

# **ENG126: Introduction to Literary Genres** (section 001)

Fall 2011 – Tuesday/Thursday 8:00 – 9:50 am – 145 Natural Sciences Building

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (and by appointment)

All course handouts accessible at <http://angel.msu.edu/>

## **Course Description**

Michigan State University officially describes ENG126 as the “[b]asics of two or more literary genres such as drama, narrative prose, poetry, or non-fiction, intended for non-majors.” This section of ENG126 will examine two genres central to the English language literary tradition: poetry and the novel. One half of the semester will be dedicated to each of these genres: the first half of the semester designated for close study of poetry and the second half designated for consideration of the novel. Throughout the semester, students will consistently engage with the concept of genre, considering the relationship among form, tradition, and content. As this course may be the non-major’s only extended literature course at the university level, ENG126 will highlight important cultural milestones of English language literature—but will also explore how the analysis of these texts can be applied usefully in a more general capacity. By the end of the semester, ENG126 will provide non-majors with general knowledge of the techniques of literary study as well as particular knowledge of the advanced methodology used to read poetry and the novel.

## **Course Objectives**

- 1) Students will become mature interpreters of literature through the extended study of significant English language poems and novels.
- 2) Students will gain an understanding of the concept of genre. They will examine how genres develop and how they can utilize this knowledge in their individual professions.
- 3) Students will improve analytical and writing skills more broadly through the rigorous examination of content, history, and form.
- 4) Students will procure a general knowledge of English language poetry and novels in order to more fully grasp the English language cultural tradition.

## **Required Texts** (texts are required in these particular editions—no exceptions)

Ferguson, Margaret, Mary Jo Salter, and Jon Stallworthy, eds. *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*. Shorter Fifth Edition. New York: Norton, 2005. ISBN: 9780393979213

Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe*. Ed. Evan R. Davis. Toronto: Broadview, 2010. ISBN: 9781551119359

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. Ed. Robert P. Irvine. Toronto: Broadview, 2002. ISBN: 9781551110288

Hardy, Thomas. *Tess of the d’Urbervilles*. 2nd ed. Ed. Sarah E. Maier. Toronto: Broadview, 2007. ISBN: 9781551117515

## Final Grade Calculation

Final grades will be calculated by the following distribution:

Poetry Analysis	20 %
Genre Analysis	20 %
Final Exam	20 %
Quizzes	15 %
Reading Comprehension Checks	10 %
Participation/Engagement	15 %

## Grading of Course Performance

Genre analyses, quizzes, reading comprehension checks, the final exam, and participation will be graded on Michigan State University's standard numerical 4-point scale. The requirements, expectations, and grading criteria for a particular analysis/quiz/exam will be described in its own assignment sheet. Assignments may be summarized briefly as follows:

**Poetry Analysis:** a brief (1,000 word) close examination of a single short poem demonstrating interpretive skill set and analytical faculty

**Genre Analysis:** a brief (1,200 word) comparative essay examining the generic limits and capabilities of the novel versus poetry, using two course texts as primary examples

**Final Exam:** a comprehensive testing of ability to synthesize course texts into coherent essay exploring the contours of genre

**Quizzes:** brief in-class essays that demonstrate capability to perform analysis of poetry

**Reading Comprehension Checks:** brief, unannounced verification of reading comprehension and thorough consideration of a session's assigned texts

**Participation/Engagement:** Students are required to participate throughout the semester in course meetings of ENG126. Participation should take the form of thoughtful and respectful contributions to discussion and perceptive questions regarding the course material. The reading load for the poetry unit of the course is light in terms of pages; however, students are expected to read poems thoroughly multiple times before class—looking up unfamiliar words, tracing patterns, and developing a reasonable and defensible interpretation. Though ENG126 is a large course, participation is expected in each session. Participation will be assessed midway through the course and at the end of the semester on the 4-point scale. Additionally, students may ask for an assessment of their participation/engagement score at any point during the semester.

\*Note: Late work will not be accepted under any circumstance. Students must complete the Poetry Analysis, Genre Analysis, and final exam in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

## Drops and Adds

The university deadline to add this course is 8:00 pm on Wednesday, September 7. The last day to drop this course with a tuition refund and no grade reported is September 26. The last day to drop this course with no grade reported is October 19.

## **Classroom Behavior**

Much of the success of the intellectual inquiry undertaken in this course will be based on mutually respectful exchanges throughout class sessions. Students are required to discuss the themes of the course with each other as intellectual equals, as well as to respect the opinions and arguments of others. As such, students should refrain from rude, disrespectful, and judgmental speech.

All students must arrive promptly, pay attention, and contribute to the intellectual goals of the course. Although this is an 8 am class, prompt arrival and enthusiastic participation are expected. All activities detrimental to these aims—arriving late, rudely talking out of turn, sleeping, eating, using cell phones, using the Internet for purposes that are not class-related, etc.—may cause students to be asked to leave the particular session and may negatively affect their final course grades. Infractions of this policy will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

## **Attendance**

Students are required to attend all course sessions. Because discussion will be a vital aspect of ENG126, students need to come to class in order to receive the full benefits of the course. However, illnesses, scheduling conflicts, etc. can occur. For these cases, each student is allotted three no-questions-asked absences. Beyond these three absences, .5 will be deducted from a student's final grade for each additional missed session. No discrimination will be made between excused and unexcused absences; instead, students should conserve and use their three allowed absences wisely.

