



ENGL 2326.01W CRN: 84594

Introduction to Literature

Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Jason A. Walker

Office Location: Talbot Hall of Languages, Rm 229

Office Hours: M/W 1:00 – 1:50p; T/Th 2:00 – 2:50p (Zoom by request)

ETAMU Email Address: Jason.Walker@etamu.edu

Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours M-Th (see “Communication” on pg. 6)

Class Meeting Days/Time: Online/Asynchronous (no face-to-face meetings)

Class Meeting Location: N/A

Course Information

Textbook(s) Required:

This course requires no purchased textbook. Every assigned reading is drawn from public-domain texts, openly licensed (OER) materials, or work freely accessible online with the rightsholder's permission. All readings are linked directly in each week's D2L module; students do not need to buy, rent, or access any anthology to complete this course.

Software Required:

- D2L
- LeoMail
- A Word Processing Program (All ETAMU student have free access to [Office 365.](#))

Course Description

ENGL 2326 (3 credit hours): Introduction to Literature provides students with a broad survey of literary texts from antiquity to the present day, organized by genre. Students will develop close reading, critical thinking, and analytical writing skills while engaging with poetry, drama, short fiction, the novel, and emerging digital and multimodal literary forms. The course also introduces students to the foundational vocabulary of literary study, including narrative technique, figurative language, form, and genre conventions. By the end of the course, students will be able to read literary texts with sophistication, write analytically about literature, and place individual works in their cultural and historical contexts.



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Core Curriculum Course Objectives

- **Critical Thinking Skills:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information;
- **Communication Skills:** to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication;
- **Teamwork:** to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal;
- **Personal Responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students completing ENGL 2326 will be able to:

- **Identify and apply** key literary terms and concepts across multiple genres, including poetry, drama, fiction, and emerging forms.
- **Demonstrate** close reading and annotation skills through the analysis of form, structure, figurative language, and thematic content.
- **Construct** analytical arguments about literary texts in written essays and discussion, supported by textual evidence.
- **Trace** the historical development of major literary genres from antiquity through the contemporary period.
- **Engage** with issues of culture, identity, society, and aesthetics as they appear in literary texts.
- **Evaluate** digital and multimodal literary forms, applying concepts of interactivity, hypertext structure, and reader agency.
- **Situate** literary and emerging digital texts within broader conversations about what counts as literature.



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Instructional Modality

This class is an asynchronous online course. All readings and work will be completed online in D2L. There are no face-to-face class meetings.

Assessment & Grading

As your instructor, my approach to classroom assessment is a through in depth written response to assignments. Additionally, I am available to have one-one-one meetings during office hours for further assessment explanation. I will be sure that you have every opportunity to succeed in this course. Midterm and final grades will be based on the grading scale below.

Grading Scale

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89%

C = 70% - 79%

D = 60% - 69%

F = 59% or Below



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Weighted Grade Distribution

Assignment	Description	%
Participation & Attendance	Weekly discussion board posts and replies in D2L constitute class attendance; no more than 3 missed weekly discussions without penalty; each additional missed week reduces this grade by two percentage points.	5%
Reader Response (x4)	Four brief reader response papers (2.5% each): students submit a short informal response to that week's assigned reading, reflecting on its meaning, effect, or significance and referencing specific textual details. Due: Weeks 2, 4, 11, and 12.	10%
Literary Terms Quiz	D2L quiz covering foundational literary terminology introduced in Unit 1. Includes identification, definition, and application to a short passage. Due: Week 2.	5%
Poetry Analysis Essay (750–900 words)	A focused close reading of one poem from the course. Students will analyze form, imagery, figurative language, and thematic content. MLA format required. Due: Week 5.	15%
Drama Analysis Paper (500–700 words)	A short analytical response to one of the drama unit's major texts, addressing character, conflict, or staging. Due: Week 8.	10%
Short Fiction Analysis Essay (900–1,100 words)	An analytical essay on one short story from the course, constructing an arguable interpretive claim supported by textual evidence. Due: Week 11.	10%
Novel Analysis Essay (900–1,100 words)	A focused analytical essay on Kafka's <i>The Metamorphosis</i> or Tagore's <i>The Home and the World</i> , developing an arguable interpretive thesis supported by close reading of specific textual details. MLA format required. Due: Week 14.	10%
Final Essay (1,200–1,500 words)	A comparative or thematic analytical essay written outside of class and submitted during finals week before the final exam. Students may choose their own texts from the course. MLA format required.	20%
Comprehensive Final Exam	Cumulative exam proctored at the university's testing center during finals week. Includes literary terms, passage identification across all units (including emerging and digital genres), and one analytical essay. See Final Exam section for full format description.	15%
TOTAL		100%



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Technology Requirements

Learning Management System (LMS)

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace). 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.etamu.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@etamu.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, an East Texas A&M campus open computer lab, etc.



