

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY  
ENG 125 - INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE (3 CR.)**

**Course Description**

Introduces students to a range of literary genres that may include poetry, fiction, drama, creative nonfiction, and other cultural texts, as it continues to develop college writing. Lecture 3 hours per week

**General Course Purpose**

Prepares students for writing in the humanities, and for reading and responding to a variety of texts to develop an understanding and appreciation of human ideals.

**Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites**

Students must have successfully completed ENG 111 or its equivalent, and must be able to use word processing software.

**Course Objectives**

**GOAL ONE: LEARNING BASIC LITERARY TERMS**

Students will be taught the language they need to approach literature meaningfully. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- use the standard terms of plot development;
- use the standard terms that describe figurative language;
- identify varieties of point of view; and
- understand and apply a vocabulary of basic formal conventions.

**GOAL TWO: RECOGNIZING CONVENTIONS OF GENRE**

Students will be taught to recognize significant formal similarities among texts. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- define major dramatic types, such as tragedy, comedy and melodrama;
- recognize the development of traditional themes and their variations in numerous examples of one genre;
- recognize a variety of poetic forms; and
- understand the relationship between structure and meaning.

**GOAL THREE: USING INTERPRETIVE METHODS**

Students will be introduced to different ways of reading and interpreting literature (formalist, reader/response, evaluative, etc.) By the end of the course, students will have:

- examined a single work from a variety of interpretive perspectives;
- engaged in classroom exercises that illustrate different ways of reading and interpreting literature;
- written analyses based on some or all of these perspectives; and
- recognized the validity of different perspectives as representing human diversity and universal themes.

**GOAL FOUR: WRITING SKILLS**

Students will continue to improve their writing skills. By the end of the course, students will have:

- written a minimum of 3500 words of graded text, including at least two formal essays;
- engaged in all phases of the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and reflecting;
- employed a clear focus that guides their choice of evidence, language, and organization;

- effectively applied organizational strategies to open and close their texts and to move the reader between and within main ideas, paragraphs, and sentences; used textual evidence; and appropriately employed grammatical and mechanical conventions in the preparation of readable manuscripts.

**Major Topics to be Included**

- a. Literary terms
- b. Traditional literary genres
- c. Varieties of interpretive methods
- d. The writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, reflecting