

COURSE SYLLABUS
ENG 265
Introduction to Western World Literature
3 Credits
TTh 12:30-1:50
Evans 258
Spring 2008

Prof. Shemak
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Required Texts: Available at the University Bookstore. You **must** have the correct editions and/or translations.

The Epic of Gilgamesh by Herbert Mason, isbn 0618275649
Robinson Crusoe, by Daniel Defoe, Penguin edition, isbn
0141439823
The Tempest by William Shakespeare, isbn 0743482832
A Tempest by Aime Cesaire, Theatre Communications Group,
isbn 1559362103
Foe by J. M. Coetzee

NOTE: Students must have the correct editions of all texts. You are strongly urged to purchase all of the books now at the beginning of the semester as the bookstore sends remaining books back to the publishers after a few weeks. If money is an issue, start scouring used bookstores and online sources now in order to get the correct edition of the books we are using. Failure to bring your book to class will result in a zero for the day—regardless of the excuse.

OBJECTIVES

ENG 265 is designed to be an introduction to Western World Literature. We will read a variety of texts from ancient Mesopotamia to the present. We will read texts in several different genres: epic poetry, drama, novel, and essay. We will also analyze a number of themes: the cult of the hero, cultural values, justice, citizenship, quests/journeys, colonialism, and gender roles. One of the threads connecting many of the texts is Western encounters with the non-Western world and we will consider how these encounters, as they are represented in literature, contribute to how the West has defined itself.

Objectives include:

- Developing an appreciation of literature in a variety of genres from ancient times to the present.

- Developing critical thinking skills by analyzing literary themes, characterization, plot, etc.
- Developing writing skills through a variety of forms of writing including in-class writing and formal written papers.
- Learning literary terminology

ASSIGNMENTS and GRADING

ATTENDANCE is required. You will receive 2 unexcused absences. Once they're gone, that's it. Save these and use them for when you are ill, must travel, attend a funeral, care for a sick family member, study for an exam in another class, or oversleep. Students who miss more than 2 classes, even for very compelling reasons (and I've heard them all!), will have a very hard time keeping up with the course assignments and at that point, I would suggest that you drop/withdraw from the class. Your grade will be lowered for absences over 2.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: This is not a lecture course. Class Participation is a part of your daily responsibility in the course. Participation does not mean simply showing up to class, but instead includes active, engaged discussion of the day's readings. Other forms of class participation include any in-class or homework exercises (small group or individual) that I assign. In order to be fully engaged in class, you must **TURN OFF ALL CELLPHONES, BEEPERS, RECORDING DEVICES, HEADPHONES, and LAPTOPS BEFORE CLASS BEGINS.** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Behavior that **will not be tolerated** includes

- Text-messaging
- Answering cellphone calls
- Listening to headphones
- Sleeping
- reading the newspaper
- doing homework for another class
- talking out of turn
- inappropriate remarks to or about me or other students

There are myriad other behaviors other than those listed above that may be considered disruptive. Students who exhibit disruptive behavior will be asked to leave and possibly reported to both the department chair and the dean.

Thus, engaging in said activities during class will have a negative impact on your grade in the course. Additionally, while it is encouraged that you will raise pertinent

questions about what we are reading/discussing, your comments should be made in the spirit of fairminded academic discussion. Class begins promptly on the hour. It is disrespectful to me and to your classmates to arrive late. Arriving late on a regular basis will have a negative impact on your grade. It is also expected that once you arrive to class that you will not leave during class until class is over. Please take care of any personal needs before or after class so that you do not need to leave in the middle of class. It is very disruptive to the rest of the class and to me if you get up and leave class and return a few minutes later.

NOTE: Please sign your name when sending an email. Otherwise, I may not respond.

READING: You will be reading 50-100 pages per week. In order to do well in the course, you must keep up with the readings. We will discuss as much as possible in class, but there will be times when we don't get to cover everything. However, you will still be responsible for all of the readings.

QUIZZES: From time to time, there will be quizzes on the readings. These will usually be announced, but if I suspect that people have not done the readings, I may give a pop quiz. Quizzes will be figured as part of your class participation grade.

