

American Short Story

Course Outcome Summary

Course Information

Organization	Madison Area Technical College
Developers	English Department
Development Date	1/6/2000
Revised Date	1/6/2000
Course Number	20-801-210
Instructional Level	College Parallel
Potential Hours of Instruction	54
Total Credits	3

Description

This course surveys the American short story from its beginning with Washington Irving to the present with such writers as Lorrie Moore, focusing on formal elements of the genre set within a cultural context. Students study the historical development of the American short story and learn to analyze and explicate texts.

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type	Contact Hours	Credits
Classroom Presentation	54	3

Textbooks

Charters. *The American Short Story and Its Writers*. Bedford/St. Martins. **Source:** MATC Bookstore.

Wolff. *The Vintage Book of Contemporary Short Stories*. Vintage. **Source:** MATC Bookstore.

---. *American Short Story Supplemental Reading Packet*. **Source:** MATC Bookstore.

Prerequisites

English 1 (20-801-201)

Exit Learning Outcomes

Core Abilities

- A. Communication
- B. Critical thinking
- C. Ethics
- D. Global and cultural perspectives

Competencies

A. Analyze Literature

Competence will be demonstrated by:

- A.1. completing the assigned reading and participates in class discussions at the scheduled times
- A.2. completing all writing assignments on time, and according to all criteria specified by the instructor for length, content, and format of written work

Criteria - Performance will be satisfactory when you:

- A.1. examine the defining features of the short story genre

- A.2. identify the major generic elements present in an individual text
- A.3. examine the historical context of a literary work
- A.4. examine the cultural context of a literary work
- A.5. examine the sociological context of a literary work
- A.6. examine the literary context of a literary work
- A.7. use literary terminology to examine a literary work
- A.8. use literary terminology to discuss a literary work
- A.9. recognize literary canons and their limitations
- A.10. apply the skills listed above to a new text, without assistance from the instructor

B. Interpret Literature

Competence will be demonstrated by:

- B.1. completing assigned reading and participates in small and large group discussions, as scheduled
- B.2. completing all assigned written work and complies with instructor's criteria for length, content, and format
- B.3. moving beyond a discussion of explicit meaning to a detailed description of the complexity and ambiguity implicit in literary texts
- B.4. using a critical approach to construct and support an interpretation of a literary text
- B.5. applying the performance criteria listed above to a new text, without assistance from the instructor

Criteria - Performance will be satisfactory when you:

- B.1. examine the explicit message or content of a literary text
- B.2. examine how a given text is an example of a given literary genre
- B.3. examine how the text reflects the formal conventions of the genre
- B.4. bring historical information to bear on a text
- B.5. examine the assumptions, ambiguities and hidden agendas that inform the explicit message
- B.6. examine how a literary text engages social issues
- B.7. examine how a literary text engages cultural issues
- B.8. examine several critical approaches that are used to analyze and interpret literature (examples: feminism, deconstruction, historicism, structuralism and post-structuralism)
- B.9. use a critical approach, such as deconstruction or formalism, to interpret a literary text

C. Write about Literature

Competence will be demonstrated by:

- C.1. completing all assigned reading
- C.2. completing the specified writing assignments (examples: analytic essays, reading journals, essay exams, response to critical essays, class notes) by the assigned date
- C.3. meeting all requirements specified by the instructor for length, format, and content of written work

Criteria - Performance will be satisfactory when written work:

- C.1. includes the use of literary terminology
- C.2. includes cultural, historical, and sociological context of the short story
- C.3. includes the application of a variety of critical approaches to texts
- C.4. includes the exploration of the complexity and ambiguity of literary texts

D. Evaluate Literature

Competence will be demonstrated by:

- D.1. completing all assigned reading and participates in class discussion and activities, as scheduled
- D.2. completing all writing assignments on time and according to the criteria established by the instructor for length, content, and format
- D.3. meeting instructor's criteria on quizzes and tests

Criteria - Performance will be satisfactory when you:

- D.1. examine the relationship between literature and life
- D.2. examine an awareness of a personal aesthetic response to the literary texts covered in the course
- D.3. identify major similarities and contrasts among the body of literary works covered in the course
- D.4. examine how historical developments within the historical period are reflected in the body of works covered in the course
- D.5. examine how sociological developments within the historical period are reflected in the body of works covered in the course
- D.6. examine how cultural developments within the historical period are reflected in the body of works covered in the course
- D.7. identify major literary movements that affect the American short story
- D.8. analyze literary canons and their limitations
- D.9. apply all of the criteria listed above to the evaluation of a new text, without assistance from the instructor
- D.10. prepare written work that evaluates literary works according to the criteria listed above

E. Applies appropriate strategies when reading literary works**Competence will be demonstrated by:**

- E.1. completing all assigned literature by specified date
- E.2. participating in small and large group discussions
- E.3. meeting instructor's criteria on quizzes, tests and other written assignments

Criteria - Performance will be satisfactory when you:

- E.1. identify the purpose of reading a literary text: enjoyment, appreciation, and the development of an interpretation
- E.2. recognize explicit meanings within a literary text
- E.3. recognize implicit meanings within a literary text
- E.4. annotate and highlight key passages while reading
- E.5. formulate questions while reading
- E.6. formulate opinions while reading
- E.7. identify literary conventions
- E.8. recognize complexity and ambiguity in literary texts
- E.9. assess understanding and reread the text as necessary
- E.10. synthesize opinions, questions, and responses to the text to develop an interpretation