

**ENG 265.02W:  
Readings in the Literature of the Western World  
Syllabus**

3 credit hours  
10:00-10:50  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Instructor: Samuel Unger  
Phone: 294-4109  
Office hours: M-F 11:00-12:00  
Other times by appointment

Office: Kirkley 218  
E-mail: samuel@shsu.edu  
Classroom: EV 258

**Course Description**

Eng 265: Readings in the Literature of the Western World is a sophomore- level course designed to give the student a basic familiarity with a few of the most influential works in Western Literature and a review of the foundational Ideas that formed the character of this culture.

Eng 265W is an intensive reading and writing course that focuses on generically diverse literary texts from the ancient world through the Middle Ages. Over the semester, we will concentrate on analyzing, understanding, and enjoying these texts, while exploring the historical and cultural contexts in which they were written. Through a combination of group discussions and lectures, we will discuss a variety of textual aspects, including theme, imagery, character development, narrative structure, genre, *et cetera*; the course will focus, though, on the idea of fate and free will, particularly on how these concepts shape the culture both within the texts and today. Other, related topics will naturally emerge. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the material by actively participating in class and group discussions, responding in writing to in-class writing assignments, a mid-term and final exam, and developing ideas in a thesis assignment and final paper (6-7 pages).

**Prerequisite:**

Completion of ENG 165 or an equivalent

**Course Objectives**

- 1) To enhance understanding of assigned texts by learning literary terminology.
- 2) To develop written, analytical, and critical skills through oral communication and written assignments.
- 3) To gain a deeper appreciation of literary texts and of the cultures in which they were written by exploring how these texts reflect larger historical contexts, theirs as well as our own.
- 4) To gain a familiarity with the cultural/ philosophical elements at the core of Western thought and to build thereby an understanding of the identity/ nature of Western Culture.

**Textbooks:**

The texts we are reading this semester are in translation, and no two translations are alike. Furthermore it is convenient for class discussions to be able to refer to specific text by page numbers, and no two translations are paginated alike. For these reasons, students will only be allowed to use the following editions in this class. It is each student's responsibility to obtain books at the beginning of the semester to avoid problems later on, as texts may not be available at the local bookstores later in the semester.

1. Homer. *The Iliad*. Ed. Peter Jones and D. C. H. Rieu. Trans. E. V. Rieu. Penguin, New York: 2003. ISBN: 0-140-44794-6.
2. Homer. *The Odyssey*. Ed. Peter Jones and D. C. H. Rieu. Trans. E. V. Rieu. Penguin, New York: 2003. ISBN: 0-140-44911-6.
3. Sophocles. *The Theban Plays*. Trans. E. F. Watling. Penguin, New York: 1974. ISBN: 0-140-44003-8.
4. Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*. Ed. Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine. Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington Square P, New York: 1992. ISBN: 0-7434-7712-X.

The textbooks are required for the course. Please do not attempt to complete the course without them.

### **Materials**

Textbooks  
2-4 bluebooks  
Notebook paper

### **Requirements**

1. Attend every scheduled class session, insofar as it lies within your power. Much of the content of this course is in the lectures and in-class discussions, so reading the texts alone is not sufficient. Therefore attendance is not optional and excessive absences will adversely affect your grade (see Absence Policy statement below).
2. Read the assigned material. Attending class alone is also not sufficient. It is practically impossible to understand or contribute to class discussion without a first-hand familiarity with the texts. Although the reading load is not unreasonable, it is significant, so students are strongly encouraged not to fall behind schedule, lest the catch-up load become discouragingly heavy.
3. Participate constructively in class discussions. Reading the texts and attending class do not profit the student who does not also willfully engage in the synthesis, analysis, and evaluation performed in class discussions.
4. Prepare for class by considering the themes and concepts presented in the class while reading the texts and by writing down questions for class discussion.
5. Students will be assigned written responses to the texts on a regular basis.
6. Students will be required to take a written, in-class mid-term exam and a final exam of the same format.
7. Students will also be required to complete a two-part term paper assignment comprising 40% of the semester grade. More details will be given at the time of assignment.

**Reading:** Learning how to read closely and critically is essential to understanding literature. Students should arrange their schedules to allow ample time for reading (and re-reading) all of the material by the appropriate due dates. Students are encouraged to write comments in the margins of books (preferably in pencil). Students are also strongly encouraged to keep an open mind when approaching these difficult texts and to make a genuine effort to appreciate them, as many of the ideas presented in older texts are unfamiliar to or unpopular with the modern reader.

### **Writing:**

**In-Class Writings:** In-class writings, objective and subjective in nature, will test students' understanding of assigned readings. They comprise 20% of the final grade and cannot be made-up under **any** circumstances. In other words, if you miss class for any reason when an in-class writing is given, you will receive a 0% on that assignment.

Papers: Students will submit a Thesis Assignment that will inform the final Paper. Failure to submit this assignment will result in a 0% on the assignment **and** a 0% on the final paper. Both assignments must be typed, double-spaced, and free from grammatical errors and typos. Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade (10%) and will not be accepted after the beginning of the following class. If students wish, they may participate in out-of-class peer review sessions of their papers with colleagues.

Midterm and Final Exam: In both exams, students will showcase their knowledge of objective information by responding to identifications and demonstrate their critical skills in an essay. A make-up exam will **only** be administered when documented, extenuating circumstances are presented and only then at the professor's discretion. The final exam is cumulative.