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Course Policies & Procedures

Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success in the Course

Students can achieve success in this class through the following:

- Completing weekly D2L discussion posts and replies on schedule – this is your “attendance” in the course
- Allocating a weekly reading, and writing schedule
- Asking for help from the Writing Center, or attending office hours

This course is reading and writing intensive and requires diligent, dedicated attention throughout the semester. Students who are most successful are those who set good habits from the first day of class and follow them without exception. As your instructor, I am here to help you, and I will do that anytime; but there is only so much I can do to help. The responsibility for your success lies with you.

Attendance and Participation

Upon successful completion of ENGL 2326, students will be able to:

Because this course is fully asynchronous, attendance is measured through your weekly D2L discussion board activity rather than class meetings. Each week, you must submit an original discussion post and reply to at least one classmate's post by the posted deadline.

Since discussion posts and replies constitute your attendance in this course, all of them must be completed on time, every week. There is no late submission of discussion posts or replies. A post or reply submitted after its deadline will not be accepted and will receive a 0. A missed, incomplete, or late post or reply counts as an absence for that week. If you know in advance that you will be unable to meet a week's deadline, contact me before the deadline to discuss your situation.



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Late Work

1 day late = -10 points

2 days late = -20 points

3+ days late = NO CREDIT

If there are extenuating circumstances beyond your control, I will consider possible reduced deductions for late work. This will be on a case-by-base basis. If you know in advance that you cannot submit an assignment on time, you may request an extension no less than 24 hours prior to the deadline via ETAMU email. I will not grant verbal extensions. You may request two (2) extensions per semester. *Participation assignments are not eligible for late submission.*

Communication

Communication is a key part of success in this course. I am available via email (Jason.Walker@ETAMU.edu) from 9am-5pm weekdays to discuss assignments and other course-related concerns. I also have walk-in office hours on M/W 1:00 – 1:50p; T/Th 2:00 – 2:50p (Zoom by request) in Talbot Hall Room 229, or by appointment (email me to set up a time). I will respond within 24 hours on weekdays. Emails received over the weekend will be answered on Monday. Please include a proper opening, clear message and subject line, and closing salutation in emails. Here's an example:

To: Jason Walker (Jason.Walker@ETAMU.edu)
From: Student Name (sname23@leomail.etamu.edu)
Subject: Student Name. ENGL 2326. Office Hours Question

Dear Dr. Walker,

I would like to meet with you via Zoom to discuss my thesis statement for the Poetry Analysis Essay. Could we set up an appointment? I am available Monday, Wednesday, or Friday after 3:00pm.

Thank you,
Student Name



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Grievance Procedures

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 Dr. Jason Walker, the Director of Writing (Jason.Walker@ETAMU.edu). In the case when the Director of Writing is the instructor, the student should contact Dr. Debbie Lelekis, Interim Chair of the Department of Literature and Languages (Debbie.Lelekis@ETAMU.edu). Where applicable, students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 (“Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation”).

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Various circumstances and events during the semester may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance in class, on D2L, and via ETAMU email.

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.etamu.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>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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.



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Your value as a member of this course and university community at large is vital to me, regardless of social identity factors. While at times, the topic of class discussions, readings, and other activities may take you out of your comfort zone or even go against your individual perception of the world, you are expected to keep an open mind and evaluate claims based on facts and knowledge, rather than preconceived notions alone. For questions or concerns, please come talk to me.

Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.

<http://www.etamu.edu/attendance>

<https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/undergrad/academic-procedures/>

Writing Program Policy on Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M University (ETAMU) Writing Program acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI), and Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). The ETAMU Writing Program is guided by national, flagship organizations representing the discipline of English and the field of Writing Studies, including the Modern Language Association (MLA), National Council on the Teaching of English (NTCE), and the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) regarding the theorization and teaching of critical AI literacy. ETAMU Writing Program values a spectrum of beliefs about AI, GenAI, and AGI, ranging from ethical integration to absolute refusal. ETAMU Writing Program believes in and practices critical AI literacy alongside ethical, responsible integration of AI, GenAI, and AGI in our writing instruction, appropriately. We teach students to document their AI use in their writing and other curriculum deliverables while highlighting educational concerns about using these technologies. ETAMU Writing Program instructors share their position on and preferences for AI, GenAI, and AGI integration with students, and students follow the instructor's guidelines and the requirements of the course. Undocumented uses of AI, GenAI, and AGI can constitute an instance of academic dishonesty, including cases related to issues like plagiarism and misrepresentation in student deliverables.



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Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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

Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form:

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

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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

Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness

To measure the level of compliance with the university's Institutional Effectiveness guidelines, throughout the semester, I will collect some of the ungraded texts you produce. The texts will be part of a portfolio created on your behalf and will be measured to ensure that our program "promotes practices that result in higher student academic achievement; an enhanced student experience; aligned and transparent decisions; and readily available information for improvement, accountability, and accreditation" (see "Department of Institutional Effectiveness," <http://www.etamu.edu/aboutus/institutionalEffectiveness/default.aspx>). This is solely an assessment of program effectiveness and in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.

