



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](http://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