

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL-205

The Short Story

3 Credits

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

The Short Story offers a basic introduction to that genre of literature. Students focus on the critical evaluation of representative short stories by diverse authors from around the world, with an emphasis on American and European writers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, such as Anton Chekhov, D. H. Lawrence and more contemporary writers, such as Margaret Atwood and Milan Kundera. Students are presented with literary terminology and concepts necessary to the discussion and evaluation of these works. This course is writing intensive. Prerequisite: ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

Overall Course Objectives

In addition to being exposed to a wide variety of short fiction, on completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize literary terms, concepts, critical strategies and stylistic characters in the texts studied.
2. Demonstrate critical and independent thinking in the interpretation of texts.
3. Write analytically about literary works, using appropriate research and documentation.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of ways the literature studied reflects its intellectual, social, historical, and cultural contexts.
5. Evaluate the power of literature to address personal values and goals and to challenge human endeavors.
6. Describe the evolution of the short story and define early types of short fiction.
7. Critically compare and contrast the qualities of commercial and serious fiction.

Major Topics

- I. The Basic Elements of Fiction
- II. Point of View
- III. Literary Devices
- IV. Close Reading
- V. Modern and Classical Stories

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but may include exams, papers and class participation. Specific writing assignments will require at least 2,500 words of formal academic writing, as well as informal in-class assignments to explore ideas and respond to class materials.

Other Course Information

This course is a Literature and Humanities core course and a Humanities, English, and Arts and Sciences elective.