thesis statement in the requested format for the semester project assignment.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is presenting in written work, in public speaking, and in oral reports the ideas or exact words of someone else without proper documentation.

Whether the act of plagiarism is deliberate or accidental [ignorance of the proper rules for handling material is no excuse], plagiarism is, indeed, a “criminal” offense.

As such, a plagiarized paper or report automatically receives a grade of **ZERO** and the student may receive a grade of **F** for the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Available Resources

If you are having difficulty with work in this class, tutoring is available through the Success Center. If you think that you might have a learning disability, contact Project Assist at 856.691.8600, x1282 for information on assistance that can be provided to eligible students.

(List availability of open labs and/or writing center)

Before Withdrawing From This Course

If a student experiences adverse circumstances while enrolled in this course and considers withdrawing, s/he should see an advisor (division or advisement center) BEFORE withdrawing from the class. A withdrawal may cause harmful repercussions to completion rate standards and overall GPA which can limit or eliminate future financial aid in addition to causing academic suspension.