Northern Marianas College
Curriculum Action Request

Effective Semester / Session: Summer 2009

Type of Action:

New
X   Modification
Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
Cancellation

Course Alpha and Number: LI 150

Course Title: Introduction to Literature

Reason for initiating, modifying, or canceling:
Change in Textbooks, revision of Student Learning Outcomes, and the addition of Assessment Measures.

Mark Haag   4/14/09
Proposer   Date

Mark Haag   4/14/09
Department Chair   Date

     4/21/09
English and Format Reviewer   Date

     4/22/09
Dean of Academic Programs and Services   Date

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Course Guide

1. Department
Languages & Humanities

2. Purpose
LI 150 is an introductory literature course that examines the characteristics of the major literary forms: the novel, short story, poetry, essay, and drama. Students will learn to recognize and evaluate the aesthetic value and themes of great works of ancient and modern literature. The course also provides a means by which students can improve their ability to write short papers, extending their experience in composition by writing about what they read and by employing literary analysis. Introduction to Literature or its equivalent is found in the Humanities curriculum of virtually every accredited U.S. post-secondary institution, and it fulfills a General Education requirement at most such institutions.

3. Description

A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials
Required:
Di Yanni, Robert. *Literature: Reading, Fiction, Poetry, and Drama.* McGraw-Hill: Boston, MA, 2002

Hemingway, Ernest. *The Old Man and the Sea.* Scribner: New York, NY, 2003
Readability Level: 6.0

B. Contact Hours
   1. **Lecture:** 3 per week / 45 per semester
   2. **Lab:**
   3. **Other:**

C. Credits
   1. **Number:** 3
   2. **Type:** Regular Degree Credits

D. Catalogue Course Description
   This introductory course examines the characteristics of the major literary forms: the novel, short story, poetry, essay, and drama. Emphasis is on comparing literary forms as a means to enhance understanding and appreciation of literature. English Placement: EN 101. Math Placement: None

E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course
This course fulfills the General Education requirement for Literature/Philosophy for the A.A. degree in Liberal Arts and the A.A. degree in Business, the Literature requirement for the Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, and the Arts and Humanities requirement in other Associate degrees.

F. Course Activities and Design
This course incorporates lectures; small-group and class discussions; viewing dramatic presentations of literature on videotape; reading, critical thinking, and writing assignments; and a midterm and a final examination.

4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment; Required English/Mathematics Proficiency Level(s):
Prerequisite(s): None
English Placement Level: EN 101
Math Placement Level: None

5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed:
Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit course; the cost of the textbook and the novel and instructional fees.

Cost to the College: Instructor's salary.

Instructional resources needed for this course include chalk and chalkboard, TV/VCR/DVD and videotaped programs, and library books and periodicals to be identified by the instructor.

6. Method of Evaluation
Student grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0;
B: Above average – grade points: 3.0;
C: Average – grade points: 2.0;
D: Below average – grade points: 1.0;
F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.

NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

1.0 The Short Story
    1.1 Introduction: The purpose of storytelling
    1.2 Structural, stylistic, and conceptual elements of the short story
    1.3 Plot: The story's framework
        1.3.1 Examples from short stories
        1.3.2 Literature and language: Using the narrative mode
        1.3.3 Exercises in critical thinking and writing: Predicting outcomes
    1.4 Characters: The story's actors
        1.4.1 Examples from short stories
        1.4.2 Literature and language: Using the descriptive mode in characterization
        1.4.3 Exercises in critical thinking and writing: Analyzing a character
    1.5 Theme: The story's meaning and roots
        1.5.1 Examples from short stories
        1.5.2 Literature and language: Combining sentences
        1.5.3 Exercises in critical thinking and writing: Making generalizations and stating a theme
    1.6 Point of view and tone: The story's voice
        1.6.1 Examples from short stories
        1.6.2 Literature and language: Using pronouns correctly
        1.6.3 Exercises in critical thinking and writing: Comparing and contrasting stories
    1.7 Setting: "Putting us there"
        1.7.1 Examples from short stories
        1.7.2 Literature and language: Using words to create atmosphere
        1.7.3 Exercises in critical thinking and writing: Evaluating a short story
    1.8 Symbol: An object that suggests an idea
        1.8.1 Examples from short stories
        1.8.2 Literature and language: Using subordinate clauses
        1.8.3 Exercises in critical thinking and writing: Recognizing faulty reasoning
    1.9 Irony and satire: The power of the word
        1.9.1 Examples from short stories
        1.9.2 Literature and language: Punctuating dialogue

1.9.3 Exercises in critical thinking and writing: Analyzing and responding to a story

2.0 Poetry
2.1 The elements of poetry: Figures of speech, imagery, sound effects, and tone
2.2 Figurative language: Language shaped by imagination
2.2.1 Examples from poems
2.2.2 Language and literature: Using simile, metaphor, and personification
2.3 Figurative language: Symbols
2.3.1 Examples from poems
2.3.2 Language and literature: Using symbols
2.3.3 Exercises in critical thinking and writing: Paraphrasing and interpreting a poem
2.4 Imagery in poetry
2.4.1 Examples from poems
2.4.2 Language and literature: Using imagery
2.4.3 Exercises in critical thinking and writing: Comparing and contrasting poems
2.5 The sounds of poetry: Rhythm and meter
2.5.1 Examples from poems
2.5.2 Language and literature: Creating rhythm and meter
2.6 The sounds of poetry: Rhyme, alliteration, and onomatopoeia
2.6.1 Examples from poems
2.6.2 Language and literature: Creating sound effects
2.6.3 Exercises in critical thinking and writing: Evaluating a poem
2.7 Tone: "Overhearing" an attitude
2.7.1 Examples from poems
2.7.2 Language and literature: Creating a tone
2.8 Reading selected poems

3.0 Drama
3.1 The elements of drama: Character, conflict, suspense, climax, change
3.2 Viewing, reading, and enacting a play
3.3 Viewing a modern play

4.0 The Novel
4.1 Structural, stylistic, and conceptual elements of the novel

4.2 Exercises in critical thinking and writing: Developing and supporting a thesis.

4.3 Reading a short novel.

8. Instructional Goals
This course introduces students to:

1.0 The structural, stylistic, and conceptual elements of the short story and short novel;

2.0 The elements of poetry, including figurative language, imagery, sound effects, and tone;

3.0 The elements of drama

4.0 The application of critical thinking and writing skills in the study of different forms of literature; and

5.0 The aesthetic value and themes of great works of ancient and modern literature.

9. Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1.0 Identify the structural, stylistic, and conceptual elements of the short story, and interpret specific short stories orally and in writing;

2.0 Identify the elements of poetry, and interpret specific poems orally and in writing;

3.0 Identify the elements of drama, and interpret specific plays orally and in writing;

4.0 List and define the structural, stylistic, and conceptual elements of the novel, and respond to a specific short novel orally and in writing;

5.0 Critique and analyze various forms of literary works to demonstrate critical thinking skills; and

6.0 Recognize and evaluate the aesthetic values and themes of great works of ancient and modern literature.

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10. Assessment Measures

Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1.0 Class participation;

2.0 Written responses to questions about the readings;

3.0 Essays on the readings that demonstrate the ability to understand and evaluate the material covered in the course; and

4.0 Performance on quizzes and exams that demonstrate an understanding of the materials and concepts covered in the course.