

**Common Course Outline for:** ENGL 1188 Introduction to Short Stories**A. Course Description**

1. Number of credits: 3 credits
2. Lecture hours per week: 3  
Lab hours per week: None
3. Prerequisites: Eligible for ENGC 1101 and READ 1106
4. Co-requisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: 6 (Humanities and Fine Arts)

Students will explore the short story form and its various effects. Students will improve critical reading and thinking skills by reading a variety of short stories, examining the essential techniques of short fiction, and considering multiple perspectives on a work of fiction.

**B. Date Last Reviewed:** April 2021**C. Outline of Major Content Areas**

1. Historical background
2. Key figures in the development of the genre
3. Elements of the short story: plot, character, setting, point of view, imagery, symbolism, theme, tone, style
4. Techniques such as dialogue, figurative language, flashback, minimalism and others
5. Sub-genres such as detective, horror, science fiction, fantasy.

**D. Course Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify unique literary aesthetics of the short story form and its effects (Goals 2b, d; 6a, b, c, e)
2. Analyze the basic elements of fiction such as plot, characterization, setting, imagery, and theme (Goals 6a, c, e)
3. Explore short stories in their historical and cultural contexts, from the early masters to contemporary authors, including works by authors from under-represented populations and from a variety of cultures (Goals 2a, b, c, d; 6a, b, c, e)
4. Interpret short stories and support the interpretation with specific evidence from the stories (Goals 2b, c, d; 6a, c, e)
5. Analyze the ways in which short stories help readers to understand ourselves, other people, and the world (Goals 6a, b, c)
6. Interpret short stories using a variety of scholarship, perspectives, and critical frameworks, which can give alternate ways of understanding the works (Goals 2b, c, d; 6a, c, e)
7. Respond to short stories in reflective and analytical writing (Goals 6c and e)

**E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning**

1. Tests/final test
2. Short-answer quizzes
3. Analytical essays
4. Journals
5. Collaborative Projects

**F. Special Information:** None