



ENG 2326.01E Introduction to Literature

COURSE SYLLABUS Spring 2026

Please, click on the link to access A&M-Commerce COVID-19 Information, <https://www.tamuc.edu/>

COURSE INFORMATION

English 2326: Introduction to Literature: An introduction to literature fosters attention to effective composition and improved reading skills developed in previous English courses by learning about a method called close reading. The reading in this course will examine both major traditional and nontraditional literary genres and media, including short story, novel, film, and video game, and possibly some other genres related to literature. We will work together to improve your analytical, critical reading, and writing skills by learning close reading, drafting, and critiquing texts. Prerequisite: ENG 1302.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
2. In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M - Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate for the audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
3. Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
4. Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS 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

Assignment	Grade
Writing Assignment #1: Short Story Fiction Analysis	10
Writing Assignment#2: Novel Analysis	10
Writing Assignment #3: Films	10
Writing Assignment #4: Videogames	10
Final Reflection Paper	20
Weekly Discussions	30
Attendance	10
Total Points	100

EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly Discussions/Participation: (30% of course grade)

Weekly Discussion: Students will attend class, participate in in-class discussions by asking questions, commenting on readings, and engaging in group fostering arguments and opinions. Students will also make weekly discussion posts that cover one or more of the readings for the week. These discussion posts should be well-thought-out and be at least 200 words.

WA 1: Novel Analysis (10% of course grade)

Students will choose one of the/parts of the novel covered in class or one approved by the instructor and write a 1-2-page paper that addresses at least one major component of this genre (plot, narration, point of view, character, setting, symbol, and figurative language, or theme).

WA 2: Short Story Analysis (10 % of course grade) Students will choose at least two pieces of short stories covered in class or approved by the instructor and write a 3-4 page paper that compares the two pieces analyzing their similarities and differences addressing at least one major component of this genre (speaker, situation and setting, theme and tone, language, visual imagery and figures of speech, symbol, sounds, internal structure, or external form).

WA 3: Films (10 % of course grade)

Students will choose one of the films covered in class or one approved by the instructor and write a 1–2-page paper that addresses at least one major component or grouping of components of this genre (character, plot, setting, light, angle, shots, mis-en-scene, tone, background, symbol, etc.).

***Note:** Students are not required to use an outside source for their analysis. Rather, students should focus on the literary work they’ve chosen and specifically analyze the component(s).

***Note:** The literary work chosen for the analysis essays **MUST NOT** cannot be chosen or used for the Final Reflection Paper.

OR

Students may do presentations if they want on specific films by choosing one specific issue they want to focus on. We can discuss that while we are in the semester and democratically come to a decision.

WA 3: Videogames (10 % of course grade)

Students will work with up to two of their choice of video games from the list. Students will be expected to (1) Play, (2) analyze at least one major component of the genre (mechanics, play, game design, plot, etc.), (3) provide at least one videogames criticism that they have learnt from the video game criticism (4) Provide examples of gaming moments and challenges (5) provide a rhetorical precis for the article. Please write as closely as possible.

Final Project: Portfolio: (30% of course grade)

Your final project will be a portfolio that demonstrates the knowledge gained over the course of this semester. This portfolio will consist of two parts.

(1). Students will write a 3–4-page introduction that reflects on what they have learned this semester and how the analysis essay they've chosen demonstrates that understanding. (2). Students will choose a new or different text that has not been used in any other essays.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Zeeshan F. Siddique (PhD)

Office Location: DTH 316 at TAMUC Campus

Office Hours: By appointment basis.

University Email Address: Zeeshan.Siddique@tamuc.edu.

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24 hours during the week, with longer response times on weekends.

MATERIALS – TEXTBOOKS, READINGS, SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

Textbook(s) Required

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Mays, Kelly J.-- *The Norton Introduction to Literature, Portable 13th Edition*. ISBN: 978-0-393-42046-3
- Selected Readings
- Additional readings and short videos as listed in the syllabus and available through D2L and links to other web resources

P.S.: *ALL SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS PROVIDED IN CLASS OR DIGITALLY. PLEASE DON'T BUY ANYTHING FOR THIS CLASS*

POLICIES

1. Please don't miss class.

- I designed this course so that our class time will help you develop the skills to succeed on the course projects. If you miss class, achieving success on those projects will be difficult.
- Missing more than **two classes** will impact your final grade.
- If you do miss class, **please email me**.
- If you must be isolated due to COVID-19 or another significant illness, like a cold or the flu, please let me know, and I will help you contact the right person.
- Our schedule will change. Up-to-date details will be projected on the screen at the start of every class meeting, and in the announcement I send you every Sunday and Wednesday.

2. Do your homework.

- You'll have something to read, watch, and write before almost every class meeting.
- I don't assign busy work. Everything I ask you to do will help you develop the skills to succeed.
- If you don't do the daily reading and writing, you could be behind and might lose your total points for the semester (see **Major assignments and percentage of final grade**). More importantly, you'll lose the learning experience.
- **Late work is accepted only on condition.** Please email and clarify the reason for your late work, and I will believe you. Uninformed late work (Submitting work after 48 hours without notice) is unprofessional and will impact the total grade.

