

**Sul Ross State University
Policy Statement and Syllabus
Forms of Literature
Fall 2023**

Instructor: Robin Alvarez

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Office Location: Del Rio

Office Hours: Cyber (i.e. email, telephone, or video conference) by arrangement

Contact me by email: rka19ro@sulross.edu

Required Texts, Materials, Supplies

- Provided as a pdf: Literature & Composition: Reading, Writing, Thinking
- Additional readings will be provided as digital files or internet links
- Consistent access to a computer and internet

Course Description:

Survey of a variety of literary modes and genres from different cultures and time periods.

Course Objectives:

Students will work towards developing an awareness of writers from diverse cultural traditions, understand and utilize important terms in Literary Studies, analyze a variety of texts in their relevant contexts, formulate interpretations through the synthesis of material from diverse texts and contexts, compose thoughtful analyses, present material serving diverse purposes in a variety of forms (oral and written), interact respectfully with others who hold divergent perspectives, and revise and improve your own written work.

Course Expectations:

This course requires your participation in daily reading and writing processes and assignments, peer review, and group work—all in an online environment. You must have access to a computer and be able to use word processing software as well as Blackboard to complete your documents. Final drafts of all work must be typed in 12pt font, double-spaced, Times New Roman typeface in Modern Language Association (MLA) format and submitted to the assignments link in Blackboard. Assignments must be submitted as a Word document or as a PDF.

Participation:

Active and appropriate class participation in group and individual activities is one step toward getting the most out of this class. Active participation will help your course grade; lack of or inappropriate participation may hurt your course grade.

Attendance:

As this is a web-format writing course, consistent participation is absolutely necessary. Remaining current with the course schedule and taking part during the expected due dates will not only keep you personally engaged, but also will ensure that other participants of the course can benefit from your thoughts, ideas, and reactions toward the reading and writing assignments. *If you miss due dates, I will not expect others in the class to consider your work in arrears. Late work will result in an automatic ten points being taken off your grade; thus, if you received a B on an assignment, it will be reduced to a C. This does not apply to discussion boards, which do not allow for late makeups. I do not accept any late work for this course after the final exam period has ended.*

****Please note that this course is an online format which necessitates that students complete discussion boards and major assignments on the day on which the assignments are made. Discussion boards must be posted by 11:59 pm on the days they are listed as due on the syllabus and responses be posted by 11:59pm on the following course day. This will ensure that the course's discussions move forward with minimum inconvenience to your fellow students. After I have graded each discussion board, you may *not* redo or make it up. If you miss the assignment, you will not be able to make it up and will lose the credit. Missing discussion boards is akin to missing class.**

Academic Honesty:

Sul Ross students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity and are expected to encourage others to do the same. Further, students are expected to take responsible action when there is reason to suspect dishonesty on the part of others. While it is not possible to list all acts of academic dishonesty, examples include knowingly performing, attempting to perform, or assisting another in performing any act of academic dishonesty; cheating; plagiarism; collusion; submitting previously submitted material; misrepresentation or falsification of material; misrepresentation of circumstances such as illness, conflicting responsibilities. Additional details on academic integrity are found in the college catalog. Academic dishonesty carries severe penalties ranging from a grade of "0" on the affected assignment to dismissal from Sul Ross State University.

Sul Ross State University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is decent, honest, and sensible. For matters of academic honesty, we will adhere to the SRSU Student Handbook:

http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/records_srsu/handbook_2_012-2013-complete.pdf

Academic Respect:

Students are expected to abide by class policies and procedures and to treat faculty and other students in a professional, respectful manner. Students are expected to be familiar with the student conduct code published in the Student Handbook.

First Class and Beyond:

By the first class day, I will post opening/welcoming remarks and suggestions for getting started in the course. Then go to the week one module to see what you must complete for the week (i.e. Monday-Friday). I will be “off-line” on the weekends, which will begin by 4 p.m. Fridays and continue until 10 a.m. Mondays.

