

Course Syllabus
ENG 266W
Readings in Literary Genres
Credit Hours: 3
Fall 2007

English 266W, Section 14
Evans 260
TR 9:30 – 10:50 a.m.

Instructor Information:

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Course Description: A study of the various kinds of literature on the basis of their content, form, or technique, with emphasis on the conventions or usages which govern each type. The major genres of poetry, fiction, and drama will be covered. Prerequisites: 6 hours of freshman English.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of ENG 266W, the student will be able to do the following:

- Evaluate and discuss various types (genres) of literature: fiction, poetry, and drama.
- Write critical essays
- Demonstrate knowledge of assigned readings

Instructional Methods:

- Group discussions
- Lectures
- Small group activities
- Writing workshops
- Peer Review Sessions

Required Texts:

- *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama & Writing* AND *Handbook of Literary Terms: Literature, Language, Theory*
(Kennedy & Gioia - Pearson/Longman) ISBN # 0205551734

Attendance/Make up work: Much of this class will be based on discussion, so class participation is necessary and class attendance is required. You are granted three absences, for whatever reason, but each absence after that will lower your grade by 2%. For example, if you finish the class with an average of 93% and have 6 absences, your final average would be an 87%, or a B. If you have questions about this attendance policy, please see me. You cannot earn credit for work missed in class. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to discover what went on that day. "I didn't know because I wasn't in class" is never an acceptable excuse.

Requirements:

- Submit all work according to announced deadlines.
- Read prescribed assignments
- Participate in group activities
- Take quizzes and complete assigned daily work
- Complete the assigned essays
- Take required exams
- Keep a journal over assigned readings

Course Assessment:

A. Grading/Evaluation:

ENG 266 is a "Writing Enhanced" course, so that at least 50 percent of the semester's grade must be based on writing. A typical breakdown of course assignments and their point values would be:

In-class essays	50 pts each	(150 total pts)
Formal Essays	100 pts each	(200 total pts)
Journals	10 pts each	(100 total pts)
Tests (3)	100 pts each	(300 total pts)
Quizzes/Daily Work/Paragraphs	5-20 pts each	(150 approx.)
Participation/Attendance	100 pts	(100 +/- total points)

Assignments are given point values. Your average = total points you've earned divided by the total possible points.

B. Writing Requirements

Short story unit:

1. Two in-class essays which deal with elemental analysis. A choice of thesis statements will be given.
2. A comparison-contrast essay of 3-5 pages on at least two of the short stories in your text. Include an introduction with a thesis and a plan, a discussion section, and a conclusion.

Poetry unit:

1. Two in-class essays which include a summary, an elemental discussion and a statement of personal contact. Specific poems will be assigned.
2. A rewrite of one of your in-class essays, adding secondary sources and undergoing appropriate revision.

Drama unit:

1. One in-class essay; a choice of thesis statements will be given.
2. One essay question will be on the drama unit test.

C. Journals

10 journal entries as follows:

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|---|---|
| 5 | short stories (assigned) |
| 3 | poems/groups of poems (some choice of poems for response) |
| 2 | plays (assigned) |

Each journal entry must be a page or more neatly written in pen or pencil or typed. Journal entries should be written after you have read the material and *before* class, because they must reflect YOUR ideas. **BRING THE JOURNALS TO CLASS WITH YOU!** I will often ask you to read or discuss parts of your journals. If you do not have your journal, your participation grade will be jeopardized.

Identify each journal by author, title, and date. Then, you have several choices. Journals may include:

1. a brief summary, a detailed discussion of an important element, and a statement of personal contact.
2. an essay based on a single quotation from the work.
3. all personal contact or evaluation (NOTE: NOT ALL SUMMARY!)
4. a continuation or a telling from a different point of view...
5. any response as long as a reader can at some point see a relationship between the entry and the work.

****Friendly advice! While journals are not required for every reading assignment, writing journals is an EXCELLENT way to prepare for class. Furthermore, these journals can also serve as a springboard for your essays and as a study tool. Should you choose to write more journals than required, I will award extra points as I see fit.

D. Paper Guidelines

1. All papers written outside of class must be typed. They must have a title page with the following information: title, name of writer, assignment, class and date.
2. All papers are due at class time on or before the assigned due date. All late papers will be penalized one letter grade and must be submitted within one week for credit.

3. All papers written outside of class must be available electronically at instructor request.
4. The instructor may at any time require essays to be submitted to turnitin.com.

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 those sources. Documentation includes marking quotations as well 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. If you would like to “recycle” one of your previously written essays, please discuss it with me and we will work together to make sure it meets the requirements of the assignment.

You will be held responsible for furnishing upon request all the sources and preliminary work (notes, rough drafts, etc.) that you use to prepare written assignments. If you cannot produce the 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.

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 a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

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 a religious holy day as: “a holy day 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.

“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.

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.

Instructor Evaluations: Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Materials:

- a binder, folder, or some other means of organizing handouts
- looseleaf notebook paper
- computer diskette or portable file storage
- regular-sized manila folder (for submitting essays)

Course Expectations: Because this is a 3 credit course, you will spend approx three hours per week in class. For every hour of class, you can expect to spend 1 to 3 hours preparing for class. As a result, plan to spend from 6 to 12 hours working on this class every week. It is imperative that you prepare for class by thoroughly reading the assignments beforehand.

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

- Be prepared for each class. Simply “showing up” for class is not enough; you must have the appropriate materials and have fully completed all reading or writing assignments.
- Drinks (nonalcoholic) may be consumed during class. Snacking is also allowed if it does not distract other students or the professor.

- Except in the rare case of an absolute emergency, leaving the classroom during class time is considered rude and inappropriate and will not be tolerated. Only when class is dismissed by the professor should students leave the room. In a special situation where a student needs to leave early on a particular day, he/she should discuss the matter with the professor BEFORE class.
- All cell phones and pagers must be turned OFF during class. I don't want to see them or hear them. Text-messaging during class time is also prohibited.
- Misconduct in this class will constitute the student's immediate dismissal from class. For a detailed description of the SHSU Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, consult the following link: www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html
- All students are expected to demonstrate consideration and respect for all others, including the professor.

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. The syllabus is not a contract between student and teacher, and adjustments to assignments, deadlines, and policies made be made if deemed necessary.

Course Outline: A tentative course outline will be distributed the first week of class.