If you are observing a religious holiday on the day of a course session, be sure to inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Absences in this case will not be counted against a student's three allowed absences.

## **Office Hours/Email Communication**

Office hours will be held between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm on Tuesdays in 107 Morrill Hall. Please feel free to stop by anytime with questions, concerns, or course-related topics for discussion. If you would like to meet at another time, please contact the instructor via email ([granacha@msu.edu](mailto:granacha@msu.edu)) in order to set up an appointment.

Students should feel free to email the instructor with any questions or concerns they may have. The instructor checks his email inbox every day at 6 pm. In order to receive an answer on a particular day, students must email the instructor before this time; failure to do so may result in a response not being received from the instructor until the following day.

## **Academic Honesty**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in ENG126. In a literature course, students may be especially susceptible to plagiarizing the work of others; this action, however, is unacceptable and will be handled according to the disciplinary guidelines of Michigan State University (cases of plagiarism may lead to failure of the assignment or course, and proven cases of plagiarism could result in expulsion from the university). If you have any question about which acts constitute plagiarism, please ask the instructor for help or clarification before submitting an assignment.

## Students With Disabilities

Students with disabilities documented through the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities will be provided all accommodations necessary for success in EN126.

## Course Schedule

Students are expected to complete the listed readings before arriving in class for each session. Analyses should be submitted on ANGEL before 5 pm on the due date.

R 1 Sept Introduction to Course; Distribution of Syllabus

### Unit I: Reading, Interpreting, and Analyzing Poetry

- T 6 Sept “Bonny Barbara Allan” (NAP 93-94); Keats, “To Autumn” (NAP 587); Baraka, “In Memory of Radio” (NAP 1154-55)
- R 8 Sept Versification (NAP 1251-60); Chaucer, “Cantus Troili” (NAP 63-64); Wyatt, “They Flee from Me” (NAP 104)
- T 13 Sept Versification (NAP 1260-76); Spenser, Sonnet 75 from *Amoretti* (NAP 142); Sidney, Sonnet 90 from *Astrophil and Stella* (NAP 161-62)
- R 15 Sept Poetic Syntax (NAP 1277-89); Marlowe, “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love” (NAP 168-69); Shakespeare, Sonnet 130 (NAP 177)
- T 20 Sept Donne, “The Flea” (NAP 202); Donne, “The Relic” (NAP 202-3); Donne, “To His Mistress Going to Bed” (NAP 203-4)
- R 22 Sept Jonson, “On My First Son” (NAP 209); Milton, “Lycidas” (NAP 269-73);  
**Quiz #1**
- T 27 Sept Marvell, “To His Coy Mistress” (NAP 293-94); Behn, “To the Fair Clarinda, Who Made Love to Me, Imagined More Than Woman” (NAP 323)
- R 29 Sept Swift, “The Lady’s Dressing Room” (NAP 336-39); Pope, *The Rape of the Lock* (NAP 357-74)
- T 4 Oct Wheatley, “On Being Brought from Africa to America” (NAP 438); Blake, “Holy Thursday [I]” (NAP 442); Blake, “Holy Thursday [II]” (NAP 445); Blake, “The Divine Image” (NAP 442-43); Blake, “A Divine Image” (NAP 444)
- R 6 Oct Wordsworth, “Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey” (NAP 458-62); Byron, “So We’ll Go No More A-Roving” (NAP 512); Shelley, “Ozymandias” (NAP 541); **Quiz #2**
- T 11 Oct Browning, “My Last Duchess” (NAP 643-44); Whitman, *Song of Myself* (NAP 679-84)
- R 13 Oct Dickinson, “Success is counted sweetest” (NAP 719-20); Dickinson, “Wild nights – Wild nights!” (NAP 722); Dickinson, “My Life had stood – a Loaded Gun –” (NAP 728-29); Moore, “The Fish” (NAP 855-56)
- T 18 Oct Pound, “In a Station of the Metro” (NAP 846); Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (NAP 862-66); Cummings, “anyone lived in a pretty how town” (896-97);
- R 20 Oct Hughes, “Theme for English B” (NAP 915-16); Rich, “Aunt Jenifer’s Tigers” (NAP 1114-15); Ondaatje, “Letters & Other Worlds” (NAP 1201-3); **Quiz #3**

## **Unit II: Navigating the Novel for Plot, Character, and Cultural Conflict**

T	25	Oct	Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> (43-96)
R	27	Oct	Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> (96-154)
T	1	Nov	Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> (154-225); <b>Poetry Analysis Due</b>
R	3	Nov	Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> (225-304)
T	8	Nov	Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> (41-103)
R	10	Nov	Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> (104-181)
T	15	Nov	Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> (182-255)
R	17	Nov	Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> (259-320)
T	22	Nov	Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> (320-385); <b>Genre Analysis Due</b>
R	24	Nov	No Class – University Closed
T	29	Nov	Hardy, <i>Tess of the d'Urbervilles</i> (33-104)
R	1	Dec	Hardy, <i>Tess of the d'Urbervilles</i> (105-199)
T	6	Dec	Hardy, <i>Tess of the d'Urbervilles</i> (199-293)
R	8	Dec	Hardy, <i>Tess of the d'Urbervilles</i> (293-396)
W	14	Dec	Final Exam (7:45 – 9:45 am)