

**Introduction to Literature – English 104  
Course Syllabus**

**Instructor:**

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Location: OFHS room 123

Office hours: Hour 5 (12:00-12:45) and Hour 8 (2:30-3:15P.M.)

**Required Text:** (Available at UWGB's Phoenix Bookstore)

Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing (8<sup>th</sup> ed.) by Edgar V. Roberts and Henry E. Jacobs

**ISBN-10:** 0131732781 **ISBN-13:** 978-0131732780

The Great Gatsby by F.S.Fitzgerald **ISBN-10:** 0684801523 **ISBN-13:** 978-0684801520

**Course Description and Objectives:**

As the course title indicates, this course is an introduction to a deeper appreciation for literature. It will introduce you to methods of analyzing the various characteristics of poetry, short stories, and drama. You will be immersed in literature ranging from the Greek classics, through the Renaissance and into contemporary works. By the end of this course, you will be able to express through writing and discussions your understanding of and appreciation for good literature. This course will help you

- Develop a working literary vocabulary
- Develop the ability to analyze a piece of literature
- Respond to literary works in coherent academic-essay format
- Improve writing and research skills

**Attendance:**

There will be a considerable amount of reading and writing for this class. I expect you to be in class on time every day and to be prepared to discuss the piece of literature assigned for that day. Class participation is very important for your success. If for some reason you will be absent for any extra-curricular activities, it is your responsibility to talk to me or another student to get the work you missed. If you are absent due to unforeseen circumstances, please contact me as soon as possible. If there is an assignment due on the day you are gone, email it to me or have it delivered. Any late assignments will be penalized 10% (one full letter grade) for each day it is late. For example: an assignment that is one day late can not earn better than a AB. If you have any questions about deadlines please see me.

**Reading and Writing Assignments:**

You will be given a separate syllabus that includes reading and writing assignment due dates. Please be prepared to discuss the literature either in small groups or as a whole class. This course is a UWGB Writing Emphasis course. Written assignments must be typed in formal essay format: Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double-spaced, min. 2 pages (unless otherwise assigned). All papers are to be turned in on the due date. If you are absent, email it to me or have someone bring it in. We will discuss these assignments in more detail as they near their due dates.

**Writing Emphasis (WE) requirement-** This requirement is to provide students with structured opportunities to practice their writing skills. You will be writing three major papers: a 6-7 page research paper using the MLA format, a critical analysis of a major author's work, and a compare/contrast paper from the drama unit. There will also be many in-class essay tests and shorter typed essays to show what you have learned from the various readings. You will receive a detailed list of when these essays will be due, and I will answer any questions you may have at that time. I will evaluate the *quality* of your writing in addition to the content.

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This means considering such things as thesis, organization, in-depth analysis, clarity of expression, and strong college-level language and mechanics. After I have graded your first essay, and I feel that you could use help in improving your writing, I am always available to help before and after school or during my office hours. My door is always open.

## **Plagiarism, Do Not Do It!**

Plagiarism is a very serious offense. It occurs when you use someone else's words or ideas without giving him or her credit. Using the words or ideas of a student, teacher, author, the internet, a movie, etc. without correct citation is illegal. I will discuss ways to avoid plagiarism through proper citations before your first writing assignment. Any attempt at plagiarism will result in a failed assignment. If you have any questions, please see me.

## **Quizzes/Essay Tests:**

There will be both multiple choice quizzes and essay tests. Multiple choice quizzes will assess vocabulary and general comprehension on the literature studied. Essay tests will be written in class and will test your understanding of the literary work and your ability to analyze and interpret the work as a whole. If absent, all tests must be completed on the day you return.

## **Grading:**

Grading will be done on a total-points basis. However, tests will be given more weight than other coursework. Grades will be based on these skills:

Reading	(reading comprehension and recall)
Writing	(writing structure, content, and logic)
Language	(grammar/punctuation/mechanics)
Research	(research and inquiry)

## **The Literature Units**

**Short Stories:** You will be given a separate reading assignment list, which includes due dates. While studying various short stories, you will keep a journal.\* The entries will be based on topics we generate during class discussions. . You should be prepared to discuss the stories every day in class.

\*\*Short Story Essay: Chapter 11: Edgar Allen Poe's Career. Choose one of his stories and write a complete critical analysis of some aspect of that story. More information will be given at a later date.

**Poetry:** You will be given a separate assignment list of poems to be studied, which includes due dates. During this unit you will continue to write in your journals, which will include your own attempt at writing poetry. There will also be brief essay assignments that illustrate what you have gained from these following chapters.

\*\*Poetry Project: Research Paper on any poet we have studied.

**Drama:** You will be reading and studying two tragedies; Sophocles' *Oedipus the King* and Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, as well as one comedy; Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Again, the journals continue based on class discussion.

\*\* Compare/Contrast Essay Test (Typed take-home test)

**Novel: The Novel:** After a strong background on poetic devices and narration, we will read and study F.S. Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. A separate syllabus of chapter due dates and writing assignments will be distributed and discussed at a later date.

**\*Journals will be graded periodically throughout the semester.**