

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 224 The Short Story

I. Basic Course Information

- A. Course Number and Title: ENGL 224 The Short Story
- B. New or Modified Course: Modified
- C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2017
- D. **Effective Term: Fall 2018**
- E. Sponsoring Department: English
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3
 Lab : None
 Out of class student work per week: 6
- H. Prerequisite: ENGL 111 English Composition I
- I. Laboratory Fees: None
- J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and
Divisional Dean at time of approval: Susan Arvay susan.arvay@raritanval.edu;
Patrice Marks patrice.marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: ENGL 111 English Composition I. This course is a study of the short story, focusing primarily on its modern form, as expressed by writers of diverse cultures, but also tracing its evolution from ancient roots in oral narratives, myths, legends, folk, and fairy tales to the present. Students explore the basic elements of the genre by reading, analyzing, and writing about short stories, and examining the historical, cultural, and social contexts of their production and reception.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. The Short Story provides students with an opportunity to study an important literary genre. It is a course typically featured in college English departments and meets

RVCC's general education goals as well as the English Department's Associate of Arts degree in English. The course will transfer to four-year programs as an English elective, a general education elective, or a free elective. The Short Story provides a foundation for students who chose to major in English or other areas of the Liberal Arts or Humanities.

- B. This course does not have a Lab component.
- C. This course generally transfers as a Humanities/English Literature general education course.

IV. Place of Course in the College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. The course serves as a General Education course in Humanities/English Literature.
- C. This course meets a genre-based Category B requirement in the English AA degree.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Introduction to the short story as a genre
 - 1. Elements of a short story
 - 2. Approaches to short story form
 - 3. History of short story form (i.e., oral narrative, fables, fairy tales, graphic storytelling)
- B. Study of short stories from diverse writers and periods
- C. Ways to read and interpret short stories
- D. Ways to write about short stories

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Analyze short stories within their literary, historical and social contexts, both orally and in writing (GE-NJ 1, 6, 7, *)
- 2. Use textual evidence to support logical and persuasive claims in writing (GE-NJ 1, 6, *)
- 3. Assess and utilize commonly accepted approaches and criteria for analyzing short stories (GE-NJ 6)

(*Embedded critical thinking)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe key elements of short story form
2. Appraise cultural values reflected in short stories

C. Assessment Instruments:

1. research papers
2. essays
3. response papers
4. discussion questions
5. creative writing exercises and/or portfolio
6. journals
7. exams
8. quizzes

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. essays and/or response papers that communicate effectively in standard English, with attention to grammar and mechanics and the finer points of writing style
- B. projects
- C. exams
- D. presentations
- E. discussion questions
- F. reading quizzes
- G. class participation
- H. journals

This course may include the following modes of teaching:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small group work
- C. student oral presentations
- D. simulation/role playing
- E. student collaboration
- F. independent study
- G. regular writing activities
- H. examination of films

VIII. Texts and Materials

Samples of specific texts that may be featured:

- A. Chinua Achebe, "Civil Peace"
- B. Isabel Allende, "An Act of Vengeance"
- C. James Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues"
- D. Ray Bradbury, "There Will Come Soft Rains"
- E. Raymond Carver, "What we Talk about When we Talk about Love"
- F. Anton Chekov, "The Darling"
- G. Sandra Cisneros, "Barbie-Q"
- H. Junot Diaz, "How to Date a Browngirl, Blackgirl, Whitegirl, or Halfie"
- I. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, "The Speckled Band"
- J. Nikolai Gogol, "The Overcoat"
- K. Nadine Gordimer, "Homage"
- L. Ernest Hemingway "Hills Like White Elephants"
- M. Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery"
- N. James Joyce, "The Dead"
- O. Stephen King, "The Reach"
- P. Jhumpa Lahiri, "Interpreter of Maladies"
- Q. Katherine Mansfield, "Miss Brill"
- R. Gabriel García Márquez, "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings"
- S. Bobbie Ann Mason, "Shiloh"
- T. Yukio Mishima, "Fountains in the Rain"
- U. Bharati Mukherjee, "The Management of Grief"
- V. Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find"
- W. Grace Paley, "A Conversation with My Father"
- X. Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado"

Samples of specific films that may be featured:

- A. *The Dead*. Dir. John Huston, 1987.
- B. *The Rocking-Horse Winner*. Dir. Anthony Pelissier, 1949.
- C. *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge*. Dir. Robert Enrico, 1962.

Sample anthology that may be used:

- A. Charters, Ann, ed. *The Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction*. New York: St. Martin's Press, current edition.

Please note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about texts.

IX. Resources

Students will need to use library databases and other library resources for critical research assignments if the individual instructor chooses to assign a research project.

X. Honors Options

There is no Honors Option for this course