3. Pay attention.

- I'm going to call on you. Be attentive to what's being said so you can do your best.

4. Do your best.

- This course is designed to challenge and help you achieve those challenges. I don't expect you to do everything perfectly, but I hope you do your best.

5. Ask questions!

- Ask if you have a question about a concept, an assignment, or anything.

6. Read instructions carefully.

- Details matter. Please read all instructions with care so you can complete tasks fully.

7. Keep communication lines open.

- Life is complicated. Let me know if you're in a situation that makes it difficult to succeed.
- Email. I get many emails. When you write to me, put "ENGL 13901" with "CRN" on it and put a subject heading briefly describing what you're writing to me about (for example, ENGL 101: I was absent Monday/ need help with x assignment). If you don't hear back from me within 24 hours, please email and remind me.
- Make sure to check D2L announcements.

8. If you are working on a computer

There will be many occasions when I need you to have a computer in class. Let me know if you don't have one so I can help you get a loaner.

9. Technology use

Use your technology only when I tell you. Looking, using, or being on the phone while I am teaching is disrespectful.

COURSE POLICIES

1. How many absences and late arrivals are allowed?

- Absences
 - **2 absences** are allowed with no penalty.
 - No excuse is required. I respect your privacy.
 - If absent more than **2 times**, please email/ inform me.
 - If you're in a situation where you expect many absences, let me know.
 - More than **4 absences** are equivalent to failing the class.
- Late arrival
 - **2 late arrivals** are allowed.
 - If you're late more than two times, you will be **notified by me so that it doesn't impact your performance.**

2. What to do if you miss class

- Contact me by email.
 - Please make sure to put "ENGL 101: Absence" in the subject line.
 - If there was a graded activity that day, I'll let you know how to make it up.

3. Let me know about anything that affects your learning.

Do you have a disability, learning challenge, or other condition affecting your learning or participation in class? Let me know. I want you to be the best learner you can be. See More Details About Learning Support and Reasonable Accommodations below for more details.

4. Show respect to yourself, your work, and others.

- Listen, speak, read, and write thoughtfully and with an eye on how others perceive and feel.
- Respect the people around you. Please make our classroom a clean, safe, professional, collaborative environment for everyone. If someone is harming your experience, let me know.
- Respect each other's privacy. It's illegal to record audio or video or take pictures without the explicit consent of the other students and me. Do not share other people's writing without their permission.

5. Use your technology wisely.

- You're expected to have a working laptop computer, but you don't always need it in class. If you don't have one, let me know, and I'll help arrange a loan.
- If you prefer to work on a laptop in class, no problem.
- Please don't check messages, email, or social media during class. If you're off task, I'll give you one warning. After that, I'll count you absent for each additional warning.

6. No cheating

- You are expected to do your work. Use the words or ideas of others (family, friends, books, websites, whatever) without clearly signaling that you're doing so, and you're committing plagiarism. Committing plagiarism results in, at a minimum, earning a zero on the assignments.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS (Learning Management System)

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

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>

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 coursework 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.

UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

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.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required in a face-to-face setting for this course. Attendance will be taken and used in factoring grades for the participation grade for the semester. Communication is key when students have school-related extracurricular activities to attend. The instructor should be notified before the absence occurs, and a plan made regarding the missed lecture, activity, or work.

Cell Phone Use Policy

The use of cell phones is prohibited in the classroom unless you have a special circumstance, in which case you will need to speak with me, explaining why you need to use your phone. If I see you using your phone, I may not say anything, but I will make a note and deduct points from your participation grade at the end of the semester.

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.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx> 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 Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.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, Gee Library- Room 162, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148. Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu
Website: Office of Student Disability

Resources and Services

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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 based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination based on 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 have 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 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.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS (Learning Management System)

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

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>

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.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Please contact your instructor with any questions you may have.

Your instructor's communication preference is e-mail, and her address is:

Daniel.jones@tamuc.edu.

Also,

each instructor in the department of literature and languages is required to keep at least three office hours per course per week. These office hours will be held in **David Talbot Hall Room 126**.

Grievances

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Director of Writing, Dr. Ashanka Kumari, by emailing her (ashanka.kumari@tamuc.edu). Before an appointment is scheduled, the student must provide clearly documented and explained issues as to why the meeting is being requested. **The student must also state when they discussed the issue *in person or via phone (not email)* with the instructor already.**

Where applicable, students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 (“Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation”).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Weekly Schedule:

The instructor reserves the right to adjust this schedule throughout the semester to accommodate for class needs, unexpected weather, etc.

Week 1: Introductions

January 12: Introduction to Course, Syllabus Overview, D2L, library databases, plagiarism discussion, questions, etc.

January 14: Introduction: “What is Literature?”, “What Does Literature Do?”, “What Are the Genres of Literature?”, “Why Read Literature?”, “Why Study Literature?” pp. 1-13

January 15: What are fictions? Introduction: Reading Norton, Definition, Examples, Critique.

