

**Division of Humanities  
Department of English  
Course Syllabus**

**LIT-110-XXX  
Introduction to The Short Story**

**Semester and year  
Section Number  
Meeting Times  
Location**

**Instructor:  
Office Location:  
Phone:  
E-mail:  
Office Hours:**

**Course Description**

Introduction to the Short Story is a study of short fiction that examines the stylistic and technical qualities of the genre, its kinship with narrative forms stretching 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.

Credits 3; Lecture 3  
Prerequisite: None General  
Education course

<b>Student Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Means of Assessment</b>
1. Read a wide range of short stories from various time periods and regions around the world.	Discussion, Writing, Multimodal Presentation
2. Identify and discuss a variety of literary techniques and styles used in short stories. Distinguish the relationship between form and meaning in the construction of short stories.	Discussion, Writing, Multimodal Presentation
3. Demonstrate an analytic approach to the themes, ethics and world views represented in the works through critical response papers and discussions.	Discussion, Writing

4. Identify and evaluate a variety of research tools to locate literary scholarship.	Discussion, Writing
5. Integrate secondary source material into written analyses of literature using MLA citation style and rhetorically coherent strategies.	Discussion, Writing, Multimodal Presentation.

### Essential Learning Outcomes

SLOs:	EL 1	EL 2	EL 3	EL 4	EL 5	EL 6	EL 7	EL 8	EL 9	EL 10	EL 11
1.	x	x							x		
2.	x	x							x		
3.	x	x							x		
4.	x	x							x		
5.	x	x			x				x		

EL1-Effective Speaking  
 EL2-Effective Writing  
 EL3-Mathematical Reasoning  
 EL4-Scientific Reasoning  
 EL5-Technological Competency  
 EL6-Information Literacy  
 EL7-Social-Behavioral Analysis

EL8-Historical Analysis  
 EL9-Humanistic Analysis  
 EL10-Intercultural Awareness  
 EL11-Moral Literacy

### Signature Assignment

Analysis: Students will write a five-page paper that analyzes a primary source text introduced in the course.

### Course Requirements

Students will be required to do the following:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the course readings through discussions, summaries, journals, reading responses, reading comprehension questions, quizzes and a research paper. (Meets Student Learning Outcomes 1-4.)
2. Write at least two (2) 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 and express an understanding of the themes, ethics, and world views represented in the works. (Meets Student Learning Outcomes 1-4.)

3. Conduct independent research and write a 5-7 page research paper using MLA formatting and citation conventions. (Meets Student Learning Outcomes 2-6.)

## **Course Content**

This course begins with the study of the technical elements of short stories including narrative perspectives, plot devices, style, tone and setting. Following this foundation, there will be much reading and discussion of short stories with a view to understanding the various manifestations of the genre across history and cultures. The course centers on aesthetic movements of the twentieth century and ends with a theme-based consideration of works in the contemporary global context.

## **Suggested Course Texts and/or Other Study Materials**

*The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*, Shorter Eighth Edition, Richard Bausch, Editor.  
ISBN: 978-0-393-93776-3

## **Statement on Plagiarism**

In college, we read and critically explore ideas that represent the intellectual property of researchers and scholars. Just as stealing another's property is wrong in everyday life, so also is the taking of someone's intellectual property without giving the creator/author credit. Plagiarism is the presentation of others' language, ideas and thoughts as if they were our own.

The Latin word *plagiarius* means "kidnapper." Plagiarism is taking another's intellectual property without the owner's permission or without acknowledging the source. Whether the plagiarism occurs purposefully or carelessly, the offense is serious and carries severe academic penalties.

In this class, the College policy on cheating and plagiarism as stated in the Bergen Community College Catalog will be followed. I take plagiarism very seriously. Plagiarism on any essay will result in a failing grade on the essay, and possibly a failing grade in the course depending on the severity of the case.

## **Course Assignments**

Midterm Paper: Comparative-Contrast Paper (5 pages) that analyzes two selected works. Final Paper: Close reading analysis (5 pages) of one of the stories.

