Course Syllabus

English 2341: Introduction to Literature

Section 500
Fall 2020

Instructor: Ms. Laura Osborne
Department: English
Office: Steen Library, 218A
Office phone: (936) 468-5832
Email: Use Brightspace (D2L) email

Class meeting time and place: Online

Office Hours

Available to meet via Zoom on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:30 PM. Also available for appointments in Zoom by request, Monday-Friday.

Prerequisite

Six hours of Freshman English (ENGL 1301 and 1302 or equivalents), completed with a grade of C or better.

Official Course Description

This is the official course description that appears in the SFA course catalog:

Readings in literary genres, such as poetry, drama, short story and novel.

Credit Hour Justification

ENG 2341 “Introduction to Literature” (3 credits; fully online) meets online for 15 regular weeks during the semester, and also meets for the final week of the semester for a 2-hour final examination online. Students have weekly literary readings, including poetry, short fiction, a novel, and drama. Students are expected to read and participate in weekly discussions and write journal entries based
both on their reading assignments as well as on the content modules in the course which include terminology, contextual information, notes, outside sources, explanations, and provided links to enrich their understanding of the selections. In addition to discussions and journal entries, students will complete one more quizzes per module, and will submit three paper assignments plus one short creative work. These activities average at a minimum 8-10 hours of work each week to prepare for and fully participate in this course.

**Course Overview**

This course will introduce you to the sublime stuff known as literature, including short stories, poetry, a novel, and a selection of plays. You will learn, together, how to become better readers of literature, understanding how the process of reading works. You will, through the employment of attentive reading and the application of critical thinking skills, learn to delve beyond the surfaces of literary texts – to appreciate and understand them in ways more complex than "what happens in it" or "what it means." We will begin to explore the complex sets of interactions that go into the composition and the consumption of a literary work.

You will also gain an understanding of literary techniques, structures, and terminology, and hone the necessary skills of communication to talk and write intelligently and coherently about what you read. If all goes well, we will all become better readers, better writers, and better thinkers.

**Required Books**

There are three required books for the course. The campus bookstore should carry them, but you can also order them elsewhere online. You will need the first book in the list by no later than the 2nd week of classes.

**The Art of the Short Story**
Edited by Dana Gioia and R.S. Gwynn
Published by Pearson Longman

**The Seagull Reader: Poems, 3rd edition** *(be certain to get this specific edition)*
Edited by Joseph Kelly
Published by Norton
ISBN 978-0393938227

**The Dinner**
By Herman Koch
Published by Hogarth
ISBN 978-0385346856
Official Course Outcomes and Objectives

Program Learning Outcomes

This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course. English majors or minors seeking to fulfill sophomore-level literature requirements should enroll in ENG 2332, 2333, 2322, 2323, 2327, or 2328.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives

In any given semester, one or more of the following Core Curriculum Objectives for the English Foundational Component Area in Language, Philosophy, and Culture may be assessed. These objectives are:

1. Critical Thinking: Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills: Effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
4. Personal Responsibility: The ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Student Learning Outcomes for English 2341

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Exhibit an understanding of and appreciation for key works in literature, as evidenced in daily work and quizzes, course discussions, written assignments, and/or examinations (this outcome aligns to the Core objective of Critical Thinking and Communication);
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of periodization, theme, genre, motif, and so on, in literature, as evidenced in daily work and quizzes, course discussions, written assignments, and/or examinations. Periodization, for example, is not merely an historical consideration, as defined by events, persons, or dates; furthermore, literature encompasses a spectrum of thematic, genre, and literary considerations. Thus, students will demonstrate an understanding that historical, cultural, spiritual, and ethical issues, among others, shape human experiences and impact motivations (this outcome aligns to the Core objective of Critical Thinking and Communication as well as Personal Responsibility and Social Responsibility);
3. Students will read literature with increased critical acumen, as evidenced in discussions of readings and in responsive essays (this outcome aligns to the Core objective of Critical Thinking and Communication); and
4. Students will be able to respond to literature with facility, both orally and on paper, on important thematic considerations having to do with literary and historical milieu, culture,
human responsibility, morality, ethics, and the manner and causes by which humans interact
with one another (this outcome aligns to the Core objective of Social Responsibility and
Personal Responsibility).

Communication, Attendance, and Zoom Meetings

Course communication will occur primarily through Brightspace email, course news, discussions,
and Zoom meetings. I will check my Brightspace email at least once a day, Monday through Friday.
Course content will be delivered both in the content modules and in the Zoom meetings.

Some modules will include scheduled online Zoom meetings with pre-announced topics, designed to
allow students to actively discuss the assigned readings with each other and with their instructor. See
the Course Timeline for the schedule; there will be 4 Zoom meetings during the semester, and
students are required to attend and participate in any 2 of them (not all 4).