Technical Difficulties:

Please contact Tim Parsons or the help line at SHSU if you have technical problems or questions. Their contact information is available on the Blackboard main pages. Blackboard only works best in Firefox, Safari, or Chrome (rather than Explorer). It is free to download.**

Major Assignments:

Students are responsible for all assignments in this course and must satisfactorily complete all major assignments in English 2341 to receive a passing grade.

Major Assignment	% of Final Grade
Essay 1 – Compare and Contrast Essay	20%
Essay 2 – Interpretive Essay	20%
Assignments (10)	20%
Discussion Boards (10)	15%
Journal (3)	15%
Final Exam – Podcast (4 parts)	10%
Total Points	100%

We will read and write about selections from the required text for the course. You are expected to participate fully in a completely engaged manner and will be held accountable for your participation, both in formal and informal forums, throughout the completion of the semester’s work. All your participation must be thoughtful, sincere, and tactful. In the pursuit of these goals, we will write two essays and complete a final project. You will also complete assignments that

will hold course materials generated this semester. You will participate in directed discussion boards, which will answer and/or bounce off discussion prompts as listed in the syllabus. These also serve as the class participation component of the course, as they mirror the reading schedule. Discussion boards will largely influence the course grade.

****I expect your coursework to mirror the time you would take with this course if it were an onsite course. You should spend approximately two hours a day working on this course, with additional time for formal reading and writing assignments determined by your personal pace.**

Late Work: All major assignments and/or projects, etc. are due on the dates assigned by midnight, unless otherwise noted. You are responsible for all assignments in this course and must complete all required work in English 2341 to receive a passing grade. **Late assignments** will receive a full letter grade deduction for being late. This means, if you turn in your assignment late and it receives a B, it will automatically be reduced to a C. You may not complete discussion boards after the due date. If you see a zero in the grade book, move on. ***If you are struggling, please do not wait to contact me to discuss appropriate paths to your success!***

Grading Scale:

Percentages and Grade Equivalents:

A= 90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=59% or below

Cheating & Plagiarism: It is the responsibility of students and instructors to help maintain scholastic integrity at the University by refusing to participate in or tolerate scholastic dishonesty. Any documented case of plagiarism or cheating in this course will result in a 0 for the assignment, which will likely result in an F for the course.

Disabilities Statement: Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations should contact me as soon as possible so that we may make arrangements to ensure the most hospitable and enhancing (cyber) learning environment as possible.

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691.

Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, such as online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross

email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

A Writer's Reference: I strongly recommend all students own and utilize Diana Hacker's *A Writer's Reference*. It is a sound, credible, and particularly usable stylebook.

Syllabus

This course schedule is tentative. Readings, assignments, and due dates are subject to change.

Weekly Assignments: August 28th – September 1st

✦ Watch Welcome and Start Here video in top tab

Mon: Aug 28 th	Read / Watch Course Introduction via Welcome Tab (Read syllabus and policies)
Mon: Aug 28 th	Discussion Board - Introduction – Due by 11:59pm
Mon-Wed: Aug 28 th – Aug 30 th	Read Chapter One in your textbook p 1-17
Tues: Aug 29 th	Video Lecture
Tues - Wed: Aug 29 th - Aug 30 th	Discussion Board – Written response to every person's video– Due August 30 th by 11:59pm
Thurs-Fri: Aug 31 st – Sept 1 st	A Modern Classic assignment (pg 7). Due Friday Sept. 1 st by 11:59pm

Weekly Assignments: September 4th – September 8th

✦ Always Check the Weekly Modules

Mon: Sept 4 th	Holiday
Tues: Sept 5 th	Read Pg 19-26 (Stop at the end of the Gatsby Reading)
Tues: Sept 5 th	Video Lecture
Tues - Wed: Sept 5 th - Sept 6 th	Discussion Board –(Pg24) – Due by Sept 6 th at 11:59pm
Wed - Fri: Sept 6 th – Sept 8 th	Gatsby Style Assignment - Due Sept 8 th by 11:59pm
Thurs: Sept 6 th	Discussion Board – Two responses – Due by 11:59pm

