

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

ENGLISH 266W: INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY GENRES AND IDEAS Course Syllabus for Spring 2008

Course Information	Faculty Information
Course Title: Intro to Literary Genres	Name: Dr. Melanie Hanson
Course Number: ENG 266W	Office Location: Evans 108
	Office Phone: 936-294-1435
Credit Hours: 3 credit hours	Office Hours: 12:30 pm to 2 pm and 3:30 pm to 5 pm (by appt only)
	Email: mah011@shsu.edu
Class Days and Times/Place:	TTH, 11am to 12:20 pm, Evans 251

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required:

XJ and Dorothy M. Kennedy, and Dana Gioia, Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing, 5th compact ed., 2007.

Other Materials:

Notepaper and folder or notebook

Pen or pencil

Students should maintain a working email address.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

ENG 266W 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.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Analyze a text by implementing rhetorical and/or literary strategies.
2. Recognize the elements of appropriate literary genres.
3. Focus a topic and formulate a critical/analytical thesis, focus, main point, or claim appropriate for an academic audience that analysis literature—nonfiction and/or fiction.
4. Use a variety of organizational strategies within a single paper to support a thesis, focus, main point, or claim.
5. Interpret texts in a variety of cultural and historical contexts.
6. Demonstrate an ability to use effective research techniques to find appropriate oral and/or written media such as books, articles, interviews, visuals, and government documents.

7. Demonstrate an ability to evaluate sources.
8. Avoid plagiarism when incorporating quotations, paraphrases, and ideas.
9. Follow standard guidelines in documenting resources.
10. Synthesize and evaluate various interpretations of texts to complete an extended research project.
11. Compose relatively error-free papers.

Class Policies

Student Syllabus Guidelines: You may find online a more detailed description of certain SHSU policies listed below. These online guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure to which the syllabus guidelines are connected. The online students syllabus guidelines: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance Policy:

It is important to be familiar with the material in the Class Schedule concerning religious holidays because this explains the policy that will be followed. Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examination, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. [See Student Syllabus Guidelines.](#)

Students who miss class due to university-sanctioned events should present a letter on university letterhead, signed by their advisor or coach, that explains the absence. Since this information is known in advance, the letter should be submitted to the instructor by the end of the first week of instruction.

University policy allows 3 hours of excused absences. If you have an excessive number of absences, there is a possibility that we will have a conference. Please be positive about participation in this class in all respects: attendance, attitude, discussion, activities, and completion of your grade log.

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. "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.

A class roster will be used each day; please sign in. You may be marked absent if you do not sign in.

Also, if you do not sign in, your assignments might not be graded on that day and then these assignments might be ones that you cannot make up. You may not sign in for someone else. If you sign in for someone else (whether they are in attendance that day or not), your assignments for that day might not count towards your grade and then these assignments might not be ones that you can make up.

Attendance to all classes is expected. A student who anticipates an absence will notify the instructor in advance. An excessive number of absences will prohibit the successful completion of this course.

Students who miss a class session are still responsible for the content of the class and material covered. Please get the email address of one or two peers in class; ask these students to explain the missed assignments, copy their lecture notes, and ask these students to take extra handouts to give to you. Please turn in missed assignments as soon as possible. If you need a makeup assignment, contact your study partner. If you have questions after you have contacted your study partner, then contact Dr Hanson. Dr Hanson will be happy to give you a makeup assignment; however, the makeup assignment will be more difficult than the original assignment.

Unfortunately, nothing really substitutes for being in class yourself and hearing lecture, instructions, and discussion. Therefore, if you don't attend class on a regular basis, there are certain assignments, like discussion and presentations that cannot be re-simulated for you outside of class, so it would be virtually impossible for you to make up these assignments. For these reasons, students who do not attend class regularly often end up with a semester grade that is at least 2 grades lower (for example, "C" or below) than the students who attend class.

If you need to come to class late or leave class early, please sit near the door.

Assignments:

It is prudent to hand in assignments in a timely manner.

All assignments are to be completed and submitted to the instructor during classtime; assignments received via email will receive no credit. Major paper assignments must not be handed in late if the student expects to receive credit for the paper.

Please expect to have classwork assignments for each class meeting. The only work that will be done at home is major papers and projects. Assignments and major papers/projects must be typed and double-spaced or they can be handwritten on notebook paper. Assignments must follow formatting instructions (see Formatting Instructions below)

A signup sheet will be passed around during classtime for some assignments; you must do your assignment on the day you sign up for it.

Some assignments will be done online on my online extended classroom. Please log-on to Nicenet. To do so, go to www.nicenet.org and log-in on the homepage at the top right corner where it says "Student log-in to Join a class." The class key is 6Z97707E89. After you enter the class key, follow the instruction screens. First you set up your account. There are links posted in "Link Sharing," where the students in this class will access the information to complete assignments, including the final exam.

Rubrics for assignments will be discussed in class or posted on Nicenet.

The students in this class will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form online toward the end of the semester.

Students should study 30 minutes each day of the week to prepare for this course. Students can form study groups to assist them in preparing for class work. Mark the reading with your comments and response notes. Proofread your writing and use revision and editing techniques before handing in major assignments.

There might be some optional assignments in this class that will not be graded. There may be assignments that cannot be made up.

Class Participation:

It is very important that all students are prepared each day. Your active participation in class discussions, cooperative learning opportunities, and group projects is essential. Students who are unprepared, who sleep in class, or who are disruptive will be asked to leave class and will be counted absent.