Attendance

As this is an online course, there is no standard attendance policy. However, students are expected to
log into Brightspace at least 4 to 5 times per week, Monday through Friday, to check their course
email, to check for any recent news announcements, and to stay on top of upcoming due dates.

Deadlines and Late Work

This is not a self-paced course. You are expected to turn in all assignments on time.

- Quizzes must be completed by the due dates and times; they cannot be taken late, and they
  will not be re-opened.
- Discussion posts and reading journal posts will be accepted no more than 24 hours late, and
  will earn no more than 1/2 credit if posted late. After 24 hours, they will not earn any credit.
- Writing assignments (i.e. dropbox assignments) include a 24-hour grace period during which
  the assignment will be accepted late (past the due date) with no grade penalty. If a writing
  assignment is submitted late (past the 24-hour grace period), it will be subject to a grade
deduction of 10 percentage points per day. Writing assignments will not be accepted more
than 4 days late.

All assignments must be completed in the order in which they are given. No work or assignments
will be accepted after 11:59 PM on Sunday, December 6. (Fall classes end on December 4).

If you experience extenuating circumstances at any point and are unable to meet a deadline, please
contact your instructor before the due date to explain the problem and ask for a short extension
(which will under many circumstances be granted).
Writing Assignments

All writing assignments must be typed and submitted as a Microsoft Word document online through Brightspace. All assignments will be graded for proper format, soundness of content, organization, smooth and effective use of source material, writing style, grammar, and mechanics.

Assignments submitted in an incorrect file type will be counted as late (and a grade deduction made accordingly) until an acceptable file type is submitted. After submitting an assignment, it is the student's responsibility to double-check and verify that the correct file was submitted.

There will be 4 writing assignments of varying lengths in this course, as follows:

- A medium-length response paper in Module 3, worth 80 points
- A short, creative "redacted poem" assignment in Module 4, worth 25 points
- A medium-length response paper in Module 5, worth 80 points
- A capstone essay in Module 8, due on the last day of classes, worth 80 points

Be aware that your instructor will be running your writing assignments through Turnitin, a plagiarism detection service.

Paper Format

All papers should be in MLA format, with one-inch margins, and—if specified by the instructions—a Works Cited page. Text should be either Cambria or Times New Roman 12 point and uniformly double-spaced. Pages should not be right or full justified.

Pages should be numbered at the top right-hand side of all pages, along with your last name. Papers that don't adhere to the formatting requirements will be subject to grade deductions.

Grading Standards

All work submitted in this course, including discussions and reading journal posts, should be carefully proofread to catch mistakes in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, syntax, and grammar. Sloppy proofreading will negatively affect your score on any discussion or assignment.

For the writing assignments, you will be given specific instructions and a grading rubric ahead of time, so that you will know in advance what your instructor is expecting and how your assignment will be evaluated.

Discussions and Reading Journals

In each module, students will be required to participate in discussions (via the Brightspace discussion topics) about some of the assigned readings and related concepts. These discussions will be open to the whole class. Students are encouraged to participate in each discussion not only by starting a thread, but also by replying to their classmates and responding to questions from their instructor.
In addition to the class-wide discussions, each module will also include a specified number of reading journal posts which are private to each student and can be read only by the individual student and their instructor.

**Quizzes and Final Exam**

Each module will include one or more quizzes which can be taken online from any location. All quizzes will be "open book" in that students are welcome to use their textbooks while completing the quizzes. However, **collaboration between two or more students is not permitted during any quiz or exam**; it is considered cheating.

The final exam will be available for a limited, pre-determined period during Finals Week and can be taken online from any location. It will be timed to two hours, and will draw on material from the quizzes, discussions, and readings from the entire semester. Part of the exam will be objective, and part may consist of long answer or short essay questions.

**Grade Determination**

(If changes become necessary due to unforeseen circumstances, an announcement will be posted in the course.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 writing assignments (point values vary)</td>
<td>265</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 quizzes (20 points each)</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion posts (7 posts @ 10 points each)</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading journal posts (18 posts @ 10 points each)</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning agreement</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory post</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoom meetings (attend any 2 meetings @ 3 points each)</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total possible points</strong></td>
<td><strong>810</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Minimum points required for an A | 729  
Minimum points required for a B | 648  
Minimum points required for a C | 567  
Minimum points required for a D | 486  

*Any score below 486 points will result in an F for the course; scores will not be curved.*
Extra Credit

There will be two opportunities to earn extra credit, available to everyone equally, as follows:

- **Participate in a third Zoom meeting (1 pt)** – Attending two Zoom meetings is required, but participating in a third Zoom meeting is worth 1 point of extra credit. You must be present and participating for the full duration of the meeting to earn the extra credit.

