

English 265 Literature of the Western World
A Survey of World Literature from Ancient Times to the Renaissance
(Spring 2008/Credit Hours 3)

Instructor: Ms. Dawn B. Caplinger

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Office Hours: Mon./Weds./Fri. 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Or by appointment

Class Meeting Times: Eng. 265.08/Mon/Weds./Fri. 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m./Evans 260

Course Description:

Readings in the classical, medieval, and modern masterpieces of the western world. Open to all students. Required of English majors and minors. Suggested for all majors in the College of Arts and Sciences. Prerequisite: 6 hours of freshman English.

Course Objectives:

- To gain a boarder understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity with regard to the literature and time periods studied
- To learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view
- To acquire an interest in learning more by asking questions and seeking answers
- To obtain factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
- To learn fundamental principles, generalizations, and/or theories

Required Texts:

Mitchell, Stephen. Gilgamesh. Free Press: London, 2004.

(ISBN# 0743261690)

Homer. The Odyssey. Trans. Robert Fitzgerald. Farrar, Straus and Giroux: New York, 1998.

(ISBN# 0374525749) (Selected Books Covered)

Atwood, Margaret. The Penelopiad. Canongate: Edinburgh, 2005.

(ISBN# 1841957178) (Selected Chapters Covered)

Sophocles. "Antigone." The Three Theban Plays. Penguin: New York, 1984.

(ISBN# 0140444254)

Dante, Alighieri. The Divine Comedy I: Hell. Trans. Dorothy L. Sayers. Penguin Classics: London, 1949.

(ISBN# 0140440062) (Selected Cantos Covered)

Shakespeare, William. "Othello." Four Great Tragedies. Ed. Alvin Kernan. Signet Classics: New York, 1998.

(ISBN# 0451527291)

Required Materials:

Scantron Quizzstrips (15 answer)

Blue Book(s) (For Exams)

Evaluation:

5 Exams 50%
Section I: Multiple Choice; Section II: Identification; Section III: Long Answer; Section IV: Short Essay—Points allocated to each section varies per text(s) covered)

Quizzes 20%
(Daily quizzes over assigned readings, discussions, lectures; each quiz is graded on a 100 point scale with the two lowest quiz scores being dropped)

Literature Online Discussion Board 20%
(Weekly writings on assigned topics; notebook will be graded twice over the course of the semester, Notebook I: entries on *Gilgamesh*, *The Odyssey*, *The Penelopiad*, Notebook II: entries on *Antigone*, *The Inferno*, & *Othello*; both Notebook I and Notebook II graded on a 100 point scale)

Participation/Attendance 10%
(See Attendance Policy and Rules of Conduct)

Total 100%

Final Grade Formula:

Exams: $E-I + E-II + E-III + E-IV + E-V = \text{Score} / 5 \times 50\%$

Quizzes: $\text{Quiz scores} / \text{number of quizzes given} \times 20\%$

Literature Notebook: $\text{Notebook I} + \text{Notebook II} = \text{Score} / 2 \times 20\%$

Participation/Attendance: $\text{Score} \times 10\%$

Comprehensive Final Exam optional
(Can be used to replace one test score)
(No make-up quizzes or exams will be given)

Attendance Policy:

You are responsible for your success in this class, so regular and punctual attendance is important and expected. In accordance with the University's attendance policy, you may accumulate three absences without question or penalty. However, any additional unexcused absences **will** result in a **ten-point** deduction from your participation grade. The granting of an excused absence is at the sole discretion of the professor and may require the submission of support documentation. If you are aware of class days that will be missed, then please coordinate those with the instructor in advance and provide documentation to support the need for your absence(s) to avoid receiving an unexcused absence and a grade point reduction.

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. 265 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 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.

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to a class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the classroom environment by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, his/her admission to the class is at the instructor's discretion.

This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

SPRING SESSION

(Dates to remember)

