

# Sophomore Literature Program Syllabus

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This syllabus provides information about objectives and policies common to all sections of sophomore literature. Your instructor will provide detailed policies specific to his or her course.

## Description of Sophomore Literature

In sophomore literature at Texas State University-San Marcos, you will read and analyze literary texts; develop an appreciation of literature as an art form; and gain an understanding of the role of literature in its historical, social and cultural contexts.

Sophomore literature at Texas State University-San Marcos consists of six three-hour courses, distinct by nationality/geography and time period:

**English 2310: British Literature before 1785.** Representative authors and works of British literature from the beginnings through the Neoclassical Period.

**English 2320: British Literature since 1785.** Representative authors and works of British literature from the Romantic period to the present.

**English 2330: World Literature before 1600.** Representative authors and works of literature from the ancient world to the early modern world. Readings may come exclusively from the Western tradition or from various literary traditions, such as those of Africa and Asia.

**English 2340: World Literature since 1600.** Representative authors and works of literature from the modern world. Readings may come exclusively from the Western tradition or from various literary traditions, such as those of Africa and Asia.

**English 2359: American Literature before 1865.** Representative authors and works of American literature from the beginnings through the Civil War.

**English 2360: American Literature since 1865.** Representative authors and works of American literature from the Civil War to the present.

All six sophomore literature courses share the following defining characteristics:

- They emphasize survey, rather than specialized, knowledge about literature. This basic knowledge gives you the facility to ask increasingly sophisticated questions of literary texts.
- They equip you with basic tools of textual analysis, teaching you to read literature closely with attention to form, syntax, and language.
- They heighten your awareness of literature as art and its capacity to order experience in aesthetically pleasing and moving ways.
- They place literary works in context—historical, social, cultural—exploring particular works as a record of human experience and as part of a definable tradition.

## **The Sophomore Literature Requirement**

The General Education core at Texas State requires all students to take at least one sophomore literature course; other degrees and programs (for example, the Bachelor of Arts degree) may require a second course.

You may choose from among the six courses unless your degree program specifies courses or sequence of courses.

## **Program Objectives and Learning Outcomes**

After completion of a sophomore literature class, students will demonstrate the ability to

1. read a literary text with a grasp of its content—for example, details of plot and character, major structural divisions, key images and ideas.
2. analyze a literary text in order to explicate its meaning and to identify significant formal and linguistic features.
3. explain ways in which a particular literary work reflects and shapes the historical, social and cultural circumstances in which it was produced.
4. identify representative authors and works in a particular literary tradition.
5. recognize significant themes and techniques shared by works in a particular literary tradition.

Objectives 2 and 4 have been identified as key General Education Learning Outcomes for the 2008-09 academic year.

Instructors for each sophomore literature class may specify additional learning objectives for their students.

## **Special Needs**

If you have special needs, as documented by the Office of Disability Services (ODS), you must notify your instructor at the beginning of the semester. Your instructor will work with you and with ODS to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations.

## **Texas State University-San Marcos Honor Code**

As members of a community dedicated to learning, inquiry, and creation, the students, faculty, and administration of our University live by the principles in this Honor Code. These principles require all members of this community to be conscientious, respectful, and honest.

### **We Are Conscientious:**

We complete our work on time and make every effort to do it right. We come to class and meetings prepared and are willing to demonstrate it. We hold ourselves to doing what is required, embrace rigor, and shun mediocrity special requests, and excuses.

### **We Are Respectful:**

We act civilly toward one another, and we cooperate with each other. We will strive to create an environment in which people respect and listen to one another, speaking when appropriate, and permitting other people to participate and express their views.

### **We Are Honest:**

We do our own work and are honest with one another in all matters. We understand how various acts of dishonesty, like plagiarizing, falsifying data, and giving or receiving assistance to which one is not entitled, conflict as much with academic achievement as with the values of honesty and integrity.

### **The Pledge for Students**

Students at our University recognize that, to insure honest conduct, more is needed than an expectation of academic honesty, and we therefore adopt the practice of affixing the following pledge of honesty to the work we submit for evaluation:

I pledge to uphold the principles of honesty and responsibility at our University.

## **The Pledge for Faculty and Administration**

Faculty at our University recognize that the students have rights when accused of academic dishonesty and will inform the accused of their rights of appeal laid out in the student handbook and inform them of the process that will take place.

I recognize students' rights and pledge to uphold the principles of honesty and responsibility at our University.

The complete *Texas State University Honor Code* and university policies on plagiarism are available online at [www.txstate.edu/effective/upps/upps-07-10-01.html](http://www.txstate.edu/effective/upps/upps-07-10-01.html). The English Department expects all students to be familiar with the Honor Code and related policies.

## **Writing Center**

The English Department Writing Center (Flowers Hall G05) offers individual writing counseling for all Texas State students.

The Center is not merely a resource for struggling writers; it is a place where all students can get helpful advice about any writing assignments in sophomore English or in any other course. While counselors cannot proofread your papers for you, they can help you during any stage of the writing process—from exploring an idea to polishing a draft.

Your instructor may advise you to visit the Writing Center or may require that you do so. You may also seek help on your own. To make an appointment, stop by the Center, call 245-3018, or email [writingctr@txstate.edu](mailto:writingctr@txstate.edu).

The Student Learning Assistance Center (SLAC), located on the 4th floor of the Alkek Library, also offers free counseling for student writers. Call 245-2515 for information, or visit SLAC's online site at [www.txstate.edu/slac](http://www.txstate.edu/slac).

(This syllabus incorporates requirements communicated to Department of English faculty by the Dean of Liberal Arts 8/00 and by University College 4/08.)