

English 265 Literature of the Western World
A Survey of World Literature from Ancient Times to the Renaissance
(Fall 2007/Credit Hours 3)

Instructor: Ms. Dawn B. Caplinger

Phone: 936-294-1428

Email: dcaplinger@shsu.edu

Office Hours: Mon./Weds. 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. (Evans # 405)

Tues./Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Evans #405)

Or by appointment

Class Meeting Times: Eng. 265.06/M-W/ 3:00 p.m. - 4:20 p.m./Evans 258

Eng. 265.07/Tu. - Th./9:30 a.m. - 10:50 a.m./Evans 258

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.

(ISB# 0743261690)

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

(ISB# 0374525749) (Selected Books Covered)

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

(ISB# 1841957178) (Selected Chapters Covered)

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

(ISB# 0140440062) (Selected Cantos Covered)

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

(ISB# 0451527291)

Required Materials:

1 Pocket folder with brads

Scantron Quizzstrips (15 answer)

Loose-leaf notebook paper

Blue Book(s) (For Exams)

Evaluation:

4 Exams	40%
(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 Notebook	20%
(Weekly writings on assigned topics; notebook will be collected and graded twice over the course of the semester, Notebook I: entries on <i>Gilgamesh</i> & <i>The Odyssey</i> , Notebook II: entries on <i>The Penelopiad</i> , <i>The Inferno</i> , & <i>Othello</i> ; both Notebook I and Notebook II graded on a 100 point scale)	
Review of Scholarly Article	10%
(Student requirements to be given at a later date; will be graded on a 100 point scale)	
Participation/Attendance	10%
(See Attendance Policy and Rules of Conduct)	
Total	100%

Final Grade Formula:

Exams: $E-I + E-II + E-III + E-IV = \text{Score} / 4 \times 40\%$

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

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

Review of Scholarly Article: $\text{Score} \times 10\%$

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.

Visitor's 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.

FALL SESSION

(Dates to remember)

January 29	Advising for Summer/Fall Registration begins
August 24	Last day to resign with 80% refund (must be processed by 5:00 p.m.)
August 27	Late Registration/Schedule Changes end Deadline to pay for additional fees/tuition
August 31	Last day to resign with 70% refund (must be processed by 5:00 p.m.)
September 5	Last day to drop a class with 100% refund. (must be processed by 5:00 p.m.)
September 10	Last day to resign with 50% refund. (must be processed by 5:00 p.m.)
September 17	Last day to resign with 25% refund (must be processed by 5:00 p.m.)
October 10	Online dropping of classes ends. (must be processed by 5:00 p.m.) Last day to drop without a grade of "F" (must be processed by 5:00 p.m.) Deadline to apply for May Graduation
December 10-13	Final Examinations
December 15	Commencement

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.) Weeks 1 - 5

Week 1

August 20: Syllabus/Calendar/ Introduction to Literary Analysis

August 22: Student Introductions/ Historical Background (Ancient Texts)

Week 2

August 27: Introduction to Literary Theory

August 29: Introduction to *Gilgamesh*/Prologue/Book I

Week 3

Sept. 3: No Class

Sept. 5: *Gilgamesh* Books II-VI

Week 4

Sept. 10: *Gilgamesh* Books VII-XI

Sept. 12: Review for Exam I (*Gilgamesh*)

Week 5

Sept. 17: Exam I (*Gilgamesh*)

Sept. 19: Introduction to Homer/*Odyssey*/Books I-III

English 265
Tentative Calendar
(Mon./Weds.)
Weeks 6 - 10

Week 6

Sept. 24: *Odyssey* Books IV-VIII

Sept. 26: *Odyssey* Books IX, X, XII, XIII

Week 7

Oct. 1: *Odyssey* Books XVI-XIX

Oct. 3: *Odyssey* Books XX-XXIV

Week 8

Oct. 8: Introduction to Margaret Atwood/ *The Penelopiad* I-VI

Due: Literature Notebook

Oct. 10: *The Penelopiad* VII-XIII

Week 9

Oct. 15: *The Penelopiad* XIV, XV, XVII-XX

Oct. 17: *The Penelopiad* XXI-XXIII, XXV, XXVII-XXIX

Week 10

Oct. 23: Review for Exam II (*Odyssey* and *The Penelopiad*)

Oct. 25: Exam II (*Odyssey* and *The Penelopiad*)

English 265
Tentative Calendar
(Mon./Weds.)
Weeks 11-13

Week 11

Oct. 29: Introduction to the Middle Ages/Dante/*The Inferno* Cantos I - II

Oct. 31: *The Inferno* Cantos III-V, XII-XIII

Week 12

Nov. 5: *The Inferno* Cantos XIV, XV, XXXII-XXXIV

Nov. 7: Review for Exam III (*The Inferno*)

Week 13

Nov. 12: Exam III (*The Inferno*)

Nov. 14: Introduction to the Renaissance/Shakespeare? *Othello* Act I

English 265
Tentative Calendar
(Mon./Weds.)
Weeks 14-17

Week 14

Nov. 19: *Othello* Acts. 2-3

Nov. 21: No Class (Happy Thanksgiving!)

Week 15

Nov. 26: *Othello* Act 4-5

Nov. 28: Review for Exam IV (*Othello*)

Due: Literature Notebook II

Week 16

Dec. 3: Exam IV (*Othello*)

Dec. 5: Review for Final Exam

Week 17

Dec 10th-14th: Final Exams!