

## COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

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### ELIT 10

### Introduction to Fiction

**Instructor:** Becky Roberts

Email: robertsbecky@fhda.edu

**Office:** F11-E **Hours:** M after lecture (6:30 or so),  
Tues 12:30-1:20, W,TH 5:30-6:20

**Course Description:** I have designed this course to represent a wide range of human experience and literary expression. We will read about everything from love and family, to war, slavery, trees, ghosts and ancestors. While the books are pretty recent, it includes quite a variety, from fantasy to post-modern, and from the autobiographical to the surreal. I hope you will find something in this group of stories will rattle your bones, make you weep or bust out laughing; something that will strengthen your resolve, or make you kinder to your mother. The way to let these stories do their magic, is to look at them in detail, analytically, from many perspectives. We want to know their history, their friends, their work in the world—like you would want to know your life partner. My goal is for you to fully awaken to this mixture of intellectual and emotional pleasure.

**Required Materials:** Available at De Anza bookstore

Octavia Butler, *Kindred*

Louise Erdrich, *The Night Watchman*

And a wide range of stories, available free on Canvas.

#### Course Goals:

- Read fiction with pleasure and analytical delight
- Interpret texts using multiple, clearly defined critical methods
- Write papers that consider social and historical contexts
- Articulate personal as well as analytical relation to course texts
- Participate enthusiastically in a diverse community of critical readers
- Discover writers you will want to read more of on your own

#### Course Requirements:

- Keep up with reading, be online weekly and participate fully in class discussions and activities.
- Watch all recorded lectures and respond to them live or in the Lecture Response assignment.
- Write 11 Weekly Discussions responding to a quote from the reading (detailed assignment in Canvas)
- Take two exams which will include multiple choice, short answer and an essay

**Participation:** If you stop participating in the course (contribute nothing to discussions and don't respond to lectures) for two weeks before the drop deadline, you will be dropped from the course. I will also work toward making the class the best possible learning environment and I will honor De Anza's mutual respect policy.

**Late work:** Exams must be taken on the day they are listed except under extreme circumstances beyond your control. Homework or essays are due in Canvas by midnight on their due dates. I will accept late work for **up to a week after the deadline** with a 10% point deduction.

**Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism and cheating include copying someone else's test or homework, lifting sentences from someone else without quoting (whether the source is published or not) and any small or large act of academic forgery in the work that you submit as your own effort in this class. The penalty is, at minimum, a "0" on that assignment, and an "F" for the course is very likely. In addition, I must report the incident to the dean of students, who may expel habitual cheaters.

**Grading:**

|                              |            |             |             |
|------------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Exam 1 with Essay            | 200        | A Above 93% | A- 90-92%   |
| Final Exam with Essay        | 200        | B+ 87-89%   | B 83-86%    |
| Weekly Discussion            | 220        | B- 80-82%   | C+ 77-79%   |
| Lecture responses            | 88         | C 70-76%    | D 60-69%    |
| <b>Total possible points</b> | <b>688</b> |             | F Below 60% |

**You will have the option to revise one of your exam essays for a grade replacement, and there may be a small extra credit opportunity for attending a literary (poetry or fiction) reading.**

**Student Resources:** I enjoy helping students, so please visit my office hours or email me. However, I must limit my email responses to one paragraph of your essay, so if you want help with your whole paper, you need to come to my office. Drop-in and weekly tutoring is available in the Writing and Reading Center ATC 309  
<https://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess/wrc/>

**Equal Opportunity:** If you need an academic accommodation for any disability, such as vision, hearing, orthopedic, learning disabilities, psychological or other medical conditions, you should discuss this with me within the first week of school. I am happy to work with you to meet your needs.