January 16	WEDNESDAY. Daytime on-campus classes begin. Late Registration . Process class schedule changes. Refer to the Schedule of Classes for details and deadlines. Wednesday Night (WN) classes begin (on-campus and off-campus).
January 17	THURSDAY. Thursday Night (ThN) classes begin (on-campus and off-campus).
January 18	FRIDAY. Friday Night (FN) classes begin (on-campus and off-campus).
January 21	MONDAY. University Holiday - Martin Luther King Day.
January 22	TUESDAY. Tuesday Night (TuN) classes begin (on-campus and off-campus).
January 24	THURSDAY. Last day to register and to process schedule changes.
January 28	MONDAY. Monday Night (MN) classes begin (on-campus and off-campus).
February 1	FRIDAY. Twelfth Class Day. Last day to drop without a “Q” and receive 100% refund. Degree Applications to be filed in Registrar's Office by students graduating May 2008.
March 7	FRIDAY. Half-semester courses end. Last day to drop a half-semester course for the Spring Semester without grade of F. Degree applications to be filed in Registrar's Office by students graduating in August 2008.
March 7	FRIDAY. Residence halls close at 6 p.m. for spring recess.
March 10,11, 12, 13, 14	MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. Spring recess for students and faculty.
March 16	SUNDAY. Residence halls open at 2:00 p.m.
March 17	MONDAY. Classes resume at 8:00 a.m.
March 21	FRIDAY. Good Friday. Holiday for Students and Faculty.
April 14	MONDAY. Deadline for submission of theses and dissertations.
May 8	THURSDAY. Last Class Day. Last day to resign. Last day to drop a course without the grade of F.
May 9	FRIDAY. Final Exam Study Day.
May 10, 11, 12,13, 14, 15	SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY. Final examinations [includes Monday Night (MN), Tuesday Night (TuN), Wednesday Night (WN) and Thursday Night (THN) final examinations].
May 16	FRIDAY. Residence halls close at 12:00 Noon. TENTATIVE. Commencement, Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum.
May 17	SATURDAY. TENTATIVE. Commencement, Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum.
May 19	MONDAY. 9:00 a.m. Deadline for filing grades with the Registrar's Office. Spring Semester ends.

Student Syllabus Guidelines

You may find online a more detailed description of the following policies. These guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure:

<http://www/shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see *Student Syllabus Guidelines*

Student

Classroom Rules of Conduct

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and peers with respect and dignity. Section 5.2.22 in the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines classroom disturbances as any activity which proves distracting to the learning environment including but not limited to the use of cell phones or text messaging; the reading of materials (newspapers, magazines, texts) not assigned to the class; the use of profanity or abusive behavior toward the instructor or other students; having off-topic conversations which disturb or disrupt the learning environment; the use of computers and/or other electronic devices (Ipods, MP3 players, etc.) during classroom instruction, **therefore, as a result, under no circumstances are cell phones or any other electronic devices to be used or seen during classroom instruction or examination.** Violations of the code of conduct **will not** be tolerated. Students who violate the code of conduct **will** be asked to refrain from the inappropriate behavior or leave the classroom and may at the instructor's discretion be referred for disciplinary action to the Dean of Students. Any assignments missed because of disciplinary action **cannot** be submitted for a grade. See *Student Syllabus Guidelines*.

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. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the **first fifteen days** of the semester or the **first seven days** of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Americans with Disabilities Act

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 adversely affect your work in this class, then you are encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with your instructor so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. 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.

The Writing Center

Statement of intent from the Writing Center: "The Sam Houston Writing Center helps SHSU students, staff, faculty and community members. Our goal is to help people become better writers and so develop more confidence in their writing abilities. To this end, Writing Center tutors provide one-on-one and small group writing instruction. We also offer one-session workshops on various topics relating to writing throughout the school year. Students may come in with any type of writing. We help writers on assignments ranging from

English composition essays to science lab reports, resumes, scholarship and job application letters, even M.A. theses and Ph.D. dissertations. We **do not** offer simply an editing or proofreading service. That is, Writing Center tutors **will not** merely correct a student's writing. Instead, we will help students learn prewriting, revising, and editing skills by working with them on the writing tasks they bring in." There is no additional charge for using the Writing Center, and you are encouraged to do so.

Location: Farrington 111

Phone: 936-294-3680

Email: wctr@shsu.edu

Fall Schedule:

Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 8:00 am - 7 pm

Tues.: 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Friday: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Sunday: 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The Syllabus Defined

A syllabus is a living entity that grows from the first of the semester till the last and comprises every assignment and handout that you receive. Keep your syllabus in a separate section of your Writer's Notebook so that you'll have everything together in one place. **Amendments to the syllabus may occur at anytime. If a revision to or revisions of the syllabus are necessary, they will be posted on Blackboard and announced in class.**

English 265
Tentative Calendar
(Mon./Weds./Fri.)

Weeks 1 - 4

Week 1

January 16: Syllabus/Calendar/Introductions

January 18: Student Introductions/Introduction to Literary Analysis

Week 2

January 21: No Class! (Student Holiday)

January 23: Introduction to Literary Theory

January 25: Historical Background (Ancient Texts)

Week 3

January 28: Introduction to *Gilgamesh*/Prologue

January 30: *Gilgamesh* Books I-IV

February 1: *Gilgamesh* Books V-VIII

Week 4

February 4: *Gilgamesh* Books IX-XI

February 6: Review for Exam I

February 8: Exam I *Gilgamesh*