- **Complete the official course evaluation (1 pt)** - Complete the official course evaluation in mySFA and you will earn 1 point of extra credit.

Additional extra credit opportunities may be announced during the semester.

Phone Messages and Email

During regular "workday hours" (8 to 5, Monday through Friday), I am employed full-time in the Center for Teaching & Learning. While you may reach me by phone during those hours if you have a quick question, be aware that I am sometimes conducting faculty workshops, attending meetings, and otherwise away from my desk.

Also, don’t be surprised if you call and I answer with “Center for Teaching & Learning, this is Laura…” Since the majority of calls I receive are from faculty, I usually introduce myself by first name when I answer the phone.

When in doubt, try contacting me by email. You are **strongly encouraged** to email me in Brightspace rather than through Jacks/campus email. If you send me email from your Jacks account, please include "ENG 2341" somewhere in the subject line. Otherwise, your message may be easily lost amongst the large volume of email I receive each day.

Technical Difficulties

If at any point during the course you experience technical difficulties in Brightspace, please let me know immediately. Keep in mind that a technical glitch in Brightspace does not excuse you from completing and submitting assignments on time. If you ever find yourself unable to submit an assignment through Brightspace, for example, you should submit it as an email attachment instead. And if the email tool in Brightspace isn't working, then send me your assignment through regular Jacks/campus email (my address is osbornel@sfasu.edu).

Another option is to contact Andra Floyd, the Support Specialist for online courses, by email at afloyd@sfasu.edu or phone (936-468-1919) for help. Andra is expert at helping students solve technical difficulties in Brightspace.
Using the Steen Library’s Resources
(on-campus and from a distance)

Whether you live on or off-campus, and regardless of whether you are able to visit the Steen Library in person, there’s a wide range of full-text materials (including articles, e-books, and more) that you can access online. Also, did you know that Interlibrary Loan materials can be mailed to you if you live at a distance?

The research librarian for students in English classes is:

Janie Richardson
936-468-1896
richardsjl3@sfasu.edu

(Have research questions involving assignments in your other courses? Find the complete list of research guides, including contact information for the librarians, here: [http://libguides.sfasu.edu](http://libguides.sfasu.edu).)

Other Course Policies

**Academic integrity and policy on recycled work**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated in this course. **Documented proof of cheating or plagiarism will result in a failing grade (of zero) on the assignment, and usually also a failing grade in the course. Rewrites and second chances are seldom permitted. All assignments you submit will be checked for plagiarism via Turnitin.**

In addition, all work submitted in this course must be 1) written by YOU and 2) written THIS semester, for THIS specific section of this course (not recycled from any other course you've taken, here or elsewhere, and not recycled from any previous time you may have attempted this course). If it is discovered that you have turned in a "recycled" assignment, you will receive an F (zero) for that assignment.

The following is taken from the University Policy and Procedures Manual (online), Section 4.1 of Academic Affairs:

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as
if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf.

Withheld grades

A grade of WH (for Withheld) will be granted only in rare circumstances. Here is the official SFA policy on withheld grades:

Semester Grades Policy (A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with disabilities

Most of the course material is text based and easily accessible. Some material in the course requires listening to audio files or watching videos. Any students having difficulties accessing, viewing, or reading any materials in the course should contact Ms. Osborne for assistance.

Here is the official SFA policy regarding students with disabilities:
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Course Timeline and Due Dates

For a complete timeline of assignments and due dates, see the Course Timeline located in the Getting Started module of the course.
# Course Timeline