UNIT 1: FICTION (SHORT STORIES)

Week 2: Fiction: Plot

January 19:MLK Holiday

January 21: “Fiction: Reading, Responding, Writing” pp. 16-47; “Understanding the Text”- “Plot” pp.48-55; Ellison pp. 56-63

January 23: Oats pp. 64-76; Bob Dylan “It’s All Over Now, Baby Blue”.

<https://www.bobdylan.com/songs/its-all-over-now-baby-blue/>

Week 3: Fiction: Narration, Point of View, Character

January 26: Narration and Point of View (Carson) *A Fable for Tomorrow* (1-12)

January 28: Character pp. 94-101; (Kafka) pp.317-323; (Gilman) pp. 302-313

January 30: “Writing About Literature” pp. 1040-1045 and “The Writing Process” pp.1066-1078

Week 4: Fiction: Setting, Symbol and Figurative Language, Theme

February 2: Setting (Joyce, Tan) pp.122-143. (Achebe) *Things Fall Apart* ()

February 4: Symbol and Figurative Language (Hawthorne, Byatt) pp.147-183

February 6: Theme, (Attwood) Time Capsule Found on a Dead Planet.

*****Writing Assignment #1: Short Fiction Analysis Due Feb. 6, Sunday by 11:59 PM*****

UNIT II: NOVELS

Week 5: Fiction: Novel (*Botchan* Chapters 1-5 pp. 1-57)

February 9: “The Literature Essay” pp 1046-1065, Read *The Nutmeg’s Curse*

February 11: Reading Novel, How does it matter? *The Nutmeg’s Curse*,

February 13: Analyzing Novel, *The Nutmeg’s Curse*,

Week 6: Fiction: Novel (*Botchan* Chapters 6-11 pp. 58-143)

February 16: Read *The Ministry for the Future*,

February 18: Read *The Ministry for the Future*,

February 20: Read *The Ministry for the Future*

*****Writing Assignment #1: Short Fiction Analysis Due Feb. 19th Sunday by 11:59 PM*****

UNIT 3: FILMS

Week 8: Films: Sci Fi (Speaker, Situation, Setting, Theme, Angle, Shot, Screenplay, Mis-en-scene)

February 23: Intro to Film (Hugo) Marie-Georges-Jean Méliès’s life.

February 25: *Arrival* (2016) Denis Villeneuve, Narrative Structure & Perspective

February 27: *Children of Men*, Alfonso Cuarón (2008), Visual Storytelling.

Week 9: Films: World (Literary Concepts/ Editing/ Sound/ Time)

March 2: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (2004), Michel Gondry, Literary Concepts.

March 4: *Blade Runner 2049*/ Sound, Set, Background

March 6: *Train to Busan*/ Editing, Effects, Agency

Week 10: SPRING BREAK

March 9: **Spring Break NO CLASS**

March 11: **Spring Break NO CLASS**

March 13: **Spring Break NO CLASS**

Week 11: Films: (Composition / Editing/ Presentation)

March 16: *The Kid* (Charlie Chaplin) World

March 18: *The War Horse*

March 20: *Hidden Figures*

*****Writing Assignment #2: Film Analysis Due March 27th Sunday by 11:59 PM*****

UNIT 4: Anime/ Documentary

Week 12

March 23: *Wall-E* (Setting, Literary Criticism, Meaning)
March 25: *My Neighbor Totoro* (Art making, Japanese Artform)
March 27: *The Jungle Book* (Story, Adaptation, Prospects)

Week 13:

March 30: *Before the Flood*.
April 1: *Icarus*.
April 3: *Orwell 2+2=5*

*****Writing Assignment #2: Film Analysis Due April 10th Sunday by 11:59 PM*****

UNIT 5: Videogames (Play, Ludo Narratology, Gameplay, Gamification, Gameful Learning) Please make sure you can play or at least watch videos of the games.

Week 14: Playing and Analyzing Videogames

April 6: Is playing video games a waste of time? 36 Ways to Learn a Videogame, (Gee)
April 8: Can Video Gameplay Improve Undergraduates' Problem-Solving Skills? *World of Warcraft*
April 10: *Legend of Zelda*

Week 15: What Video Games Can Tell Us About the Future

April 13: *Ending Extinction/ Civilization VI*
April 15: *Minecraft*
April 17: Video games of your choice.

*****Writing Assignment #3: Drama Analysis Due April 24th Sunday by 11:59 PM*****

Week 16: Reflection: How was the journey?

April 20: Because now you have learned: Debate
April 22: Start prepping for your final paper
April 24: Conference.

Week 17: What questions do you have?

April 27: Wrapping up: What did you learn? Why does it matter?
April 29: Started revising your drafts. If you have any questions?

Finals Week: 1-9

PORTFOLIO DUE (Your portfolio will be due during finals week: May 5 by 10:00 am)

Finals week (May 9th – 13th): Final Exam Schedule is here:

<https://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/academicCalendars/final-exam-schedule.aspx>