Weekly Assignments: September 11th – September 15th

✦ Always Check the Weekly Modules

Mon: Sept 11 th	Read pg 26 -33 (Stop at the end of “My Father’s Song”)
Mon: Sept 11 th	Video Lecture
Mon- Tues: Sept 11 th - Sept 12 th	Discussion Board – (pg 30)– Due on Sept 12 th by 11:59pm
Wed: Sept 13 th	Discussion Board – Two Written Responses – Due by 11:59pm
Wed - Thurs: Sept 12 th - Sept 14 th	“My Father’s Song” Style and Structure Assignment - Due Sept 14 th by 11:59pm
Fri: Sept 15 th	Read pg 33 - 49

Weekly Assignments: September 18th – September 22th

✦ Always Check the Weekly Modules

Mon: Sept 18 th	Video Lecture
Mon: Sept 18 th	Thesis and Topic Sentence Assignment – Due Sept 18 th at 11:59pm
Tues: Sept 19 th	Discussion Board (Activity pg 48)– Due by 11:59pm
Wed: Sept 20 th	Discussion Board – Two Responses – Due by Sept 20 th at 11:59pm
Wed: Sept 20 th	Read pg 50 - 57
Thurs - Fri: Sept 21 st – Sept 22 nd	Compare and Contrast Essay Questions Assignment – Due Sept 22 st by 11:59pm
Fri: Sept 22 st	Read “Saving Sourdi” pg 281 - 294

Weekly Assignments: September 25th – September 29th

✦ Always Check the Weekly Modules

Mon: Sept 25 th	Read “Saving Sourdi” pg 281 - 294
Mon: Sept 25 th	Read “A Prayer for my Daughter” pg 302 - 304
Mon - Mon: Sept 25 th – Oct 2 nd	Compare and Contrast Essay – Due Oct 2 nd by 11:59 pm
Tues: Sept 26 th	Read Student Example of Compare and Contrast Essay pg 360 - 361
Tues: Sept 26 th	Video Lecture

Weekly Assignments: October 2nd – October 6th

✦ Always Check the Weekly Modules

Mon: Oct 2 nd	Compare and Contrast Essay – Due Oct 2 nd by 11:59 pm
Tues: Oct 3 rd	Read pg 59 - 73
Tues: Oct 3 rd	Video Lecture
Tues - Wed: Oct 3 rd – Oct 4 th	Discussion Board (pg 63)– Due on Oct 4 th by 11:59pm
Thurs: Oct 5 th	Discussion Board – Two Responses – Due by 11:59pm
Thurs - Fri: Oct 5 th – Oct 6 th	Analysis of Character Assignment (pg 66) Due by Oct 6 th at 11:59pm
Fri: Oct 6 th	Listen to the two podcasts

Weekly Assignments: October 9th – October 13th

✦ Always Check the Weekly Modules

Mon - Tue: Oct 9 th – Oct 10 th	Read 73- 92
Tues : Oct 10 th	Video Lecture
Wed: Oct 11 th	Discussion Board (p85) – Due by 11:59pm
Thurs: Oct 12 th	Discussion Board – Two Responses – Due by 11:59pm
Thurs - Fri: Oct 12 th - Oct 13 th	Identifying Themes in Fiction Assignment (pg 91) Due by Oct 13 th at 11:59pm

Weekly Assignments: October 16th – October 20th

✦ Always Check the Weekly Modules

Mon: Oct 16 th	Read 92 - 102
Mon : Oct 16 th	Video Lecture – Includes how to record your discussion board
Mon - Wed: Oct 16 th – Oct 18 th	Discussion Board – PARTNER Video Response (Dramatic reading) – Due Oct 18 th by 11:59pm
Wed - Thurs: Oct 18 th - Oct 19 th	Discussion Board – Respond to every video following criteria – Due by 11:59pm
Thurs: Oct 19 th	Identifying Themes in Drama Assignment (pg 100) Due by Oct 19 th at 11:59pm
Fri: Oct 20 th	Read pg 102 - 121

