**Fall 2018 English 104**: **Intro to Fiction: Exploring Humanity (And Maybe Robots)**

**CRN** 26692 • **Times**: 6:30-9:30 pm (18:30-21:30) T • **Location**: Benton Center 209

**Instructor**: Professor Suzi Steffen • **Phone**: (503)-451-0228 (please text!) • **Email**: steffes@linnbenton.edu (or suzi.steffen@linnbenton.edu) • **Office**: **IA-218 in** **Albany**

Campus Office Hours: 1-2:20 TR in Albany & many times by appointment

**Course Description**

The goal of this class is to bring fiction to life—to help you enjoy, interpret, and reflect on, and understand the process of writing fiction. You will also learn to analyze, using various *theories of literature*, what stories are telling us, trying to tell us, or perhaps saying without the author’s intention.

**Learning Outcomes**

When you’ve successfully completed this ENG 104 class, you should be able to:

1. Understand and appreciate the range of human questions and issues that fiction (and most art) explores.
2. Assess the value of a story: did it accomplish something worthwhile? Did it create a worthwhile experience?
3. Understand many different critical methods of reading and interpreting fiction.
4. Apply an insight or awareness from your reading of stories to an issue or question you face in your life (that is, recognize how literature helps in understanding the human condition).
5. Form an overall impression of a story’s meaning or impact.
6. Analyze the ways different structural elements help create meaning, and awareness.
7. Write and speak confidently about your own and others’ ideas.
8. Demonstrate how literature enhances personal awareness and creativity.
9. In other words, interpret literary works and some other forms of art through critical reading.

**Required Texts**

* Online links to stories and other required reading/looking. See our Canvas for all of the details.
* Purdue OWL for formatting requirements (also see our Canvas)

**Course Requirements**

Weekly Reading Responses

Fiction Presentation

Reading Quizzes (part of Participation/Attendance)

Analysis Essays/Papers

Final

**Prerequisite:** You should have WR121-level writing and thinking skills to succeed in this or any other Literature class. If you have not, please see me and arrange for appropriate help.

**Course Policies**

**Formatting Assignments**

All essays are to be: In proper MLA format, including being typed using Times New Roman 12 point font; double spaced, with one inch margins. You can see more about MLA format on the Purdue Online Writing Lab [here](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html).

**Participation/Attendance**

Please be in class. It’s only once a week, so if you need to miss, you will be missing a lot. A large portion of class time is dedicated to the discussion of literature, fiction, movies, and sometimes other exciting topics (birth, death, life, love, parenting, being a kid, sex, rock and roll, drugs, violence, etc., whew, all of which are covered in fiction). Oh, and a percent of your grade is also connected to your ability to participate in class. Note! If you are ill, however, please do *not* come to class. Instead, email and text the professor *before* class, and we will figure out how to get you caught up. (And if there are other reasons you can’t attend, also text and then send a follow-up email *before* class.) Caveat: If you miss three or more classes, it’s very unlikely that you could pass the class. Please be in touch early and often if you need to miss!

**Weekly Reading Responses**

You will be writing responses to readings that we have done for the week, at the beginning of most classes. The reading responses are meant to engage you in discussing the readings and give us, as a class, a starting point for conversations that will be taking place in class.

**Late Work**

Turn your work in on time. But if you must turn it in late, you will be docked points for every day it’s late until Canvas cuts you off, and you can’t turn the assignment in anymore (usually 3-7 days after the due date).

**Final Grade**

Your grade will be weighed by:

Participation/attendance: 10%

Weekly Reading Response: 15%

Fiction Presentation: 25%

Essays/Papers: 25%

Final: 25%  
  
**Grade Range**

100-90% = A

89-80% = B

79-70% = C

69-58% = D

57 – 0% = F

**Plagiarism**

**Please no.** There will be a lot more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on our Canvas site. You may flunk an assignment or be asked to leave the class; if the plagiarism case is egregious, you may be expelled from LBCC, and if you’re dual-enrolled, have OSU informed. So, please, don’t do it.

**Mobiles and Tablets**

Sometimes, we’ll need to use them for Canvas, for reading stories online, and for other class-related purposes - reading responses, etc. And of course, some people have families that must reach them for emergency purposes. I know that line is blurry, but unless I know you’re doing classwork, please do not use the phones/tablets during class. If you do have an emergency text or call, please *exit the classroom to deal with it in the hallway*. Thanks for adapting to technology and class!

**Accommodations Due to Documented Disabilities**:

You should meet with your instructor during the first week of class if:

* You have a documented disability and need accommodations.
* Your instructor needs to know medical information about you.
* You need special arrangements in the event of an emergency.

If you have documented your disability, remember that you must make your request for accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR) [Online Services page](https://cascade.accessiblelearning.com/LBCC/) every term in order to receive accommodations. If you believe you may need accommodations but are not yet registered with CFAR, please visit the [CFAR site](https://www.linnbenton.edu/current-students/student-support/center-for-accessibility-resources/) for steps on how to apply for services, or call 541-917-4789.

**LBCC Board of Education Statement on Diversity**: We believe that the LBCC community is enriched by diversity. Everyone has the right to think, learn, and work in an environment of respect, tolerance, and goodwill. We actively support this right regardless of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, or any countless ways in which we are diverse.

**LBCC Comprehensive Statement of Nondiscrimination**: LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws.

**Readings/Assignment Schedule: see Canvas Site**

**Week One**

T – Introduction to each other and course; Canvas sign-ups. Reading response for “The Lottery”

Read “Singing My Sister Down” in class. Discuss both stories, sign up for reading presentations, etc.

**Weeks Two-Ten**

Readings TBD - will be distributed via Canvas

Reading Responses, potential quizzes

Sign up for Fiction presentations

Discussions; essays

**The Final:** Our final meeting time is **Tuesday, Dec. 4, from 6:30-8:30** pm (the same time and place as regular class, but only two hours long).

**Some things to keep in mind when we discuss and analyze and write reading responses:**

1. The handling of time.

2. Place and imagery.

3. Voice and/or point of view.

4. “Focal” character.

5. The role of a minor character.

6. Humor.

7. Mythological (or other literary) motifs.

8. The pattern of the sentence.

9. The art of the dialogue.

10. The pattern of the paragraph.

11. Transitions.

12. The use of formal repetition.

13. The opening.

14. The pattern of development.

15. The dramatic moment or crisis—is there one?

16. Ending or resolution.

17. Poe’s Single Effect. (We’ll discuss this in class.)

18. The initial problem and its development.