The Basics

ENG 2341.001: Introduction to Literature
FALL 2021
MW 1-2:15 PM on Zoom
Dr. Henty, hentym@sfasu.edu
Office Hours: MW 2:20-3:55 PM, TR 1-1:55 PM, & by appointment
Office: Liberal Arts North 245

Student Learning Outcomes

• To learn about various literary genres
• To learn about specific literary terms and concepts useful in the reading and understanding of drama, poetry, and the short story
• To apply one’s knowledge of those terms and concepts in the discussing and writing about the literature
• To consider the ways in which cultural and historical contexts inform literature, and in turn how literature informs and shapes cultures and cultural experiences and exchanges
• To explore how personal reactions to literature can enrich our understanding and appreciation of literature
• To learn about and put into practice basic skills for writing critically about literature

REQUIRED MATERIALS

• Various PDFs and additional reading provided via D2L and links within the calendar

Please bring the assigned reading to class each day.

Course Description

Official Course Description: Readings in literary genres, such as poetry, drama, short story, novel. Prerequisite: six hours of freshman English. ENGL 2341 “Introduction to Literature” (3 credits) typically meets three times each week in 50-minute segments or twice each week in 75-minute segments for 15 weeks, and also meets for a 2-hour final examination. Students have theme-based weekly literary readings, including poetry, short fiction, non-fiction, and drama. Students are expected to read these literary selections and prepare for weekly discussions; they will take a short quizzes, and discussions and other activities will take place during the week. In addition to the quizzes and post discussions, students will take exams over the thematic units, and will submit two short papers involving a number of their readings. These activities average at a minimum 6–8 hours of work each week to prepare for and fully participate in this course.

General Education Core Curriculum Outcomes

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

By enrolling in ENGL 2341, you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the below requirements. The chart below indicates: (a) The core objectives that are required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), (b) How the required core objectives
will be addressed. Include only the core objectives that must be addressed by this course in the first column. Examples of the things that can be included in the final column are: Specific assignments, class module(s), chapter(s), strategies, activities, and/or techniques that address the core objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will be Addressed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Active reading assignments&lt;br&gt;Writing assignments that teach analysis, reflection, and working with sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>Writing assignments that require clear analysis with textual support.&lt;br&gt;Student-led discussion activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
<td>Diversity of assigned readings from a variety of cultures, regions, genders, etc.&lt;br&gt;Connection between literature and culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>Activities that teach the ethics of rhetoric and research&lt;br&gt;Readings that discuss personal actions and consequences</td>
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</tbody>
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**COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance**

Attendance and active participation in this course are necessary. **If you miss more than four weeks of class (8 days), you automatically fail the course.** Absences will affect your participation/discussion grade for any given day/week, but a few absences per semester are expected and will not damage your grade significantly.

Please do not be late for class. One or two late arrivals are excusable; consistent tardiness is rude and will affect your grade. Similarly, repeatedly being off task (talking, cellphones, social media, etc.) may result in you being asked to leave the class and counted absent for the day.

Being absent is not an excuse for missed information or assignments; you are responsible for getting notes from others in class and/or keeping up with the schedule. If you will be missing class for a university-excused activity, please contact me BEFORE the missed class date.

Extenuating circumstances should be reported to the Office of Community Standards and me as soon as possible—extenuating circumstances require documentation. Outside of prolonged absence due to an extenuating circumstance, I do not distinguish between excused or unexcused absence and do not require documentation.
**Zoom Policy**

This is a Livestream class, meaning you will attend via Zoom. During Zoom meetings, students are expected to be attentive and actively participating (answering questions, using chat, completing activities, etc.). Students are expected to have their cameras on for the entire Zoom meeting. Your microphone should be muted unless you are speaking. Any disruptive behavior, as determined by the instructor, will not be allowed, and students may be asked to stop or leave the meeting depending on severity. Please use common sense and be respectful. You should be as attentive as you would be in a classroom—you should not be at work, driving, or walking across campus during our class. If Zoombombing occurs, I will end the meeting, and I will email you via D2L Brightspace with further instructions.

**Submitting Work and Late Work**

You will submit all assignments to D2L (generally as a .docx or .rtf file, and always in MLA format). Rely on the course calendar posted in D2L. Due to the nature of this course and class discussion, **I do not accept any late work.** Any grade is better than a 0, so you should **always submit something.**

**Technology issues (your own laptop, D2L, etc.) are NOT an excuse for late work.** You are encouraged to back up your work via multiple methods and check for a D2L submission receipt. If you are ever unable to submit an assignment via D2L, you should email it to me prior to the due date instead.

**Office Hours**

During my office hours, I am available to answer questions and work with students. During my office hours, I will be in my office in Liberal Arts North 245 AND on Zoom. If my office hours do not work for you, simply email me to set up an appointment. This is your time to get one-on-one help or clarification on any assignment. Anytime that you would like additional guidance or feedback on an assignment or reading, I encourage you to come to office hours.