### Grading Rubric for Papers

Papers are evaluated according to their organization; development of ideas; use of language; complexity of analysis; and careful reading of texts.

**90-100=A** Precision in language, development of ideas that shows complexity; close reading

**80-89=B** Good organization; some complexity; close reading of the text is evident

**70-79=C** Lack of complexity or development of ideas; reading of text needs work

**60-69=D** Lack of complexity or development; poor use of language; poor reading of text

### Evaluation

Discussions	60%
Midterm Paper	20%
Final Paper	20%

### Class Participation

The primary focus of this course is the close examination of the assigned literature. This is a reading class: students taking this course must therefore be self-directed, motivated and dedicated to reading the assigned stories. The reading and discussion framework is the course's educational forum: the student benefits from the instructor's teaching, the exchange of ideas with other students, and the independent work of developing a personal process of intellectual growth in connection with the literary works covered in the course. By developing well-thought out perspectives through engagement with the literature and articulating these perspectives clearly in writing and discussion, the student will meet the challenges of this course.

## Discussion Forum Rubric

Discussion responses should be clearly written, thoughtful, and show complexity. Criteria for the evaluation of discussion responses are:

1. Level of engagement: post shows development of ideas
2. Knowledge of material: post shows comprehension of material
3. Language: post shows a careful use of language
4. Peer responses: responses show consideration

## Accessibility Statement

Bergen Community College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and, as a result, need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this class, complete course requirements, or benefit from the College's programs or services, contact the Office of Special Services (OSS) as soon as possible at 201-612-5270 or [www.bergen.edu/oss](http://www.bergen.edu/oss). To receive any academic accommodation, you must be appropriately registered with OSS. The OSS works with students confidentially and does not disclose any disability-related information without their permission. The OSS serves as a clearinghouse on disability issues and works in partnership with faculty and all other student service offices.

## Student Support Services

Bergen Community College provides exemplary support to its students and offers a broad variety of opportunities and services. A comprehensive array of student support services including advising, tutoring, academic coaching, and more are available online at <https://bergen.edu/currentstudents/>.



## Sidney Silverman Library

BCC's library (2nd floor, Pitkin Educational Center, 201-447-7131, <http://bergen.edu/current-students/student-support-services/library>) is a superb resource for students in all disciplines, but particularly for students in Literature sections. Please

visit the library and library for invaluable background information and critical perspectives on all genres of literature, their historical significance, and individual authors.

[Guides BY SUBJECT - LibGuides at Bergen Community College](#)

General Search and Databases: [Library | Bergen Community College](#)

### Sample Course Schedule

<b>Week One</b> Complete Module 1 and Introduction  <b>Arabian Nights &amp; Greek Fables</b>	<b>Week Two</b> Complete Module 2  <b>Allegory &amp; Purgatory</b> Hawthorne and Melville	<b>Week Three</b> Complete Module 3  <b>Tale &amp; Legend</b> London and Crane	<b>Week Four</b> Complete Module 4  <b>The Macabre</b> Gothic Poe
<b>Week Five</b> Complete Module 5  <b>Creepy/Evil</b> Oates Jackson	<b>Week Six</b> Complete Module 6  <b>Regional Realism</b> Cather Chopin <b>Midterm Paper due</b>	<b>Week Seven</b> Complete Module 7  <b>Russian Realism</b> Chekhov	<b>Week Eight</b> Complete Module 8  <b>Modernism</b> Hemingway Fitzgerald
<b>Week Nine</b> Complete Module 9  <b>Southern Gothic</b> Faulkner and O'Connor <b>Spring Break</b>	<b>Week Ten</b> Complete Module 10  <b>Magical Realism</b> Garcia Marquez Jorge Luis Borges Sandra Cisneros	<b>Week Eleven</b> Complete Module 11  <b>Contemporary</b> Trahan Diaz	<b>Week Twelve</b> Complete Module 12  <b>Contemporary</b> Tokarczuk Alcott <b>Final Paper Due</b>