Weekly Assignments: October 23th – October 27th

✦ Always Check the Weekly Modules

Mon: Oct 23 rd	Read pg 102 - 121
Mon : Oct 23 rd	Video Lecture
Tues: Oct 24 th	Discussion Board (pg114-115) – Due Oct 24 th by 11:59pm
Wed: Oct 25 th	Discussion Board – Two Responses – Due by 11:59pm
Thurs - Fri: Oct 26 th – Oct 27 th	Essay Planning Assignment (pg 116) Due by Oct 27 th at 11:59pm

Weekly Assignments: October 30th – November 3rd

✦ Always Check the Weekly Modules

Mon: Oct 30 th	Student Writing Critique Assignment (Pg 119-121) Due Oct 30 th by 11:59pm
Mon: Oct 30 th	Video Lecture
Tues – Tues: Oct 31 st -Nov 7 th	Interpretive Essay – Due Nov 7 th by 11:59pm

Weekly Assignments: November 6th – November 10th

✦ Always Check the Weekly Modules

Tues: Nov 7 th	Interpretive Essay – Due Nov 7 th by 11:59pm
Wed: Nov 8 th	Video Lecture
Wed - Thurs: Nov 8 th – Nov 9 th	Watch Death of a Salesman – BBC version (Follow script provided)
Fri: Nov 10 th	Listen to Podcast – Death of a Salesman
Fri: Nov 10 th	Journal reflection on Drama and podcast – Due Nov 10 th by 11:59pm

Weekly Assignments: November 13th – November 17th

✦ Always Check the Weekly Modules

Mon: Nov 13 th	Read pg 133 – 141 - Two Kinds
Mon: Nov 13 th	Video Lecture
Mon – Tues: Nov 13 th – Nov 14 th	Discussion Board (Two Kinds) – Due Nov 14 th by 11:59pm
Wed: Nov 15 th	Discussion Board – Two Responses – Due Nov 15 th by 11:59pm
Thurs: Nov 16 th	Listen to Podcast – Amy Tan
Thur: Nov 16 th	Journal reflection on fiction and podcast – Due Nov 16 th by 11:59pm
Fri: Nov 17 th	Read pg 127 - 130

Weekly Assignments: November 20th – November 24th

✦ Always Check the Weekly Modules

Mon: Nov 20 th	Read pg 127 - 130
Tues: Nov 21 st	Listen to Podcast – Langston Hughes
Tues: Nov 21 st	Journal reflection on poem and podcast – Due Nov 21 st by 11:59pm
Wed – Fri: Nov 22 nd – Nov 24 th	Holiday

Weekly Assignments: November 27th – December 1st

✦ Always Check the Weekly Modules

Mon: Nov 27 th	Introduction to Podcast Final Exam Project
Mon: Nov 27 th	Video Lecture
Mon: Nov 27 st	Group Discussion Boards for project (pg 124) – Initial Response Due Nov 27 th by 11:59pm
Tues: Nov 28 st	Group Discussion Boards for project – Two written responses Due Nov 28 th by 11:59pm
Wed: Nov 29 th	Read Web Article: Podcast structure
Wed: Nov 29 th	From Podcast structure article, also watch step 4 video: Podcast Scripts
Thurs – Fri: Nov 30 th – Dec 1 st	Group Podcast Outline – Due Dec 1 st by 11:59pm

Weekly Assignments: December 4th – December 8th

✦ Always Check the Weekly Modules

Mon - Wed: Dec 4 th – Dec 6 th	Podcast script written – Due Dec 6 th by 11:59pm
Thurs - Fri: Dec 7 th – Dec 8 th	Record Practice Session of Podcast – Due Dec 8 th by 11:59pm

Weekly Assignments: December 11th – December 13th

✦ Always Check the Weekly Modules

Mon: Dec 11 th	Review Practice Notes and implement changes for Final recording
Mon - Tues: Dec 11 th – Dec 12 th	Final Exam Podcast – Due Dec 12 th by 11:59pm