

Syllabus

Barbara Jones

FALL 2007 ENGLISH 265.09 - READINGS IN THE LITERATURE OF THE WESTERN WORLD

TT 11:00 a.m. until 12:20.p m. in Evans 260

STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

[Student Information Form.doc](#) (28.5 Kb)

Please read the following information, your syllabus, and sign the **Student Information Form**. Submit a paper copy to your instructor by **Thursday, August 30, 2007 or Friday, August 31, 2007**.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Readings in the classical, medieval, and modern masterpieces of the western world. Written assignments are based on themes and concepts found in the works studied. 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. Credit 3.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- ⇒ To learn how classical literature gives clues for understanding the ideology of Western as compared to Eastern Civilizations today as much as yesterday.
- ⇒ To develop written, analytical, and critical skills through oral communication (in-class discussions) and journal entries.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attend class. You are responsible for your success in this class, **so regular attendance is important**. You are allowed three two absences on TT days and three on MWF days. I will deduct one point from your final semester grade for each class that you are absent beyond those three. If you have perfect attention over the semester, I will add three points to your final semester grade. Students are responsible for obtaining missed materials or assignments from their colleagues. Students should also check Blackboard for reading schedules, announcements, or handouts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (or how to succeed in this class)

1. Prepare for, attend, and *PARTICIPATE* in class activities. You may be excused for an absence only through legitimate written documentation. I will deduct one point for each unexcused absence from your semester average. You will received three points extra credit for perfect attendance during the semester.
2. Complete twenty one page, double spaced journal entries (40%). The paper copy of the journal entry is due at the beginning of class on the day assigned. I WILL ACCEPT NO LATE JOURNALS. You will have twenty seven journal assignments to satisfy the twenty required entries. If you miss submitting a journal one day, you have seven opportunities to make it up. If you complete the twenty journals on the day assigned, you may complete the extra seven journals for extra credit points to apply to any of your grades. I am looking for

observations and connections between the events in the reading to events or circumstances today.

3. Take four exams, one over each literature selection (40%).
4. Complete a semester paper which will serve as your final (20%). Due on December 6, 2006. I WILL NOT ACCEPT LATE SEMESTER PAPERS.
5. You will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.
6. I DO NOT OFFER EXTRA CREDIT.

READING SELECTIONS

All reading selection are posted in Course Documents. You may purchase paperbacks for if you have difficulty reading online, or you may print out the literature as we progress through the semester.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

English 265W is a "WRITING ENHANCED" (W) course; at least fifty percent of the semester's grade must be based on writing. Before you complete your degree, you will be required to complete eighteen hours/six writing enhanced courses. English 164 and English 165 count for six of these hours; this course will add three. You need six hours in your major and three more elective hours.

Your semester average in this course will be based on the following:

Classroom Responses (20)	40%
Exams (Four at 10% apiece)	40%
Semester paper due on December 6.	20%

NOTE: All grades for this course will be posted in the *Blackboard* Gradebook. As *Blackboard* automatically calculates for the final semester grades, consider Gradebook as the official record of your performance. It is your responsibility to see that all grades posted are correct. After December 5, I **will not** make grade adjustments, so make certain of your grades before that time. Your semester average will appear as letter grades: A, B, C, D, F.

EVALUATION OF RESEARCH PAPER

The semester research paper will be evaluated on the quality of its composition.

THE "A" PAPER:

Characteristics of the "A" paper surpass those of a "B" paper in frequency and/or significance. Being correct is not enough; the "A" paper shows accomplishment.

SIGNIFICANCE: Easily grasped; original; creative; intellectual rigor

PURPOSE: Clear; focus maintained

CONTENT: Controlling idea explicit or clearly implied; adequate and relevant support

ORGANIZATION: Appropriate for purpose and topic; transitions appropriate; effective introduction and closure; unified and coherent throughout

LANGUAGE: Sentence structure not merely correct, but effective, varied; word choice

effective, precise; tone appropriate to purpose and audience; writer's voice comes through

GRAMMAR: Standard American written (unless intentional errors/rhetorical purpose)

MECHANICS: Few (minor) or no errors

SPELLING: Correct

THE "B" PAPER:

Writing at the "B" level demonstrates proficiency - everything that is required at the "C" level plus additional control, depth, and expertise. The "B" paper is not only clear and correct but also effective.

SIGNIFICANCE: Clear but without the originality or creativity, the depth of thinking, found in the "A" paper

PURPOSE: Clear; focus maintained

CONTENT: Controlling idea explicit or clearly implied; adequate and relevant support, though less detailed than "A" paper

ORGANIZATION: Appropriate for purpose and topic; introduction and closure; adequate transitions appropriate; unified and coherent throughout

LANGUAGE: Sentence structure correct, generally varied; word choice generally good; not as consistently so as "A" paper; tone appropriate to purpose and audience; writer's voice present

GRAMMAR: Standard American written

MECHANICS: Few (minor) or no errors

SPELLING: Correct

THE "C" PAPER:

The "C" paper indicates an acceptable, though not outstanding, paper. In most grading systems, the "C" represents competency---not perfection, but general competency.

SIGNIFICANCE: The writer may struggle with this element, not achieving the kind of originality or creativity found in "A" and "B" papers. The depth of thinking is satisfactory but somewhat limited when compared to that of an "A" or "B" writer.

PURPOSE: Purpose is clear; focus generally maintained

CONTENT: Simple but clear; controlling idea is clear, with specific and adequate support, generally well-chosen

ORGANIZATION: Clear and obvious; may contain some lapses in body paragraphs; transitions are functional; generally unified and coherent

LANGUAGE: Sentences generally correct but ordinary; may contain some lapses in syntax although nothing that derails the reader; some variety; word choice generally correct; lacks precision of "B" paper; tone appropriate for purpose and audience

GRAMMAR: May have some minor errors in standard written American English

SPELLING: Correct

THE "D" PAPER:

The "D" paper indicates minimal competence. It may be satisfactory in content and organization but not in fundamentals (syntax, grammar, mechanics, spelling), or the reverse may be true; the paper may be satisfactory in fundamentals but not in content and organization.

SIGNIFICANCE: Generally lacking altogether; little evidence of thinking about topic

PURPOSE: Unclear; loses focus

CONTENT: Controlling idea too general or confused; insufficient and or irrelevant support

ORGANIZATION: Inappropriate order and/or emphasis; paragraphs may be jumbled; transitions weak or missing; problems with unity and/or coherence.

LANGUAGE: Errors in sentence boundaries and/or structure; problems with standard idiom; no variety; poor vocabulary and word choice; tone may be inappropriate or inconsistent; reader-derailed

GRAMMAR: Persistent errors

MECHANICS: Persistent errors

SPELLING: Persistent errors in high frequency words

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

It is academically dishonest, and often illegal, to present someone else's ideas of writing as your own. You cannot use even short phrases or parts of sentences obtained from other sources unless you properly document these 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 SHSU Writing Center, 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 (prewriting and copies of outside sources) that you use 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, and you will be given the opportunity to redo the assignment on a different topic, one you negotiate with your instructor.

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. 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).

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. Section 51.911(a) (2) defines religious holy days as those dates "observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20.

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. 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). The instructor will notify the student of a reasonable time frame 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 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.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from making offensive remarks, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, doing work for other classes, wearing inappropriate clothing, 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. If you leave the classroom before the end of class without making arrangements with the professor, you will receive an unexcused absence for that day.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.