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

The English department at SHSU realizes that you will not always agree with everything you read or hear in this class. That's OK. We don't expect you to. What we do expect you to do is be open-minded, flexible and patient while in class.

Make-up exams and late work:

There will be no make-up exam for the Final Exam. Students cannot take the final exam earlier than the assigned time for the final.

Grading Policy and Course Requirements:

To successfully complete this course, you should complete all of the assignments and follow directions on all assignments. Final grades are determined by averaging the total of each area listed below:

Classwork, Participation, and Attendance	20%
3 Presentations	30%
Research Paper Project	30%
Final Exam	20%

Grading Scale:

3.5 to 4.0	A
3.0 to 3.4	B
2.0 to 2.9	C
1.0 to 1.9	D
0	F

*All class work is considered part of this syllabus. You should complete assignments the professor gives you or that you devise that are approved by the professor. If the professor did not give you written approval to do your assignment choice, the assignment is not valid and will not count towards your grade.

It is a good idea to keep track of your grade; average it yourself so that you know what your grade is. Keep an attendance, assignment, and grade log. If you need a log form, ask Dr Hanson to give you one. . Keep all of your assignments until Fall semester 2008.

To average your grade, use the point system in the table above. Then divide the total number of points by 10. For example, if in classwork, participation, and attendance you have an A, give yourself $4 + 4 = 8$ points (20 %). If presentations 1, 2, and 3 average to a B, give yourself $3 + 3 + 3 = 9$ points (30%). If the research paper project gets a "C," give yourself $2+2+2$ points = 6 points (+2 three times because the research paper project is worth 30% of the total semester grade). If your final exam grade is an A, give yourself $4 + 4 = 8$ points (20 %). Add these points together ($8+9+6+8 =$ a total of 31 points). Divide by 10 and you get $3.1 =$ your semester grade is a B).

There will be 3 grade updates via email. If you have questions about your grade, email Dr. Hanson. She will not speak to you about grades except via email .

Quality and quantity are important when handing in major assignments; these are considered when your final exam and other assignments are graded. You should think about all assignments in terms of competence, thoroughness, and thoughtfulness.

Be certain that you have all the pages of handouts that are distributed to the class. To assure that your assignments will receive the highest grade possible, follow directions and ask questions if you are uncertain how to proceed.

Assignments of any kind must not be emailed to the professor. All coursework must be handed in as a hard copy.

At times, due to extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control, the student may not be able to finish the course, and the student may request a grade of X (incomplete). A student who requests an X grade for ENG 464W should provide adequate documentation of the reason the student was unable to complete the course, and the student should 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.

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

***To expedite course curriculum and keep a pleasant classroom environment, students are asked to please refrain from asking questions or making comments during class time. If you need to ask something or say something, please write down your ideas or questions on the provided index cards and hand them to the professor at any time during class. Your card will be answered as quickly as possible. If the rest of the class needs to hear what you have written, the professor will make that decision, not you. During class work time, you may approach the professor one at a time and ask a question in a quiet voice.

***Of course, during discussion time, participation is encouraged. Your opinion on the reading, film clips, and exercise writings is valued by the professor and part of your overall grade for the course. Personal problems and concerns are not part of these discussions.

*** These procedures will help the other students in the class who are trying to work and concentrate. If you need background noise to work, bring your music and ear phones to class. Do not crank the music up so loud that the class can hear it.

*** Personal problems and questions and comments may only be expressed on the index cards or paper, in the hallway, during office hours, or on email. This helps make the classroom a more genial environment for everyone involved. The other students do not appreciate having to wait and listen to every personal concern that each student might need to express during class time when we are all supposed to be working.

***Students who blurt out things in front of the entire class will be asked by the professor to use the proper channels to ask questions and make comments. So that you are not embarrassed in front of your peers, please follow the classroom rules of conduct.

***If you feel like whining, please try to keep it to yourself. None of us want to hear it because we all have problems of our own. Class is not an appropriate place to vent and air your problems to all of us.

***Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process. See [Student Syllabus Guidelines](#).

***The English department realizes that you will not always agree with everything you read or hear in this class. That's OK. We don't expect you to. What we do expect you to do is be open-minded, flexible and patient while in class.

Writing Center: The Writing Center is located in 111 Farrington; 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 where the student can go for help with writing assignments in all classes, including developing ideas and then structuring them in a paper. The student may also visit the Writing Center online: www.shsu.edu/~wctr. There is no additional charge for using the Writing Center, and the student is encouraged to do so. The professor is also available and willing to tutor students concerning their writing. In addition, there are reading and math centers on the SHSU campus as well as academic advising and much more at the SAM center.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain 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.

See [Student Syllabus Guidelines](#). The instructor may require that the student submit all essays to the following plagiarism detecting services: Google, copyscape.com, and turnitin.com. Enrolling in the course and electing to stay in that section constitutes the student's agreement to submit work as the instructor requires.

Copyright Laws: The student is individually and solely responsible for violation of copyright and fair use laws. SHSU will neither protect nor defend students nor assume any responsibility for student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject the student to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under SHSU policies. For these reasons, SHSU encourages students to visit its copyright web page.

Drop Date: May 8 is the final date to drop or withdraw from a class without a grade being recorded. No withdrawals will be permitted after this date for any reason.

American With Disabilities Act/Special Accommodations: 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. Student with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should 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 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 accommodations can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

[See Student Syllabus Guidelines.](#)

Visitors: 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. Students wishing to audit a class should apply to do so through the Registrar's Office. See *Student Syllabus Guidelines*.