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



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provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

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

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Resources

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers



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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.etamu.edu/counsel

Writing Center

The Writing Center offers writers free, one-on-one assistance. We welcome all writers, majors, and disciplines—undergraduate and graduate students alike. In fact, we work from the premise that all writers, no matter their ability level, benefit from the feedback of knowledgeable readers. The Writing Center staff is trained to provide writers with just this service. In short, we are here to help you help yourself. The Writing Center offers one-on-one sessions with writers—both face-to-face and online—begin on the hour and last up to 45 minutes. You cannot sign up for back-to-back appointments, but you may sign up for as many appointments as you'd like each day and week. For more information, visit <https://www.tamuc.edu/writing-center>

Library

The Velma Waters Library supports the research, learning and teaching interests of students, faculty and staff. Connect with a librarian, explore our research and course guides, and attend workshops.

Chat with a Librarian! Get immediate assistance with our chat service on the main Library page: <https://www.etamu.edu/library/>

- Email libraryservice@etamu.edu We will respond to your email within 24 hours, often much sooner.
- **Text** your question to 903.225.2862.
- **Call** the Waters Library at 903.886.5718 or contact the librarian for your college/department to discuss your research needs.
- **Meet With Us!** Don't stay up all night searching Google. Schedule a one-on-one consultation held in-person or via Zoom with the librarian for your college/academic department.
 - **Visit Us!** We'd love to meet you in-person! o Waters Library Research Office: Second Floor, Room 213
 - Waters Library University Archives: 4th Floor, Room 406A



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East Texas A&M at Mesquite Metroplex Center: Second Floor, Study Room

Student Career Preparedness Office

Meet with career advisors who can help you with the resources and tools needed to prepare you for your next phase after graduation and beyond. To schedule an appointment, you can either call 903.468.3223, emailing hrealion@etamu.edu or go online by clicking [schedule an appointment](#).

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>



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Course Calendar

Unit / Topics	Readings	Assignments Due
Unit 1: Foundations Week 1 - What is literature? - Close reading & annotation Week 2 - Literary terminology - Course overview	Week 1 - Eagleton, various introductory readings Week 2 - Various introductory readings <i>See "Weekly Reading" tab in D2L for detailed list of works.</i>	- Reader Response 1 — Wk 2 - Literary Terms Quiz — Wk 2 - Weekly Discussion — Wk 2
Unit 2: Poetry Week 3 - Epic & sonnet tradition - Metaphysical poetry Week 4 - Romantic & Victorian poetry - American poetry Week 5 - Modernist & Harlem Renaissance poetry - Contemporary poetry	Week 3 - Homer, Sappho, Shakespeare, Donne, Herbert, Marvell Week 4 - Keats, Wordsworth, Browning, Tennyson, Whitman, Dickinson, Frost Week 5 - Eliot, Hughes, Brooks, Plath, Komunyakaa, Oliver <i>See "Weekly Reading" tab in D2L for detailed list of works.</i>	- Weekly Discussion — Wk 3 - Reader Response 2 — Wk 4 - Weekly Discussion — Wk 4 - Poetry Analysis Essay — Wk 5 - Weekly Discussion — Wk 5
Unit 3: Drama Week 6 - Greek tragedy - Aristotle's Poetics Week 7 - Shakespearean drama Week 8 - Modern realist drama	Week 6 - Sophocles, Aristotle Week 7 - Shakespeare Week 8 - Ibsen, Glaspell <i>See "Weekly Reading" tab in D2L for detailed list of works.</i>	- Weekly Discussion — Wk 6 - Weekly Discussion — Wk 7 - Drama Analysis Paper — Wk 8 - Weekly Discussion — Wk 8
Unit 4: Short Fiction Week 9 - Gothic & American short story - Realism & naturalism Week 10 - Modernist short fiction - Contemporary speculative fiction	Week 9 - Poe, Hawthorne, Chopin, Gilman, Crane Week 10 - Joyce, Hemingway, Woolf, Chiang <i>See "Weekly Reading" tab in D2L for detailed list of works.</i>	- Weekly Discussion — Wk 9 - Weekly Discussion — Wk 10 - Reader Response 3 — Wk 11 - Short Fiction Analysis Essay — Wk 11 - Weekly Discussion — Wk 11



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Unit / Topics	Readings	Assignments Due
Week 11 Unit review & close reading		
Unit 5: The Novel Week 12 - Origins of the novel - Begin The Metamorphosis Week 13 - The Metamorphosis discussions - Begin The Home and the World Week 14 - The global novel - Unit wrap-up	Week 12 - Cervantes, Defoe, Kafka Week 13 - Austen, Woolf, Tagore <i>See “Weekly Reading” tab in D2L for detailed list of works.</i>	- Reader Response 4 — Wk 12 - Weekly Discussion — Wk 12 - Weekly Discussion — Wk 13 - Novel Analysis Essay — Wk 14 - Weekly Discussion — Wk 14
Unit 6: Emerging & Digital Literatures Week 15 - Electronic literature - Interactivity & generative form Week 16 - Nonfiction & the essay tradition - Course synthesis	Week 15 - Montfort Week 16 - Orwell, Douglass <i>See “Weekly Reading” tab in D2L for detailed list of works.</i>	Weekly Discussion — Wk 15
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	—	Final Exam — Finals Wk