## Fall 2020

Timeline last updated on August 23, 2020

Note: All due times are 11:59 PM unless otherwise specified.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Getting Started</th>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Monday, August 24</th>
<th>Begin the Getting Started module.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday, August 26</td>
<td>“Introduce Yourself” discussion is due.</td>
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<td>Saturday, August 29</td>
<td>Due date for the following:</td>
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<td>• “What is Literature” discussion</td>
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<td>• Learning Agreement quiz</td>
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<p>| Module 1 Responding to Literature | Week 2 | Monday, August 31 | Begin Module 1 |
|                                  |        |                  | Start reading the module content and assigned readings. |
|                                  |        |                  | Quiz #1 (Responding to Literature) becomes available. |
|                                  | Wednesday, September 2 | Zoom Meeting #1: 7-7:50 PM |
|                                  |        | (Remember, there are 4 Zoom meetings during the semester, and each student is expected to participate in any 2 of them.) |
|                                  | Saturday, September 5 | Due date for the following: |
|                                  |                   | • All Module 1 reading journal posts (#1-3) |
|                                  |                   | • Quiz #1 |
|                                  |                   | • Module 1 discussion |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 2</th>
<th>Short Stories, Part 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week Three</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, September 7</td>
<td><strong>Begin Module 2</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Start reading the module content and assigned readings from the textbook.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Quiz #2 (Short Stories terminology) becomes available.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 12</td>
<td>Due date for completing the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Module 2 discussion post</td>
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<td>• Quiz #2 (Short Stories terminology)</td>
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<td>Monday, September 14</td>
<td>Continue working on completing the assigned readings and activities.</td>
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<td>Quiz #3 (Module 2 readings) becomes available.</td>
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<td>Saturday, September 19</td>
<td>Due date for the following:</td>
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<td>• All Module 2 reading journal posts (#4-6)</td>
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<td>• Quiz #3 (Module 2 readings)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 3</th>
<th>Short Stories, Part 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week Five</td>
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<td>Monday, September 21</td>
<td><strong>Begin Module 3</strong></td>
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<td>Start reading the module content and assigned readings from the textbook.</td>
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<td>Quiz #4 (Module 3 readings) becomes available.</td>
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<td>Thursday, September 24</td>
<td><strong>Zoom Meeting #2: 7:00-7:50 PM</strong></td>
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<td>Saturday, September 26</td>
<td>Due date for the following:</td>
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<td>• Module 3 discussion post</td>
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<td>• Quiz #4</td>
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<td><strong>Module 3, continued</strong></td>
<td><strong>Week Six</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Short Stories, Part 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday, September 30</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, October 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Due date for the following:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sunday, October 4</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Module 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Week Seven</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Poetry, Part 1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, October 10</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Monday, October 12</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Week Eight</strong></td>
<td><strong>Saturday, October 17</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 4, continued</td>
<td>Sunday, October 18</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Poetry, Part 1      | Monday, October 19 | Begin Module 5  
Start reading the module content and assigned poems in the textbook.  
Quiz #7 (Module 5 readings) becomes available |
| Week Nine           | Tuesday, October 20| Zoom Meeting #3: 7:00-7:50 PM |
| Module 5            | Saturday, October 24| Due date for the following:  
- Module 5 discussion post  
- Quiz #7 |
| Poetry, Part 2      | Monday, October 26 | Continue working on completing the assigned readings and activities. |
| Week Ten            | Wednesday, October 30| Strongly suggested -- finish your reading journal posts by this date, to allow yourself a few days to focus on the response paper. |
|                     | Saturday, October 31| Due date for the following:  
- Module 5 response paper assignment  
- All Module 5 reading journal posts (#13-15) |
|                     | Sunday, November 1 | “Grace period” window of time for submitting the Module 5 response paper without late penalty closes at 11:59 PM |
| Module 6 | Week Eleven | Monday, November 2 | Begin Module 6  
Start reading the module content and *The Dinner*. |
|---------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|         | Thursday, November 5 | Zoom Meeting #4: 7:00-7:50 PM  
(*This is the last Zoom meeting of the semester.*) |
|         | Saturday, November 7 | Due date for the following:  
- Module 6 discussion post |
| Module 7 | Week Twelve | Monday, November 9 | Continue working on completing assigned reading and reading journal posts. Take Quiz #8 this week.  
Quiz #8 (The Dinner) becomes available. |
|         | Saturday, November 14 | Due date for the following:  
- All Module 6 reading journal posts (#16-17)  
- Quiz #8 |
| Module 7 | Week Thirteen | Monday, November 16 | Begin Module 7  
Start reading the module content and assigned readings.  
Quiz #9 (Module 7 readings and terminology) becomes available. |
|         | Saturday, November 21 | Due date for the following:  
- Module 7 reading journal post (post #18)  
- Quiz #9 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Week Fourteen</strong></th>
<th><strong>Monday, Nov. 23 through Friday, Nov. 27</strong></th>
<th><strong>Thanksgiving Week holidays</strong> -- classes do not meet during this week, and no work is due in this course. Ms. Osborne will not be available for online office hours or appointments this week.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Module 8**      | **Monday, November 30**         | **Begin Module 8**  
Start reading the module content and drafting your Capstone Essay.  
There’s no quiz or discussion in this module. |
| **Week Fifteen**  | **Thursday, December 3**       | **Consider this a priority date by which to email Ms. Osborne with questions about the assignment. Don’t wait until the last day.** |
| **Module 8**      | **Saturday, December 5**       | **Due date for the following:**  
- Capstone Essay assignment  

*Window of time for submitting the Capstone Essay without late penalty closes at 11:59 PM*  
**ABSOLUTE CUT-OFF DATE -- No late work accepted past 11:59 PM on this date**  

**Final Exam**  
**Week Sixteen**  
**Monday, Dec. 7 - Wednesday, Dec. 9**  
Comprehensive final exam opens at 8:00 AM on Monday, Dec. 7th and remains available through 8:00 PM on Wednesday, Dec. 9th. Timed to 2 hours.  
Required of all students -- no exceptions.