

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
ENG 236 – INTRODUCTION TO THE SHORT STORY (3 CR.)**

Course Description

Examines selected short stories, emphasizing the history of the genre and the elements that constitute effective short fiction. Involves critical reading and writing. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

Introduces students to the short story as a literary genre, acquainting them with the contributions of the short story to the history of literature and literary culture. Seeks to enhance students' ability to read, analyze, interpret, and discuss representative short stories.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

Successful completion of ENG 112 or ENG 125 or equivalent or division approval.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- Identifying and interpreting the use of the various elements of literature in the short story genre in general and in specific stories in particular
- Discovering and discussing the history of the short story as a genre
- Creating an original fable or story using those from the text as models
- Analyzing in writing the forms our questions take about literature
- Comparing and contrasting periods, authors and stories from the text
- Analyzing and discussing the writing and the cultural meaning of specific stories
- Evaluating the literary merits of specific elements of stories from the text

Major Topics to be Included

- History and traditions of the short story
- Structural elements of the short story
- Critical approaches to the short story
- Written analysis of the short story