

Syllabus

English 2025, version 1.2

Effective: August 18, 2017

English 2025—Fiction

Course Description: Skills for reading and writing about fiction; attention to generic conventions and critical perspectives; section emphasis may vary.

Textbooks and Other Materials

Read the following information carefully, ensuring you order the correct edition by referencing the ISBN's listed below. ODL is *not responsible* for student purchases that result in the receipt of the wrong materials. It is your responsibility to order the correct textbook materials. Courses are written to specific textbook editions; edition substitutions *are not allowed*.

Textbooks

Charters, Ann. *The Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction*. Ninth edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015.

ISBN-13: 978-1-319-12518-9

ISBN-10: 1-319-12518-2

Walter, Jess. *Beautiful Ruins*. New York: Harper Collins, 2012.

ISBN: 978-0-06-192817-8

Ordering Information

Please review the following tips for ordering your course materials:

1. You should not purchase your textbooks until your enrollment is approved. During the processing period, a new section may be opened that could require a different textbook or edition.

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2. If you are having problems locating a textbook, contact us at Answers@outreach.lsu.edu for assistance.

Additional Materials and Resources

All students should have a recent edition of a standard English handbook that covers basic grammar, style, and documentation. Recommended handbooks include *A Writer's Reference* by Diane Hacker, *The Hodges Harbrace Handbook*, and *The Scott, Foresman Handbook for Writers*.

You should also have a print dictionary, any edition.

Required Software: Adobe Flash Player, Adobe Shockwave Player, Adobe Acrobat Reader

You must use either Mozilla Firefox, Safari, or Google Chrome as your web browser. Internet Explorer is not compatible with your Moodle course site.

Adobe Flash and Adobe Shockwave player are required for online testing. Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view PDF document files.

Required Hardware: Web cam, a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, reliable high speed internet

Exams are completed online through ProctorU and require the hardware listed above. You are encouraged to review the technical requirements listed on the ProctorU website and to perform a test on your equipment prior to enrolling in this course to make sure you have the necessary equipment available.

Technical Requirements: <http://www.proctoru.com/tech.php>

Equipment Test: <http://www.proctoru.com/testitout/>

Nature and Purpose of the Course

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Read accurately complex short fiction and the novel and understand their rhetorical elements
2. Produce a valid interpretation of what they have read, using one or more of the following modes of interpretation: formal, generic, thematic, historical, cultural
3. Write clearly and effectively

English 2025 is intended to introduce you to fiction (the short story and the novel), to teach you the fundamental principles of literary analysis, and to enable you to express your responses to the readings. We will read a variety of texts for comprehension and interpretation of both literal and figurative meanings and work to identify larger themes, structures, literary devices, and rhetorical patterns. We will also place and interpret texts within a discursive tradition and within broader cultural and historical contexts.

As a general education course, English 2025 is designed to address the following education outcomes: an appreciation of the methods of general inquiry; an effective command of written English; and an informed appreciation of the arts and humanities.

Working with the Course Materials

Remember, this course covers an entire semester of work or the equivalent of a classroom course lasting 15 weeks. That means that each module in this course equals nearly a week of course work and will require the same time and effort on your part. *Do not expect to complete each module in a single study session.* Understand, too, that if you choose to submit assignments at a rapid pace, your instructor may not be able to grade your work at the same rate.

Each module contains information, activities, and assignments organized under a consistent series of headings. Get familiar with how the module is organized. Each module in this course is organized into the following sections: the module learning objectives, the reading assignments, a discussion forum (periodic), and the graded module assignment. You should work through these parts of the module in order. Specific recommendations are provided in a link to the course module instructions, which you should review before beginning the first module.

Suggested Study Techniques

1. Carefully review the module objectives to help you focus on the information that will be covered on the exams.
2. Concentrate on the reading assignments, the module lecture material, and any additional resources provided. This review should include a detailed examination of any illustrative problems and examples. After an assignment has been completed, a rapid re-reading of the related text and other materials is strongly recommended.
3. Put yourself on a definite schedule. Set aside a certain block of hours per day or week for this course and work in a place where distractions are minimal.
4. Try to submit one assignment each week or at least every two weeks. Delays in submitting assignments usually result in lagging interest and the inability to complete the course.
5. Review your module assignments after they have been graded, paying special attention to any instructor feedback provided. We suggest that you wait for assignment feedback before you submit subsequent assignments.

6. Regardless of how you complete your graded assignments, keep in mind that module completion should not be your sole preparation for your exams. As with any college course, you should study for your exams.

Reading Assignments

Specific information on reading assignments will be given in each module. To do well in this course, it is essential that you read and study all the course materials that precede the module assignment. Do not begin the module assignment until you have done so. For each type of document you prepare for this course, carefully follow the guidelines provided in the textbook and in Moodle.

For the first part of the course, you will read between three to seven short texts per week, the majority of which will be short fiction, approximately 5–10 pages each. Additional readings will also be literary criticism, essays by the writers, and histories. Modules 12–15 will cover longer texts (*Heart of Darkness* and *Beautiful Ruins*), so more pages will be assigned for reading, from 25–50 pages (*Heart of Darkness*) to 100–150 pages (*Beautiful Ruins*).

