

Spokane Community College

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLO) AND OUTLINE

Course Title: Intro to Literature

Prefix and Course Number: ENGL& 111

Version Date: December 12/3/2021

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Formulate individual, complex interpretations of texts in the major literary genres--fiction, poetry, and drama—using the framework of analysis of literary language.
2. Support literary arguments with textual evidence that shows close reading
3. Investigate how literature communicates the diversity of the human experience by considering context, history, geography, power, and one's own positionality
4. Differentiate the way texts have been interpreted over time and by multiple traditions, scholars, and individuals

Course Outline:

(Note: Authors and titles are meant to be illustrative, not exhaustive.)

I. Overview

- a. What is literature? The problem of definition
- b. Perspectives on the literary canon
- c. Why read literature?
- d. Literature's potential to perpetuate, and to challenge, cultural values, preferences and stereotypes
- e. Interpreting and writing about literature: Some general goals
 - i. Responding to the evidence of the work
 - ii. Finding something original to say
 - iii. Example: Raymond Carver's "The Bath" and "A Small Good Thing"

II. Poetry

- a. Analysis of elements of poetry such as diction, image, tone, figurative language, sound, form, theme
- b. I.A. Richards vs. Terry Eagleton: How do we know whether a poem is good?
- c. Discussion of older works of poets
 - i. John Milton
 - ii. William Shakespeare
 - iii. John Keats
 - iv. Walt Whitman
 - v. Etc.
- d. Discussion of modern and contemporary works of poets
 - i. Robert Frost
 - ii. Langston Hughes
 - iii. William Carlos Williams
 - iv. Gwendolyn Brooks
 - v. Galway Kinnell
 - vi. Sherman Alexie
 - vii. Etc.

III. Fiction

- a. Analysis of elements of fiction such as character, plot, conflict, narrative point of view, setting, theme
- b. Traditional form
 - i. Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues"
 - ii. Joyce, "Araby"
- c. Experimental form
 - i. Cisneros, "Little Miracles, Kept Promises"
 - ii. Barthelme, "Robert Kennedy Saved from Drowning"

IV. Drama

- a. Analysis of elements of drama such as character, plot, conflict, dialogue, staging, theme
- b. Plays on stage vs. plays in text
- c. Production as interpretation
- d. Discussion of classic plays
 - i. Sophocles, Oedipus Rex or Antigone
 - ii. Shakespeare, Hamlet or Macbeth
 - iii. Etc.
- e. Discussion of modern and contemporary plays
 - i. Miller, Death of a Salesman
 - ii. Hansberry, A Raisin in the Sun
 - iii. Beckett, Waiting for Godot
 - iv. Fierstein, On Tidy Endings
 - v. Etc.