

**Course Syllabus**  
**ENG 266W**  
**Introduction to Literary Genres and Ideas**  
**Credit Hours: 3**  
**Spring 2008**

**English 266W, Section 09**  
**Evans 258**  
**MWF 12:00-12:50 p.m.**

**Instructor Information:**

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**Office Hours: Mon/Fri 9:30-11:00 a.m. Tue/Thu 10:00-11:00 a.m. and by appointment**

**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 of varying length
- Demonstrate knowledge of assigned readings
- Correctly identify elements of literature
- Use correct literary terminology when speaking and writing about literature

**Instructional Methods:**

- Group discussions (in class and on discussion board)
- 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 may lower your final grade as much as 5 points per absence. If you have questions about this attendance policy, please see me. You cannot earn credit for work missed in class, including in-class essays, unless arrangements are made PRIOR to class. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to discover what went on that day, preferably by contacting a classmate, consulting the course outline, or checking blackboard. "I didn't know because I wasn't in class" is never an acceptable excuse.

- Note: I keep attendance for MY grading purposes, not yours. Do not ask me how many times you have been absent. If you have to ask, the answer will likely be "too many." I strongly suggest you keep a log of your absences. Additionally, your grades on blackboard do not reflect the penalties for absences. I calculate any necessary penalties at the end of the semester, and I prefer not to have students surprised or indignant when their grades are significantly lower on the registrar's report than on blackboard. Once again: BE IN CLASS. If you can't or won't be in class, please don't take this class.

**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

**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 might be:

In-class essays	50 pts each	(250 total pts)
Formal Essays	100 pts each	(200 total pts)
Tests (3)	100 pts each	(300 total pts)
Quizzes/Daily Work/Paragraphs	10-20 pts each	(150 approx.)
Participation*	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 (or one story and one related work such as a film, poem, song, etc). Include an introduction with a thesis and a plan, a discussion section, and a conclusion. This assignment will be discussed thoroughly in class.

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. Either an explication of one poem or an analysis of two or more poems. This assignment will be discussed thoroughly in class.

Drama unit:

1. One in-class essay; a choice of thesis statements will be given.
2. One or more essay questions will be on the drama unit test, which is also your course final.

## D. Paper Guidelines

1. All papers written outside of class must be typed in 12-pt Times Roman and adhere to MLA format. **Papers not formatted correctly will be turned back ungraded and accrue late points until corrected.**
2. TWO COPIES of major papers are due at class time on or before the assigned due date. If you are absent the day a paper is due, you may email me the paper as an attachment to avoid late penalties but you **MUST** turn in your two hard copies upon returning to class. Failure to do so will result in a grade of zero for the paper, which will fail you for the course.\*
3. All papers written outside of class must be available electronically at instructor request. Failure to do so will result in a grade of zero, which will fail you for the course.\*
4. The instructor may at any time require essays to be submitted to turnitin.com.
5. All papers written outside of class **WILL** be checked for plagiarism. Please see section on plagiarism/academic dishonesty.
6. Late work will be penalized one letter grade and must be turned in within one week of original due date. Work that is more than one week late will not receive a passing grade and may not be graded at all.

\*The formal essays are **required**; regardless of other points, if you do not turn in the two formal essays, you do not pass the class.

## **E. Participation Grade/Discussion Board**

1. Your participation grade, while not entirely disconnected from attendance, is based on 1) your contributions to our classroom discussion and 2) your discussion board participation. Obviously, if you are absent from class, you are not participating. However, even someone with perfect attendance can get a poor participation grade by not “actively” engaging in our class.
2. Discussion board posts. Students are encouraged to post at least weekly to our discussion board. I will start conversations and actively participate as well, but the success of these conversations depends on student involvement. Any posts that are off topic will be deleted and you will not get credit for the post. Any posts that are offensive or inflammatory will likewise be deleted, and you will be forbidden to post, thus resulting in a failing participation grade.

## **F. Quizzes**

Depending on the needs of the class, short quizzes may be given at the beginning of almost every class period. While I don't love quizzes, they are a very effective way of making sure students read the assigned material. If I believe that the class is not prepared for discussions on a frequent basis, I will increase the number of quizzes. These quizzes will be short, objective in nature, and may not be made up. If you are absent, you will not be able to take the quiz and lose those points. If you are absent for a school-sanctioned activity, the quiz will be waived. If you are late to class and I've already handed out the quiz, you will not be able to take the quiz.

**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
- any notes made available via blackboard
- looseleaf notebook paper
- some form of portable file storage
- regular-sized manila folder (for submitting essays)
- ALL NOTES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS PRINTED FROM BLACKBOARD

**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 reading, writing, or otherwise 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.

**Email Policy:** Please see complete email policy attached to this syllabus. (Appendix B)

## **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. If you are not prepared enough to participate in our activities, you may be counted absent.
- 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. I don’t want to hear them buzzing, either. Text-messaging during class time is also prohibited. If I see you text or if you leave the class to take a call during class time (unless prior permission has been given), you may be counted absent. Too many absences in this class will kill your grade.
- 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](http://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:** Course outlines will be made available on a per-unit basis. The outline for Unit One: Short Fiction is attached to this syllabus. (Appendix A)