

**ENG 266W.05: INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY GENRES AND IDEAS  
SYLLABUS: SPRING 2008**

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Office Hours: MWF 11:00-11:45 and by appointment after 3:00.

Credit: 3 hours.

Meeting Times: MWF 10:00-10:50 AM

Classroom: LBD 415

### **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 with your class materials so that you'll have everything together in one place.

### **Course Description**

ENG 266W, Readings in Literary Genres, involves the introduction to and study of various literary genre, including fiction, poetry, drama, essay and creative non-fiction. However, in this course the emphasis will be on fiction, in particular, the short story. Students will be exposed to the origin and evolution of literary art, along with studying the skills and methods of various authors. In addition, this course will explore the elements of short fiction through assignments and activities that allow students to apply their own creativity. Upon successful completion of this course students will have a deeper understanding and appreciation of literature and how it reflects and influences our lives and culture.

### **Prerequisite**

Students must have completed six hours of freshman English to enroll in ENG 266W.

### **Approach/ Method**

The method of instruction is primarily lecture, with students responding orally to both reading and writing assignments. One such assignment is the "character projection" in which students become characters within various literary works and observe, project, and comment on key elements within the story. Testing will be both multiple choice and essay. Quizzes on readings and mechanics will be given regularly.

### **Course Objectives**

Through a sequence of writing, reading, and assignments, students will:

- ▶ strengthen essay skills,
- ▶ strengthen knowledge of literary art,
- ▶ strengthen analytical reading and critical thinking skills, and
- ▶ learn to apply creative ability.

### **Required Texts**

Literature: The Human Experience eds. Abcarian & Klotz

Bedford/St. Martins

(packaged with The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms)

### **Materials**

Materials commonly needed for note taking.

Two large manila envelopes for turning in essays.

Two one hundred question Scrantrons.

Ten ten question Scrantrons.

Highly recommended: Jump drive for securing in-class work.

### **Requirements**

1. Prepare for, attend, and participate in class activities. Excessive absences may adversely affect your grade (see Absence Policy statement below).
2. Prepare for and take quizzes as assigned.
3. Select and work with a writing partner or within a group throughout the semester.
4. Read and respond as required in writing to assigned readings.
5. Write and read aloud all assigned character projections.
6. Write two three page essays and one six page essay.
7. Participate constructively in all in-class activities, including readings.
8. Take a Mid-semester Exam.
9. Take a final exam.

### **Essay Grades**

Each essay will be graded holistically, using the posted rubric as a general guide. Detailed grading information is posted in Blackboard.

### **Course Assessment**

ENG 266W is a “Writing Enhanced” course, so that at least 50 percent of the semester’s grade must be based on writing. In this course, 60 percent of your grade will derive from writing. Here is a breakdown on grades:

Reading Quizzes	10%
Practical Quizzes	10%
Assigned Essays	40%
Character Projections	20%
Mid-term Exam	10%
Final Exam	10%

### **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 164 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.

### **Visitors**

Unannounced visitors to the class must provide 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, please seek permission from your instructor before the visit.

### **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 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 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.

You will be held responsible for furnishing upon request all the sources and preliminary work (notes, rough drafts, etc.) that you used 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. You will be given the opportunity to redo the assignment on a different topic, one you negotiate with your instructor. Further, you are also 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.)

Your instructor will require that you submit all of your essays to a plagiarism detecting service such as turnitin.com. Enrolling in the course and electing to stay in that section constitutes agreeing to submit your work as your instructor requires.

### **Attendance Policy**

You are responsible for your success in this class, so regular attendance is important. After your third absence, your grade may be adversely affected by additional absences. For each absence over five, you may be assessed a two percent deduction from your end-of-semester grade. Furthermore, absences in excess of five may result in the loss of one or more letter grades.

### **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.

### **Classroom rules of conduct**

Cell phones and other listening devices are not permitted, except in emergencies and with prior approval of the instructor. Students who cause disturbances that are disruptive to the class may be asked to leave. The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline are available at the following link:

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

### **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.

### **The Writing Center**

The Writing Center is located in 114 Wilson; its phone number is 4-3680. It is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. on Friday from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. The Writing Center is a place you can go for help with your writing in all your classes, including developing ideas and then structuring them in a paper. You may also visit the Writing Center online: [www.shsu.edu/~wctr](http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr). There is no additional charge for using the Writing Center and I encourage you to do so.

### **The Sam Center**

The Sam Center in AB4 210 is available for students with academic difficulty. You may visit them on line at:

[www.shsu.edu/~sam\\_www/](http://www.shsu.edu/~sam_www/)