English 150: Study of Literature
Course Description and Guidelines for Instructors

English 150 Course Description:
An introduction to the study and appreciation of literature for non-English majors. Shows how understanding writer's techniques increases the enjoyment of their works; relates these techniques to literary conventions; teaches recognition, analysis, discussion of important themes.

Note that, because English 150 is a Core Course (Humanities Division), it has no pre-requisites (not even English 102).

Guidelines for Instructors:
• English 150 introduces students to the genres of poetry, drama, and fiction.
• You may in addition, but need not, introduce the genres of film and/or nonfiction prose.
• Students should write often, in response to literature, in some combination of weekly short papers and a few 4-6-page papers.
• One or two in-class examinations may be used in addition to frequent writing.

Learning Objectives:
By participating in class discussions about literature, writing some combination of weekly short papers and a few 4-6 page papers, and one or two in-class examinations, students will engage in a study and appreciation of literature that emphasizes how understanding writers’ techniques increases the enjoyment of their works. As part of gaining an understanding of writers’ techniques, students will be introduced to basic literary conventions in the genres of poetry, drama, and fiction, and will gain practice in recognizing and analyzing literary themes as they are distinctively expressed in poems, on the stage, and in fiction. At the instructor’s option, students may be introduced to the genres of film and/or nonfiction prose, as well.

Learning Outcomes:
Students will be able

1. To recognize and analyze basic themes in literature.
2. To recognize and describe literary conventions in the genres of poetry, fiction and drama.
3. To write brief essays in response to questions about literature.

Evaluation Measures:
1. One or two in-class examinations containing identification and essay(s).

2. At least 20 pages of writing assignments, preferably a mix of weekly short papers and three 4-6-page papers assigned at regular intervals across the sixteen-week semester.
   One longer final paper (6-8 pages), or one creative assignment, may be substituted for one of the short essays.