



ENG 2326 80E & 83E, Intro to Literature

Spring 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Yubraj Aryal
Office Location: Remote
Office Hours: Remote/By Appointment
Cell Phone: 6828042004
University Email Address: Yubraj.Aryal@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**
Communication Response Time: 48 hrs

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s): Reading Materials are provided

Course Description

This course surveys the literature from the ancient Greek to the present situating it in the interdisciplinary contexts. It gives an understanding of the development of literature in the contexts of literature, philosophy, and art. We will chart the philosophical and artistic impact such as Humanism, Reformation, Reason, Modernism, Existentialism, postmodernism etc., in the process asking how the humanities (mainly literature, philosophy, and art) reflects and adapts to those cultural phenomena of the time. The course has mainly three learning objectives. By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- 1) identify the major literary, artistic and philosophical movements(e. g. renaissance humanism etc.) and their impact on writing literature, philosophy, and art.
- 2) engage in interdisciplinary discussion of literature, philosophy, and art in the contexts of its cultural (artistic and intellectual) history.
- 3) articulate in writing arguments from some of the major figures or themes in literature.

All assignments and readings will be geared towards achieving these three goals. Throughout the course, you will be monitored and receiving feedback regarding your progress towards these objectives. Your final grade will indicate whether you have achieved these goals.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Instructional Methods

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Summary Papers (40%) and Critical Reading Skills (25%): You are supposed to write one-page summary of each reading. The summary should tell the basic story line (what?), and what is the main point of the text, and how it relates to the idea of the human that we are exploring throughout the semester. You should cite or quote from your reading.

Besides the summaries You MUST come to the class with the print copy of your reading (that can be found in Leo) for the day. You MUST prove you read the text by applying critical reading processes and strategies you learn in the first week of the class. By the 16 week of the semester, you should have your entire summary assignments and readings submitted to me.

Assessments

Mid-Term and Final

I will look at your folder, read your assignments, and grade them for the Midterm and the Final. Make sure you turn in every piece of your assignments to me before the Mid-term and again on the final week. There are no exams for this course.

Class Participation (15%) and Oral Presentation (20%): This is an interactive class. This course intends to apply the three key learning strategies **Read, Discuss and Learn**. Students are therefore expected to be ready to discuss the readings on the day for which they are assigned. In addition, each student is supposed to give about a seven minute presentation on the topic for the week (it's basically telling the summary of one of the required readings), and will be graded on

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1) the organization of the presentation; 3) the extent to which the idea is related to the required readings; and 4) the quality of the delivery of the presentation (i.e., maintaining good eye contact with the audience, talking rather than reading off of a paper, etc.). If a student misses the day scheduled for their oral presentation for a legitimate reason they may make up the oral presentation at a later time.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes and attendance will be taken at each class meeting. Each student is allowed two unexcused absences for the semester; exceeding that number will result in a lowering of the attendance and participation grade by one point for each absence. Students should also let me know if they absolutely need excused absences.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

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COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

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[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule

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34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

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Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Tentative Course Schedule of Readings

Week 1 Course Introduction: Critical Reading of Literature

Week 2 Part 1: Classical Greek Civilization 800 BC-324 BC

- 1) How would ancient Greeks think about man's place in the universe?
- 2) What was the duty of an individual to his society?

Anonymous, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*

Watch this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWppk7-Mti4>

Virgil, selections from *Aeneid*, 19 BC

Watch this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNVJNxkNSDs>

Week 3 Part 2: Roman Imperial Civilization and Triumph of Christianity 324BC-1300 AD Medieval Literature

- 1) What was a Medieval outlook towards "Man"?
- 2) What transition the art works made from Doré to Troyes?

St Augustine, selections from *The City of God*; Gustave Doré, "The Inferno Paintings" (collections)

Chretien De Troyes, "Lancelot: The Knight of the Cart" from *Arthurian Romances*

Watch this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4zjapvOjyU>

Week 4 Part 3: The Heirs to the Roman Empire: Byzantium and the West 1300-1400

- 1) What do you know about Byzantium art?
- 2) Why is *The Arabian Nights* considered as one of the greatest books of the Islamic world?

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Anonymous, selections from *The Arabian Night*; Rumi, selections from *The Masnavi*
Watch this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZykYiXxm0&t=10s>

Week 5 & 6 Part 4: The Age of Renaissance 1400-1594

- 1) What does the term “renaissance” mean?
- 2) Why renaissance is considered as a great cultural epoch in European history?

William Shakespeare, selections from *Othello* (1604)

Giovanni Pico Della Mirandola, selections from *On the Dignity of Man* (1486); Leonardo Da Vinci’s painting *Vitruvian Man* (1492); Tintoretto’s painting *The Last Supper*, (1594)

Week 7 & 8 Part 5: The Baroque Age, 1600-1715

- 1) What are the characteristics of Baroque art?
- 2) How does Baroque art different from renaissance art?

Molière, selections (Act I only) from *The Misanthrope*, 1666

Rembrandt Van Rijn’s painting *Susanna and the Elders*

Week 9 & 10 Part 6: The Age of Reason 1700-1789

- 1) What are the goals of the Enlightenment, according to Kant?
- 2) How does Goya’s *The Execution of the Third of May* resist the Enlightenment?

Immanuel Kant, “Answering the Question: What is Enlightenment?” (1784)

Francisco Goya’s painting, *The Execution of the Third of May* (1808)

Week 11 & 12 Part 7: The Age of Early Modernism, 1871-1914

- 1) What was the fundamental transformation the Western society went through from the late Nineteenth Century to the early half of the Twentieth Century?
- 2) How does Nora in *A Doll’s House* represent the discontent of Europe society in the late Nineteenth Century?

Henry Ibsen, selections (Act 3 only) from *A Doll’s House* (1879)

Week 13 & 14 Part 8: The Age of Anxiety and Late Modernism, 1945-1970

- 1) What was the dominant mood of the Western Society after 1945?
- 2) What Social and political forces entered into people’s lives and were reflected on works of art and philosophy?

F. Scott Fitzgerald, “Babylon Revisited” (1931)

Albert Camus, “Myth of Sisyphus,” (1942)

Watch this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kINdkdNOKHo>

Day 20, Salvador Dalí, *The Persistence of Memory* (1931) and Pablo Picasso, *Guernica* (1937)

Week 15 & 16 Part 9: The Contemporary World: Post-Modernism, 1970- ,

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

- 1) How did postmodernism lead to a new wave of resistance movements in the Western society in the 1960s-70s?
- 2) How does Michel Foucault proclaim the death of the human?

Richard Tarnas, “The Postmodern Mind” from *The Passion of the Western Mind: Understanding the Ideas That Have Shaped Our World View* (1991)

Yubraj Aryal, “On the Human: Neither Man Nor God” *Journal of Philosophical Research*, July 28, 2016

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.