

English 104: Introduction to Fiction (Online)

Instructor: Chris Riseley
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Office Hours: please text me 541-250-1652 and we will set up an appointment

Required Texts:

Your required texts for this course are provided by our library database, open educational initiatives, and links to freely accessible material. You will access these materials either by following specific instructions that guide you to them in our library databases, by clicking links, or by simply reading the text provided. This course is a part of a movement that is designed to remove the burden of expensive textbooks from students. The only drawback to this method of content delivery is that there are rare cases where our access to the materials might have changed or been lost. In these cases we will need to be patient while we find a suitable replacement. Should you run into a missing item, please text me: 541-250-1652. Remember to include your name and the reminder that you are from my online English 104 course. Then tell me where you ran into a problem and I will see to it promptly.

Welcome

Welcome to this course! The purpose of this class is to help you enjoy, interpret, and reflect on fiction, particularly short stories. It's partly a class about literature, and partly a class about humanity, psychology, and philosophy. We'll look at how to read and enjoy stories more, as well as how to interpret them and reflect on them so we can understand ourselves and the world better.

During the course, I'd like to explore some questions with you: Is fiction practical and relevant, or is it just a form of entertainment? How do you interpret a story so that you don't feel you're dissecting it, but finding meaning in it? How can seeing our own lives as a story, as a "Hero's Journey," give us wisdom and insight on how to live?

Good stories are entertaining - they tell an interesting tale that we love to just hear. But they also concern themselves with the same things we do: love, power, identity, spirituality, ambition, conformity & individuality, fame, money, death, failure, fear. What issues are important to you?

Course Outcomes

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Analyze stories using the major elements of literary fiction (plot, characterization, conflict, setting, point of view, irony, and symbolism).

- Interpret and evaluate works of literary fiction based on analysis of their aesthetic, figurative, and narrative elements.
- Understand traditional methods of literary analysis (mythological, psychological, sociological, or gender-based) at a basic level and apply them to form interpretations and evaluations of literary fiction.
- Articulate how reading literary fiction affects their understanding of themselves and the range of human experiences and questions that fiction explores.
- Interpret and engage in literature and the arts, making use of the creative process to enrich the quality of life.
- Critically analyze values and ethics within a range of human experience and expression to engage more fully in local and global issues.

Expectations:

Important note: In order to succeed in this class you will need to be able to read and write at the WR 121 level for the papers and projects. There is extensive reading and writing in this class, and if you can read and write at the college level, your chances of getting an A or B are usually significantly higher. If you haven't taken WR 121 or aren't taking it this term, please make use of the services in Linn Benton Community College's learning and writing center.

Learning Activities

Forum Responses

Each week you'll write responses about the stories we read. These will help you think through a story, practice the course's reading and analysis strategies, begin to form an interpretation of it, and see the story's connection with your own life. These will be *informal* (graded on thoughtfulness, quotes, and detail, not spelling and grammar), and due at midnight of the day they're due.

Midterm and Final

During the term you'll write a midterm and a final. My goal will be to have you explain and apply the concepts we explore in class as you interpret, analyze, evaluate, and respond to one or more stories

There will also be a variety of smaller quizzes.

Grading

Midterm and Final (2 @ 200 points ea): **400 points**

Reading Responses/Discussion (roughly): **300 points**

We will be proceeding through the course one week at a time. Each week we will be reading and responding to at least two stories. The material for each week will be opened at the

beginning of each week so that we all stay together in our forum discussions.

Late Work - Late reading responses will be worth a maximum of 50% and may be turned in a maximum of one week late. Late tests will lose 5 points per day that you're late taking the test or submitting work after the deadline.

Communication - I understand that occasionally health, work, and personal situations arise that make it hard to complete work on time. Please call and let me know when something is making it impossible for you to get your work done, or when you have questions or difficulties.

Plagiarism Policy: All work must be your own. You must document all appropriate quotations, paraphrases, data, images, etc. using either MLA format. Failure to cite and document your sources will result in a loss of credit, ranging from a drop of one grade to an F, depending on the severity of the plagiarism. Turning in a paper (or significant portions of a paper) that someone else has written or that has been copied off the Internet will result in no credit for the paper, and your name will be given to the Academic Dean so that a permanent note may be attached to your LBCC records. Mistakes and unintentional plagiarism will not result in such penalties, but in my asking you to correct them.

Disability statement: If you have emergency medical information for your instructor, need special arrangements to evacuate campus, or have a documented disability, please meet with me no later than the first week of the term to discuss your needs and present your ODS accommodation letter. If you have a documented disability that will impact you at college and you have yet to seek accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) for intake and to document your disability with LBCC. Only students who document a disability and present an accommodation letter to an instructor are entitled to academic accommodation. Each term, 2-3 weeks prior to the start of the term, submit your "Request for Accommodations" form to ODS. During Week 1, deliver the letters to each instructor during office hours or by appointment. I may need time to arrange your accommodations. ODS may be reached from any LBCC campus/center by email to ODS@linnbenton.edu or by calling 917-4789.

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.

(for further information <http://po.linnbenton.edu/BPsandARs/>)