### **Course Assessment**

ENG 265W is a Writing Enhanced course, so that at least 50 percent of the semester's grade must be based on writing. In this course, approximately 80 percent of your grade will derive from writing. Here's a breakdown on grades:

<b>Grading:</b>	<b>Percentages</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
In-Class Writings:	20%	Daily
Exams:	40% (20% each)	9/28; TBA
Thesis Assignment:	20%	11/12
Paper (w/ Intro Assignment & Peer Review):	20%	12/3

Each assignment will be given a percentage score (0-100), where

- 100-90 = A,
- 80-89 = B,
- 70-79 = C,
- 60-69 = D, and
- 0-59 = F.

### **Incomplete (X) Grade**

At times, due to extenuating circumstances beyond your control, you may not be able to finish the course, and you may request a grade of X (incomplete). Students who request an X grade for ENG 165 must provide adequate documentation of the reason for their not being able to complete the course, and they must have satisfactorily completed at least 50 percent of the course's assignments with a C average in order to be eligible for a grade of X. If an instructor feels an X to be warranted, the instructor will recommend this grade to the Department Chair who then will decide whether the X should be entered as the semester's grade. If an X is approved, the student has one semester to complete the remaining work; if the student does not complete the work in that time period, the X grade automatically converts to an F.

### **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the classroom.

It is academically dishonest, and often illegal, to present someone else's ideas in writing as your own. You cannot use even short phrases or parts of sentences obtained from other sources unless you properly document those sources. Documentation includes marking quotations as well as providing notes, citations, and a reference list. If you receive assistance from a source other than your instructor, your colleagues in the class, or The Writing Center, then you must acknowledge that assistance. Identify the source and the nature of the assistance in an acknowledgments note at the end of the assignment. Failure to acknowledge constitutes academic misconduct.

In addition, it is academically dishonest to submit your own previously written work for a current assignment or to submit an assignment in more than one class without the prior permission of the instructors.

You will be held responsible for furnishing upon request all the sources and preliminary work (notes, rough drafts, etc.) that you used to prepare written assignments. If you cannot produce those materials upon request, the assignment will be considered incomplete and so will not fulfill the requirements.

You are responsible for protecting your own work. It is your responsibility to ensure that other students do not copy your work or submit it as their own. Allowing your work to be used in this manner constitutes academic misconduct.

Plagiarism and academic misconduct of any kind may constitute grounds for failing this course and may result in further disciplinary action according to university policy. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Consult the SHSU Student Handbook regarding your responsibilities and rights concerning plagiarism and academic dishonesty. (In addition, writing textbooks often contain useful discussion of plagiarism.)

Your instructor may require that you submit all of your essays to a plagiarism detecting service such as turnitin.com. Your enrolling in the course and electing to stay in that section constitutes your agreeing to submit your work as your instructor requires.

### **Attendance Policy**

You are responsible for your success in this class, so regular attendance is required. After your third absence, your grade may be adversely affected by additional absences. For each absence over five, you will be assessed a five-point deduction from your end-of-semester grade.

Any student arriving after the professor has finished roll will be considered tardy. After three tardies each subsequent tardy will be counted as an absence.

In the event that you are absent, it is your responsibility to acquire the notes for the lecture and all announcements and assignments from your fellow students.

Also check Blackboard for announcements or handouts.

### **Visitors in the Classroom**

All visitors to the classroom must be approved by the instructor prior to the day they wish to attend and must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance.

### **Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. Any student who will be absent for a religious holiday must inform the professor no later than the twelfth day of classes. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor.

“Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under section 11.20, Tax Code.

### **Americans With Disabilities Act**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. Please contact the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

### **Instructor Evaluations**

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form towards the end of the semester.

### **The Writing Center**

Sam Houston's Writing Center, located at 111 Farrington, is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. on Friday from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Writing tutors will work with students to help them generate, organize, or revise a draft of any assignment. You may drop by or schedule an appointment by calling 936-294-3680. To learn more about their services, visit their website at <http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr/>. Students should utilize their "resources and handouts" link regarding any questions about the writing process.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

According to the *SHSU Student Handbook*, any behavior that disrupts the academic process is prohibited and subject to disciplinary action. Please be respectful of your fellow students by refraining from any activity that may distract them from the learning process.

For more information on this see <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>, especially section 5.2.22.

Do not bring MP3 players, palm-pilots, Blackberrys, iPods, or other entertainment devices to class; they are not necessary for any of our classroom tasks. Cell phones are not allowed in class. If you carry one please turn it off before entering class. Any student whose cell phone rings in class or who answers their phone in class may be asked to leave and, if asked, will be considered absent for that day. If there is an urgent reason that requires you to use a cell phone please meet with me to arrange an exception beforehand.

Students are prohibited from making offensive remarks, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, doing work for other classes, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Such inappropriate behavior in the classroom will result in a directive to leave class immediately, and the student will receive an absence for the day; those students who are especially disruptive will also be reported to the Dean of Students for immediate disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Similarly, please dress in a manner befitting a university classroom. Any student wearing disruptive, distracting, or offensive clothing may be asked to correct the matter before being admitted to the classroom.

When e-mailing your professor please remember that such communications are semi-formal writing occasions. Always use standard English capitalization and punctuation, and use an address and signature. If I don't know who it's from I won't reply to it.

**The Syllabus Defined**

A syllabus is a living entity that grows and is subject to change over the course of the semester. If the professor chooses to alter the syllabus it is your responsibility to be in attendance at the time of the announcement and make a note of the change. Keep your syllabus somewhere where you'll have it easily accessible for reference.