IN-CLASS WRITING: As part of the writing component of this course, you will do a significant amount of in-class writing throughout the semester. Some of this will be formally graded. Some of it will not. **THERE ARE NO MAKEUPS ALLOWED ON IN-CLASS WRITING.**

PAPERS:

Microthemes Assignments: 250 word essays on topics and approaches to be given at a later date. All papers must be submitted in both hard copy AND on digital dropbox. If I suspect that a paper has been plagiarized, I will submit it to the turnitin.com database.

Final Essay. 4 pages. Topics and approaches will be presented at a later date. Be aware that there is a Writing Center available on campus for assistance with student writing. It is located in Wilson 114, Phone: (936) 294-3680. E-mail: wctr@shsu.edu ALL papers must be turned in in both hard copy to me and IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT to turnitin.com

EXAMS

First In-Class Exam: TBA

Midterm: The midterm exam will cover all materials read up to mid-semester. It will include identification of key

passages (so make sure that you are marking things in the texts and taking notes as you read and as we discuss them in class). The midterm may also include definitions, short answer questions, and an essay question. **THERE ARE NO MAKEUPS ALLOWED ON MIDTERM EXAMS.**

Final: The final exam will be comprehensive. It will include identification of key passages, short answer, essay questions, and definitions. **THERE ARE NO MAKEUPS ALLOWED ON FINAL EXAMS.**

GRADING:

Class Participation, In-class writing, groupwork, homework	15 %	
Microthemes Writing Assignments	20%	
Final Paper	15%	
First Essay Exam	10 %	
Midterm		20 %
Final	<u>20 %</u>	
TOTAL		100 %

- A 90-100 %
- B 80- 89.9
- C 70- 79.9
- D 60- 69.9
- F below 60%

COURSE POLICIES

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete 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. Any students found cheating on exams, or plagiarizing papers (which would include not using proper citation, appropriating someone else's ideas as your own, or pasting pieces of written texts from other sources into your paper without indicating that the words and ideas are not your own) will FAIL the course.

The statements on academic dishonesty that are listed below are taken from the SHSU Code of Conduct.

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

5.31 "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Copying from another student's test paper, a laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs.

(2) Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.

(3) Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work.

(4) Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.

(5) Substituting for another student; permitting any other person; or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.

(6) Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.

(7) Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.

5.32 "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea into one's own work offered for credit.

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.

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 not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

It is the policy of SHSU 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 me so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

Note: All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential.

Note: No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center. The counseling center is located across from the Lee Drain Building, next to the Farrington Building. Phone: 936.294.1720

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS: 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. 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.

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

COURSE SCHEDULE

NOTE: You are responsible for any and all changes to the syllabus.

Th 1/17	Introduction and Syllabus Characteristics of good classroom discussions What is "writing enhanced"?
T 1/22	Quiz on syllabus—NO MAKEUPS How to become an active reader
Th 1/24	Ancient Mesopotamia and <i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i> <i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i>
T 1/29	<i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i> Due: Microthemes Assignment #1

Th 1/31 Greek Society and Drama

T 2/5 *Antigone*
Th 2/7 *Antigone*

T 2/12 *Antigone*
Microthemes Assignment #2: Compare Antigone
to a contemporary example of Non-violent
Civil Disobedience

Th 2/14 poetry TBA

T 2/19 poetry TBA
Th 2/21 EXAM

T 2/26 Montaigne's "Of Cannibals" (on
blackboard)
Th 2/28 *Robinson Crusoe*

T 3/4 Defoe Film,
Robinson Crusoe
Th 3/6 MIDTERM

T 3/18 *Robinson Crusoe*
Th 3/20 *Robinson Crusoe*

T 3/25 *Robinson Crusoe*
Th 3/27 *Robinson Crusoe*

T 4/1 *Foe*
Th 4/3 *Foe*
Microthemes assignment #3: Comparison between
Foe and *RC*

T 4/8 *Foe*
Th 4/10 Shakespeare *The Tempest*

T 4/15 Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

Th 4/17 Watch *The Tempest*

T 4/22 **DUE: Final Paper Thesis Statement**
Watch *The Tempest*
Th 4/25 Aime Cesaire *A Tempest*

T 4/29 Aime Cesaire *A Tempest*
Microthemes Assignment #4: Compare Caliban in
The Tempest and *A Tempest*

Th 5/1 TBA

T 5/6 Draft Workshop for Final Paper
Th 5/8 Last Day of Class
Final Paper Due

