

ENGL 266
Introduction to Literature

Instructor: Belinda Turk **Office** – Smith-Kirkley 229 **Extension** – 4-3258
Email: eng_bat@shsu.edu **Office hours:** MW 8-9, 10-11 and by appt.

Materials:

Kennedy, XJ and Dana Gioia. *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama and Writing*. 10th Ed.
Palahniuk, Chuck. *Fight Club*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1996.

Course Description:

This course is a study of the various kinds of literature on the basis of their content, form, or technique, with emphasis on the conventions or usages that govern each type. The major genres of poetry, short fiction, drama and the novel will be covered.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To define and explore the genres of literature
- 2) To analyze the different genres of literature by applying critical thinking, reading and writing skills
- 3) To incorporate research skills with essay writing to produce university-level literature-based research
- 4) To understand, appreciate and enjoy literature. Hopefully, you will enjoy the readings. If you undertake the assignments intending to understand and enjoy, it will be a far more pleasant experience for you

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory in this course in accordance with SHSU and departmental policy. Students will be allowed 5 absences without penalty. *A student's final grade will be dropped 5 points for each absence over five, so choose your absences wisely!* Doctors' notes or excuses do not excuse absences or allow additional absences, unless there are serious medical or family emergencies that will cause you to miss over five absences. In that case, you need to contact me for permission to arrange work to be completed outside of class. If a student is absent, he/she is responsible for any assignments or work. It is your responsibility to find out **from fellow classmates** what work you missed due to an absence. Furthermore, because of recurring problems with tardiness recently, excessive tardies will now count as absences. Three tardies will count as one absence. **Withdrawal from class is your responsibility.** At the end of the semester, all uncompleted grades will be recorded and averaged as zeros in the final calculation of your semester grade.

Course Requirements:

Essay – 30%
Midterm –30%
Final exam –30%
Participation – 10% (includes quizzes, presentation and class discussion)

Grades:

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

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is defined as claiming someone else's words or ideas as if they were your own creation. This can range from submitting a paper written by someone else as if it was your own work to copying words or sentences from someone else without putting them in quotation marks and properly citing the source. Plagiarism can also mean using someone else's ideas without acknowledging that person as the source. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic and legal offense in our culture. **Penalties for plagiarism can range from a failing grade on the assignment to expulsion from the university.** In this course, I may require that you submit your essay to a plagiarism detecting service such as turnitin.com. **Your enrollment in the course and electing to remain in this section constitutes your agreeing to submit your work, as your instructor requires.**

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 affect your work in this class, then let me 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.

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 the instructor.

General Considerations:

- 1) Papers are considered late if they are not received by the end of the class period on the due date. Late work will be dropped one letter grade for each class session. You are responsible for seeing that late work is dated by the office staff and placed in my mailbox.
- 2) All papers must be typed, stapled, and adhere to MLA format.
- 3) I expect *everyone* to participate in class discussions of the readings. I give reading quizzes to ensure that everyone is keeping up with the reading (which greatly increases your ability to participate in the discussions!). I do not give make-ups for daily reading quizzes. At the end of the semester, I will drop one reading quiz grade, but any other missing quiz grades, due to absences or tardies, will be counted as zeros.
- 4) You will be required to make one short presentation during our study of poetry. This counts as part of your participation grade and cannot be rescheduled in case of absence.