Topic Outline

This course covers the following specific topics:

Module	Topic
01	An Introduction to Short Fiction; Plot
02	Character
03	James Baldwin Casebook
04	Point of View
05	Setting
06	Charlotte Perkins Gilman Casebook; Joyce Carol Oates Casebook
07	Theme
	Mid-Course Examination
08	Style
09	Writing About Literature
10	Raymond Carver Casebook; "The Things They Carried"
11	Magical Realism Casebook
12	Conrad: <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
13	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> , cont.
14	An Introduction to the Novel; <i>Beautiful Ruins</i>

Module Assignments

Each module assignment will contain multiple questions with varying length requirements. Most responses, though, will be in short-answer format, which means I expect a response for each of approximately 150-300 words and within 1-3 paragraphs. All responses, however, must be supported with clear explanation of your reasoning and specific evidence from the texts. In addition, some modules will include a discussion forum where you will be required to post responses. Consider these the equivalent of class discussion. Because this is an English course, *how* we respond to any assignment or forum prompt is important as well; therefore, grammar, mechanics, and spelling errors could detract from your grade.

You should submit each module assignment as soon as it is completed. Some courses have restrictions that require that a grade be received before you can submit additional assignments. Specific information on assignment submission is located in Moodle. Please be sure to follow these instructions.

Your instructor will normally post a grade for your assignment within *seven calendar days*. Understand that occasional delays will occur, such as during holidays and semester breaks or if you submit several module assignments within the same week.

Academic Integrity

Students in Online Distance Learning (ODL) courses must comply with the *LSU Code of Student Conduct*. Suspected violations of the academic integrity policy may be referred to LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability (SAA), a unit of the Dean of Students. If found responsible of a violation, you will then be subject to whatever penalty SAA determines and will forfeit all course tuition and fees.

Plagiarism

Students are responsible for completing and submitting their own course work and preparing their own modules. All work submitted in the course modules must be the student's own work unless outside work is appropriate to the assignment; all outside material must be properly acknowledged. It is also unacceptable to copy directly from your textbook or to use published answer keys or the teacher's edition of a textbook.

It's also important to remember that I have access to the same on-line information that you do. I am much more interested in reading what *you* have to say. I know what the critics have written, and I'm also well-practiced in recognizing plagiarism. Plagiarism of both words *and* ideas is unacceptable.

Collaboration

Unauthorized collaboration constitutes plagiarism. Collaborative efforts that extend beyond the limits approved by the instructor are violations of the academic integrity policy. Students who study together are expected to prepare and write their own individual work for submission and grading.

For more information and links to the *LSU Code of Student Conduct* and the SAA website, go to the ODL Academic Integrity policy on our website.

Examinations and Grading Policy

You will have two major exams in this course: the mid-course, which covers course content through Module 07, and the final, which is comprehensive. You will have a maximum of three hours to complete each exam.

Your exams will include definition, identification, analysis, and essay questions, the last of which requires well-organized and coherent responses. You will *not* be allowed to use your textbooks or the internet during the exams.

- Module assignments (including discussion posts, if applicable) count 20 points each.
- Exams are 100 points each.
- Course grade = average of module assignments + exam scores. Each component is weighted by predetermined percentages.

Course grade =

Component	Weight (%)
Average of Module Assignments	50%
Mid-Course Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

The following grading scale applies:

- 97%–100% = A+
- 93%–96% = A
- 90%–92% = A-
- 87%–89% = B+
- 83%–86% = B
- 80%–82% = B-
- 77%–79% = C+
- 73%–76% = C
- 70%–72% = C-
- 67%–69% = D+
- 63%–66% = D

60%–62% = D-

0%–59% = F

YOU MUST PASS THE FINAL EXAMINATION IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

IMPORTANT: The final exam cannot be taken until you meet the following requirements. Under no circumstances may the final exam be taken earlier.

1. You must have been enrolled in the course for *at least three weeks*, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.
2. You must have a grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the Module 15 Assignment in order to unlock access to the Final Exam. Please allow at least 7 days for the final assignment grade to be posted in the gradebook.

To read the full exam policy and other policy statements, visit <http://www.outreach.lsu.edu/Extended-Campus/Online-Distance-Learning/Guidelines-Policies/Policies>. Go to Continuing Education's homepage. Click on *Extended Campus*, select *Online Distance Learning*, and then click the link for *Guidelines and Policies*.

Taking Your Examinations

You are required to create a Louisiana State University ODL ProctorU account and to take your examinations through ProctorU, a remote proctoring service that allows you to take exams anywhere with internet access (some restrictions apply). Information on creating your ProctorU account can be found in the *Getting Started* module. You cannot use an account created through another university, so if you already have an account, you will still need to create an account associated with LSU Online Distance Learning (ODL).

A separate charge applies to test through ProctorU. The ProctorU website provides links you can use to find out how ProctorU works and to check your computer to see that it meets the technical requirements. In addition, to test using ProctorU, you need *access to a web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and high speed internet* to use this service. A complete list of technical requirements is available from the ProctorU website.

You should schedule your exams about a week before you are ready to take them in order to avoid any additional charges.

Transcript Information

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After you have completed this course, your grade will be filed with the Office of the University Registrar. If a transcript is needed, it is your responsibility to make a request to the registrar. If you would like to order a transcript, visit the Office of the University Registrar Transcript Requests page to view your options at <http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/registraroffice/student-services/transcript-request/>.

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ENGL 2025 Fiction
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