

ENG126: Introduction to Literary Genres (section 730)

Summer Session Two 2012 – online at <http://angel.msu.edu/>

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Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (and by appointment)

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 online section of ENG126 will examine three genres central to the English language literary tradition: poetry, drama, and the novel. One third of the semester will be dedicated to each of these genres: the first third of the semester designated for close study of poetry, the second half designated for consideration of the drama, and the final third designated for analysis 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, drama, and the novel.

Course Objectives

- 1) Students will become mature interpreters of literature through the extended study of significant English language poems, plays, 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.
- 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

Sophocles. *Antigone, Oedipus the King, and Electra*. Trans. H. D. F. Kitto. Ed. Edith Hall. New York: Oxford UP, 2008. ISBN: 978-0199537174

Shakespeare, William. *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Ed. Peter Holland. New York: Oxford UP, 2008. ISBN: 978-0199535866

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 %
Dramatic Adaptation	20 %
Quizzes	10 %
Participation/Engagement	20 %
Reading Reflections	10 %
Final Exam	20 %

Grading of Course Performance

All work 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

Dramatic Adaptation: a creative recasting (1,000 word or equivalent) of one dramatic scene using digital tools

Quizzes: two brief timed essays that demonstrate capability to perform analysis of poetry

Reading Reflections: brief essays that demonstrate original thinking and engagement with the assigned text; these will be posted to discussion boards to stimulate group interaction

Participation/Engagement: Students are required to participate throughout the semester on a regular basis in ENG126. Because ENG126 is fully online, participation in course discussion becomes essential to the intellectual inquiry of the course. Students are thus required to participate in online discussion at least two times per week (including a mandatory synchronous chat with the instructor on Friday). 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—looking up unfamiliar words, tracing patterns, and developing a reasonable and defensible interpretation. 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.

Final Exam: two timed essays that demonstrate cumulative proficiency in reading skills and writing about literature

*Note: Late work will not be accepted under any circumstance. Due dates are posted at the beginning of the semester, and students are therefore expected to plan their schedules in order to fully complete assignments on time. Students must complete the Poetry Analysis, Dramatic Adaptation, and final exam in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

Online Engagement

All students are expected to conduct themselves in the online environment with the same professionalism as in the classroom. Most importantly, all online interaction should be respectful of others' opinions and views. Moreover, students are expected to demonstrate engagement throughout the semester: this includes submitting work multiple times per week and maintaining active participation in the online discussion.

Friday Synchronous Online Discussion

Students are required to participate in a synchronous online discussion each Friday afternoon for one hour. The specific times and groups for this discussion will be assigned at the beginning of the semester. Students will discuss the assigned texts in their designated groups from Monday through Wednesday during the week. This exchange will take place on a designated message board, in which students post their reading reflections as a springboard for discussion. On Friday, these groups will all meet at the designated times via Adobe Connect. Students are required to participate in this activity each Friday (or, in the case of the final week of class, Wednesday). For each missed session, a student will lose .3 from the final score of the course.

Office Hours/Email Communication

Office hours will be held between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays 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 (granchar@msu.edu) in order to set up an appointment.

Online office hours will also be held during this same time period. Students can contact the instructor through email during this time and expect a timely response. They can also set up a video chat or phone appointment with the instructor.

Students should feel free to email the instructor at other times with any questions or concerns they may have. The instructor checks his email inbox every weekday 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 weekday.

Students can contact the instructor by phone in cases of emergency at (906) 360-3604.

Submission of Work

All documents should be submitted as stipulated in the individual assignment sheets. All submitted work should be in .doc format; if you do not have Microsoft Word, you can download Open Office (www.openoffice.org), a free program that will provide the same functionality of Word. Please name your files with your last name followed by the assignment (for instance, Jones-PoetryAnalysis.doc). Your work will be returned (typically within a week) to you using the comment feature in Word with a long note explaining the breakdown of your grade.

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 the designated date. Assignments should be submitted on ANGEL before 5 pm on the due date.

- M 2 July Introduction to Course; Distribution of Syllabus
- T 3 July Designation of Small Groups for Discussion; Introduction to Groups

Module I: Reading, Interpreting, and Analyzing Poetry

- F 6 July First Synchronous Online Discussion; “Bonny Barbara Allan” (*NAP* 93-94); Wyatt, “They Flee from Me” (*NAP* 104); Spenser, Sonnet 75 from *Amoretti* (*NAP* 142); Versification (*NAP* 1260-76)
- M 9 July First Reading Reflection due on Discussion Board; Poetic Syntax (*NAP* 1277-89); Shakespeare, Sonnet 130 (*NAP* 177); Donne, “The Flea” (*NAP* 202); Wheatley, “On Being Brought from Africa to America” (*NAP* 438); Blake, “The Divine Image” (*NAP* 442-43); Blake, “A Divine Image” (*NAP* 444)
- W 11 July First Small Group Reflection Responses
- F 13 July Synchronous Online Discussion
- M 16 July Second Reading Reflection due on Discussion Board; Byron, “So We’ll Go No More A-Roving” (*NAP* 512); Shelley, “Ozymandias” (*NAP* 541); Browning, “My Last Duchess” (*NAP* 643-44); Whitman, *Song of Myself* (*NAP* 679-84); Pound, “In a Station of the Metro” (*NAP* 846); Hughes, “Theme for English B” (*NAP* 915-16); Rich, “Aunt Jenifer’s Tigers” (*NAP* 1114-15)
- W 18 July Small Group Reflection Responses; **Quiz #1 (submitted before 5 pm)**
- F 20 July Synchronous Online Discussion

Module II: Tragedy, Comedy, and Adaptation in Theatre

- M 23 July Small Group Reflection Posting; Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*
- W 25 July Small Group Reflection Responses; **Poetry Analysis (submitted before 5 pm)**
- F 27 July Synchronous Online Discussion
- M 30 July Small Group Reflection Posting; Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
- W 1 Aug Small Group Reflection Responses; **Quiz #2 (submitted before 5 pm)**
- F 3 Aug Synchronous Online Discussion

Module III: The Novel and the Modern Individual

- M 6 Aug Small Group Reflection Posting; Austen, *Pride & Prejudice*
- W 8 Aug Small Group Reflection Responses; **Dramatic Adaptation (submitted before 5 pm)**
- F 10 Aug Synchronous Online Discussion; Hardy, *Tess of the d’Urbervilles* (1st half)
- M 13 Aug Small Group Reflection Posting; Hardy, *Tess of the d’Urbervilles* (2nd half)
- W 15 Aug Synchronous Online Discussion
- R 16 Aug **Final Exam (submitted before 5 pm)**