

**DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:**

**EN 2340 INTRODUCTION TO FICTION**  
(Updated Summer 2003)

**3/0/3**

**PREREQUISITES:** WP 1010 Introduction to Academic Writing  
WP 1111 Integrated Academic Writing and Ethics  
WP 1212 Academic Writing and Research

**CATALOG**

**DESCRIPTION:** Detailed study of the short story and its evolution. Works by European, English and American writers.

**RATIONALE:** This course acquaints students with the short story genre and aims at perfecting their ability to read, analyse, and write about fiction. Sophistication of both analysis and text goes beyond the rudimentary introduction in EN 1212. By ending with the novella, the course seeks to provide a gradual transition from short to long works of fiction for students wishing to continue their studies with courses on the novel. This course is intended for English majors/literature concentration and non-majors alike.

**OBJECTIVES:** As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Define and analyse the elements of fiction.
2. Define different types of short stories such as parable, tale and fable.
3. Analyse a work of fiction as a self-contained work of art, with a lucid understanding of its structure and details.
4. Analyse comparatively the treatment of similar themes in various short stories.
5. Identify some modern critical approaches to literary analysis.
6. Develop a literary thesis and draft and revise an essay.
7. Define conventions of literature.

**LEARNING**

**ACTIVITIES:** The class will be a combination of lecture and discussion. Students will read at least ten short stories and one novella. They may be asked to consult secondary source material to enrich their understanding of the literature.

**STUDENT  
EVALUATION:**

Students will be evaluated by their performance on a combination of essay examinations, oral reports, formal papers, study questions, quizzes, and class participation. One option might be the following:

Study/response questions	20%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	30%
Short paper	25%

Instructors are encouraged to evaluate students using a variety of oral and written assignments, not solely by in-class essay examinations.

**REQUIRED  
MATERIAL:**

Robert Di Yanni, Fiction. New York: McGraw-Hill, latest edition. ISBN 0072295090 (paperback).

**RECOMMENDED  
MATERIAL:**

Studies in Short Fiction (journal)

**WWW RESOURCES:**

<http://vos.ucsb.edu>

**SOFTWARE  
REQUIREMENTS:**

Word

**COMMUNICATION  
REQUIREMENTS:**

Students may be assigned to deliver oral reports on aspects of the works under consideration. In these presentations they are expected to use proper professional English and speech skills. With the exception of in-class tests, all written work must be word-processed on Word and adhere to MLA guidelines for manuscript format and documentation.

**CONTENT OUTLINE:**

**Instructors should select at least ten short stories and one novella.**

1. Elements of Fiction
  - 1.1. Plot vs. story
  - 1.2. Character
  - 1.3. Theme
  - 1.4. Point of view
  - 1.5. Setting
  - 1.6. Irony
  - 1.7. Symbol

2. Approaches to the Analysis and Interpretation of Literature
  - 2.1. What is Literary Theory and Criticism?
  - 2.2. Why Study Literary Theory?
  - 2.3. Formalist Criticism
  - 2.4. Psychological Criticism
  - 2.5. Sociological Criticism
  - 2.6. Historical Criticism
  - 2.7. Feminist Criticism
3. Writing about Fiction
  - 3.1. Selecting a Topic
  - 3.2. Constructing a Thesis
  - 3.3. Developing a Thesis
  - 3.4. Finding and Using Sources
  - 3.5. Using Computerized Databases
  - 3.6. Developing a Critical Perspective
  - 3.7. Drafting and Revising
  - 3.8. Literary Conventions
  - 3.9. Avoiding Plagiarism
  - 3.10. MLA Style of Documentation