

Prepared by the Department of Language & Literature

Date of Departmental Approval: November 3, 2014

Date Approved by Curriculum and Programs: December 3, 2014

Effective: Spring 2015

**1. Title: ENL135**

**Course Title: Short Story and Human Values**

**2. Course Description:** This course examines the ways in which short fiction reflects and shapes the human experience. Works examined feature a variety of cultural traditions, allowing students to consider which human values are universal and which may be culturally bound. Students examine the ways in which stories are used to preserve and challenge social institutions such as marriage/family, education, justice, and religion.

**3. Student Learning Outcomes (Instructional Objectives, Intellectual skills)**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student is able to:

- Critically read and analyze classic and contemporary short stories.
- Evaluate the ways works from specific literary periods, such as naturalism, realism, modernism, and postmodernism, reflect the social and scientific beliefs of their times.
- Connect short story themes to current events and human values, such as love, family, war, duty, faith, purpose, and politics
- Discuss the literary elements of short stories, including structure, plot, narration, character, setting, and figurative language
- Distinguish universal versus culturally-bound values reflected in works of short fiction

**4. Credits:** 3 credits

**5. Satisfies General Education Requirement:** Yes, Humanities & Fine Arts

**6. Prerequisite:** ENL101

**7. Semester Offered:** Spring

**8. Suggested Guidelines for Evaluation:** The final grade will be based on achievement in class recitation, attendance, exams, quizzes, oral reports, and writing assignments.

**9. General Topical Outline of the Course:**

- A. History of short fiction
- B. Structure and form: the critical analysis
- C. Conflict: internal and external
- D. Character: presentation and development
- E. Settings
- F. Tone: irony
- G. Point of view: systems of narration
- H. Theme and values