

Linn-Benton Community College
Winter 2020
English 104
Intro to Fiction: Exploring Humanity (And Maybe Robots)

CRN 331464 • **Online** on Moodle **Instructor:** Suzi Steffen • **Phone:** (503)-451-0228 • **Email:** steffes@linnbenton.edu • Office hours: Online (text, email, Moodle message)

Course Description

The goal of this class is to bring fiction to life—to help you enjoy, interpret, and reflect on, and understand the process of writing fiction. You will also learn to analyze, using various *theories of literature*, what stories are telling us, trying to tell us, or perhaps saying without the author's intention.

Learning Outcomes

When you've successfully completed this ENG 104 class, you should be able to:

1. Understand and appreciate the range of human questions and issues that fiction (and most art) explores.
2. Assess the value of a story: did it accomplish something worthwhile? Did it create a worthwhile experience?
3. Understand many different critical methods of reading and interpreting fiction.
4. Apply an insight or awareness from your reading of stories to an issue or question you face in your life (that is, recognize how literature helps in understanding the human condition).
5. Form an overall impression of a story's meaning or impact.
6. Analyze the ways different structural elements help create meaning, and awareness.
7. Write and speak confidently about your own and others' ideas.
8. Demonstrate how literature enhances personal awareness and creativity.
9. In other words, interpret literary works and some other forms of art through critical reading.

Required Texts

- Doerr, Anthony, ed. *Best American Short Stories 2019*. Mariner Books, 2019.
- Nottage, Lynn. *Sweat*. New York, NY: Theatre Communications Group, 2017. **THERE IS A FREE VERSION OF THIS AS AN EBOOK THROUGH THE LBCC LIBRARY**, and you can also watch it online; please only buy it if you want to.
- Links to stories, articles, analyses, and other required reading/looking. See our Weekly Overviews for all of the details.
- Please use the [Purdue OWL](#) or other MLA Style guides that you may already have for formatting requirements. Please note that every researched or quoted assignment in this class is required to be in MLA Style.

Course Requirements

- Reading Responses
- Discussion Boards

- Fiction Presentation
- Reading Quizzes
- Analysis Essays/Papers
- Final
- Occasional small other assignments

Prerequisite: You should have WR 121 level writing and thinking skills to succeed in this or any other Literature class. If you have not taken 121, please text the instructor immediately, and arrange for appropriate help.

Course Policies

Formatting Assignments

Your essays should be in proper MLA format, including being typed using Times New Roman 12 point font; double spaced, with one inch margins. You can see more about MLA format on the Purdue Online Writing Lab [here](#). Does this matter in an online class? Gosh yes, it does.

Participation

A large portion of the online class is dedicated to the discussion of literature, fiction, movies, and sometimes other exciting topics (birth, death, life, love, parenting, being a kid, sex, rock and roll, drugs, violence, etc., whew, all of which are covered in fiction). Oh, and a percent of your grade is also connected to your ability to participate in online classes via discussions and feedback.

Note: If you're having issues, please text the instructor as soon as you can so that you can work it out together. The Discussion Boards are usually due Wednesday, Friday, and/or Sunday.

Weekly Reading Responses

You will be writing short responses to readings once or twice a week, depending on the readings, and then responses to other peoples' responses. These will most usually be due by Thursdays at 10 p.m., but you can also usually do them at any time during the week. You will *not* be able to do them all at once at the end of the term.

Analytical Essay

This is your opportunity to explore - through *research* - an author, a literary theory, or a type of story or other literature in depth in a paper. You will get approval from the professor ahead of time, write and get feedback on a draft, and turn in a final paper sometime during Weeks 4-9 of the term.

Fiction Presentation

In the fiction preso, you will use Google Slides or PowerPoint to create a visually based, researched presentation on an author we read, using that author's *other* stories or poems and the history of that author to expand on what we've learned in class. You will sign up for the week that works for you for the fiction presentation, anytime during Weeks 2-8.

We're here to have fun, read a lot, consider the human condition, and learn from each other. I can't wait to hear your thoughts and read your discussions and responses!

POLICIES

Late Work

Turn your work in on time. Late work may be docked what I consider an appropriate amount, and at some point, it will be worth nothing (and if that's for a major assignment, you may not be allowed to pass the class).

Final Grade

Your grade will be weighted by:

Discussions: 20%

Weekly Reading Responses: 20%

Fiction Presentation: 15%

Analytical Essay: 15%

Reading Quizzes: 10%

Final: 20%

Grade Range

100-90% = A; 89-80%= B; 79-70%= C; 69-58% = D; 57 – 0%= F

Plagiarism

Please, no. Students at LBCC are responsible for pursuing their studies with honesty and fairness, and in a manner that respects the rights and dignity of others. Students must not engage in acts of dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, such acts as forgery, changing or misuse of college documents and records of identification, cheating, plagiarism, aiding or abetting cheating or plagiarism, knowingly furnishing false information to the college, violating copyright or trademark, or copying college software.. You may flunk an assignment or be asked to leave the class; if the plagiarism case is egregious, you may be expelled from LBCC, and if you're dual-enrolled, have OSU informed. So, please, don't do it. Also, if you're facing a lot of work and can't do something on time, *text the instructor!* That's a lot easier than plagiarizing. Thank you!

Accommodations Due to Documented Disabilities:

LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR) and would like to use your accommodations in this class, please contact your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs. If you think you may be eligible for accommodations but are not yet registered with CFAR, please visit the [CFAR Website](#) for steps on how to apply for services. **Online course accommodations may be different than those for on-campus courses, so it is important that you make contact with CFAR as soon as possible.** Please use text or email or Moodle messaging to contact your instructor.

LBCC Board of Education Statement on Diversity: We believe that the LBCC community is enriched by diversity. Everyone has the right to think, learn, and work in an environment of respect, tolerance, and goodwill. We actively support this right regardless of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, or any countless ways in which we are diverse.

LBCC Comprehensive Statement of Nondiscrimination: LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws.

Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Roadrunner Resource Center for support (resources@linnbenton.edu), or visit us on the web www.linnbenton.edu/RRC under Student Support for Current Students). The office can help students get connected to resources to help. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources that they may possess.