**Zoom Meeting for Office Hours:**

https://sfasu.zoom.us/j/97942682437?pwd=N0hleExXWk1IIZlV6L1dCS0o2dmhOUT09
Meeting ID: 979 4268 2437
Passcode: 712462

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**COURSE ACTIVITIES: GRADING & ASSIGNMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Breakdown</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Participation/Discussion</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading &amp; Lit Term Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threaded Discussion Reading Responses</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literary Analysis Essay</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</table>
**Discussion and Participation 15%**

The classroom should be a space of exploration, respectful debate, discovery, reflection, and fun. Be prepared to talk about the literary works on the day we discuss them in class. If you do not understand the readings, feel free to ask questions about what they mean. Let me stress that I’m not looking for “right” answers. I want you to tell me what you think and defend it with reasonable examples from the text. If you do not wish to talk in class, know that your grade (as long as you appear attentive) will be no higher than a C. Try to talk at least once a discussion. If you suffer from paralyzing anxiety regarding speaking in class, please email me during the first week of class so we may discuss options.

In addition to daily class discussion, you will (either alone or with a partner) sign up to be discussion leader for one class period. Additional instructions are posted on D2L, and students will sign up for specific days in the first two weeks of class.

I also expect you will listen to your classmates when they are discussing aspects of the literature we read. Always treat people with respect and try to gain the most from what they are saying. See Zoom policy.

Obviously, if you are not present in class, then you cannot participate. Being absent will affect your discussion/participation grade, BUT if you have fewer than 3 absences, it should not be a problem. The only exception is university-excused absences (such as for sports or competitions); in these cases, you may submit a reading response for the day BEFORE class in order to substitute for your absence. You must contact me ahead of time to make arrangements for this.

**Reading & Lit Term Quizzes 15%**

You will have reading quizzes for most class meetings. Reading quizzes will be completed via D2L and are due BEFORE CLASS on the day the reading is due/being discussed. Once class begins, the quiz will close, and missing quizzes will be scored as 0. In addition to the day’s reading, quizzes may include literary terms either from the reading or previous class lectures. I will drop your lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester.

**Threaded Discussion Reading Responses 20%**

You are required to write three reading responses (one for each unit) throughout the semester and post them as threaded discussions. A reading response is due BEFORE the class period during which we will discuss the reading, and you will choose which texts you will write about (the only requirement is one per unit). There are additional instructions in D2L about the reading responses, but they are not simply summaries and should be at least 500 words each.

In addition to posting your three responses, you must provide at least 5 substantive comments for your peers throughout the semester. This means you will need to read your peer’s response in full and respond with at least 150 words. These may be completed on the same texts that you wrote your responses for or others; there is no restriction. However, I do ask that you be aware of how many comments are already on a given thread and spread the love around; you should NOT write the same thing as someone else, so you need to read all responses on the thread. These comments are part of your grade.
Literary Analysis Essay 15%

You will choose one (or more) text from the course to analyze in more detail through a literary analysis essay. You will receive an assignment sheet with additional details, but the essay will be about 4-5 pages in length. The analysis essay is NOT simply a summary or a personal response to the reading (we will discuss this, but your essay should be more formal and polished than the responses). It will be graded based on your engagement with the text and willingness to delve deeply into complex issues. Your analysis should have a main thesis and be backed up by textual support. You will submit a rough draft to myself for feedback AND participate in peer review. Not completing these two steps will affect your final grade on the essay.

Exams (Midterm 15%, Final 20%)

You will have two exams, a midterm and a final. Each test will be a mix of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank or matching, short answer, and essays. You will be expected to know the literary terms, including being able to identify and discuss them, and specific genre conventions discussed in class. You will be asked to draw connections between texts and authors. We will discuss each of these exams in more detail as we move closer to their scheduled dates.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Disability Policy

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, and 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/.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam;
- falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment;
- helping or attempting to help other student(s) in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- submitting an assignment as one’s own work when it is at least partly the work of another person;
- submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source;
- incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper or presentation without giving the author credit.
Penalties for Academic Dishonesty

Penalties may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, resubmission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.

For more information, please see: Student Academic Dishonesty and Student Grade Appeals

**Mental Health**

SFASU values students' mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SFASU Counseling Services</th>
<th>SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices">www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp">www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Floor Rusk Building</td>
<td>Human Services Room 202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>936-468-2401</td>
<td>936-468-1041</td>
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**Crisis Resources:**

- Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

**AARC Tutoring**

Visit the SFA Academic Assistance and Resource Center (AARC)! The AARC provides a variety of free academic support programs for students at SFA. Services include 1:1 appointments, walk-in tables, online tutoring (through Zoom), learning teams, and SI. The AARC is located on the first floor of Ralph W. Steen Library. Phone: 936-468-4108, Email: aarc@sfasu.edu, Website: sfasu.edu/aarc

**Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities**

Students missing classes for legitimate reasons other than University-sponsored trips may contact the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities in advance of the anticipated absence to request an absence notification be sent to their instructors. These notifications are not excuses and are provided as a courtesy to the student and the student's instructor(s) and are not an evaluation of the information received by this office. The Office of Community Standards is located in 315 Rusk. Phone: 936-468-2703, Website: https://www.sfasu.edu/osrr

**COVID-19 Resources and Information**

SFA is committed to making the semester as normal and safe as possible. You can find out more information about COVID-19 testing, statistics, and protocols @ https://www.sfasu.edu/covid19.