

ENG 266W.12 (Spring 2008)
Readings in Literary Genres

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Matthew Davis
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Office Hours: MW 2:00-4:00

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Class Meeting Time: M/W 4:30-5:50

Course Description: According to the *SHSU Undergraduate Catalog*, ENG 266 [Readings in Literary Genres] is “[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.”

In this class we will be working with primary texts from a number of different genres (poetry, short stories, novellas, plays, etc.) with the aim of reading and understanding both the content and the context of each work. Secondary sources will be used to analyze and foreground the works in question, and knowledge of the historical and social influences that govern our interpretations of texts and literary concepts will be of notable importance.

We will read one novel during the course, Mark Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and the themes we will explore in this book will also be applicable to the other literary works we study during the semester. For example, as a *bildungsroman*, or “novel of development,” *HF* investigates questions of personal identity and psychology, faith and religion, and family and social relationships. These themes are very common to literature as a whole, and it is my hope that we will be able to illustrate these themes through a variety of sources—poetry, short stories, etc.—not just *HF*.

Course Objectives: The objectives for this literature course require the ardent participation of the reader within both the class and the text. To do well in this class you **MUST** do all of the required reading that I assign. I cannot stress this point enough. We will be working through some potentially difficult material, and it is **ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY** that you do the work asked of you before you arrive in class. Otherwise, I’m afraid you’ll be lost during our class discussions. At some point during the first week of class, you’ll be asked to read and sign a “Student Contract.” This contract will set forth my expectations for each student in the class, and it’s necessary that you follow the tenets of the contract to the letter. Here are the overall objectives for the course:

- To establish some sort of context in which to appreciate and evaluate the texts we explore in class
- To expand your literary vocabulary and to improve your ability to “talk about books”
- To develop your ability to respond to literature in writing
- To introduce and expand upon some of the elements of genre as they apply to a range of literary (and sometimes nonliterary) texts

Required Texts:

Literature: The Human Experience. Eds. Abcarian et al. (ISBN # 0312469268)
Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms (Packaged with *The Human Experience*)
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Ed. Camfield. Bedford College Edition. (ISBN # 0312446489)

Attendance Policy: You will be allowed **THREE** (3) absences without penalty. Each subsequent absence beyond the limit will incur a ½ letter grade deduction on your final average. In cases of extreme emergency, you may notify me with the proper documentation in support of your reason for missing class. **I IMPLORE YOU:** Do not miss more than 3 classes. It could be the difference between a passing and a failing grade.

Evaluation:

HF Paper	20%
Writing Prompts (x4)	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Reading Quizzes	10%
Class Participation	10%

NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN

Late Work and Submission Policy

As a general course policy, late work will not be accepted. If you do not turn in an assignment by the deadline given, you will receive a zero for that assignment. In extenuating circumstances, I can offer you an extension on a deadline, **BUT YOU MUST APPROACH ME WITH YOUR REASON BEFORE THE ASSIGNMENT IS COLLECTED BY ME.** In other words, any work turned in late requires my prior approval of an extension. Without that, you will fail the assignment if you turn it in late. Assignments must be turned in to me physically on the due date. I will not accept e-mail submissions unless I have given prior approval. You must anticipate problems with printers, flash drives, etc. and adapt accordingly. “My printer wasn’t working” is not a valid excuse for not having an assignment on the due date.

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.)

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.

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.