

English 266.16

Spring 2008

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Offices: Sam Houston Writing Center

Farrington 111

Catalog Description: ENG 266 READINGS IN LITERARY GENRES.

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, but each instructor will be free to choose his/her own emphasis. Prerequisites: 6 hours of freshman English.

Course Description for this section:

What does literature consist of? Why do people create it? How can it be kept alive? Why do we tell the same story so often? What difference does it make if something is prose, or poetry, or drama? What are the characteristics of each genre, and what are their strengths and weaknesses? How can you effectively read a work of literature and have something to say about it? These are some of the questions this course hopes to answer. If you play games, watch movies, or even gossip with your friends, you already are sophisticated interpreters of stories. We will try to take some of the types of stories, poems, and drama that you already know and look at them to help you see what the author (even if it is your friend telling a story) is doing to the audience. One reason people like stories or narratives is that they have built in mystery or suspense as we watch the plot unfold. We will be discussing ways that authors create mystery or suspense for us. People also like familiarity, so we will discuss the ways that the authors create familiarity for us, and how our own experiences create familiarity for us.

Course goals:

Students will learn the characteristics of different genres of literature

Students will learn appropriate critical terms to discuss and analyze literature

Students will enhance their ability to understand, discuss, and analyze literature

Students will strengthen their ability to write about literature

Texts: *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing* 10th ed. X.J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia, eds.

The Skin of our Teeth by Thornton Wilder

Kingdom Come by Mark Waid

Course requirements:

Do the reading before each class, so that you can be prepared to discuss the material. Reading assignments will be posted on Blackboard. Some readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Do required written assignments (3 papers) and other short writings.

Do song assignment.

Attend a performance of *The Skin of our Teeth* at the University Theater Center (Feb. 19-23, 2008)

Final exam

All assignments must be completed in their entirety in order to receive a grade in the course

Grade Breakdown:

Performance project: 100 points

Papers 300 points (100 points each)

Final exam 200 points

Song assignment 50 points

Other written assignments 100 points

Information about the course, including your grades, can be found on Blackboard. You can access Blackboard from the SHSU homepage.

Course policies:

You are expected to attend class. Some assignments will be done during class time, and if you miss class, you will not be able to complete them. Contact me if you know you must miss class. If you have to leave class early, please let me know and sit near the door that day, so you won't disturb your classmates. Please turn your cell phones **off** during class time as ringing phones are distracting to your classmates and me.

Every effort will be made to comply with ADA requests, if you are registered with the ADA office on campus.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. The penalties for plagiarism are spelled out in the student handbook.

The course calendar is a web page because it is flexible and changes to meet circumstances. If we need more time to discuss a work or if something causes me to miss a class, the calendar will change.