

English 3380.01 (CRN 82966) “Advanced Composition”

Fall 2017 / Three Hours Credit

Prerequisites: English 1301, 1302 and either 2332 or 2333

Evans Complex: Room 260 / TTh 2-3:30

Instructor: Lee Courtney

Office: Evans Complex Room 406 / 936 294 1416 / eng_lfc@shsu.edu

Office Hours: MWF 10-11 TTh 12-2

Texts / Gardner and Diaz: *Reading and Writing about Literature* (Fourth Edition) / Bedford
9781319035365 (ISBN)

Levine, LePan, and Mather: *The Broadview Anthology of Short Fiction* (Third Edition) /
9781554811410

Catalogue Course Description: “Advanced Composition [is] a study of rhetorical forms and approaches to problems of composition.”

Approaches of This Section of English 3380: The class is designed to assist students in becoming better writers through traditional (and traditionally successful) methods. You’ll be asked to read stories (especially), poems, and plays—observing the rhetorical and linguistic strategies of celebrated authors. You’ll be asked to write essays (five in all, each of about 1000 words)—responding to and analyzing those literary works. You’ll be asked to revise two of your essays in the light of reader reaction, with an opportunity in such a case to improve your essay grade. (Late essays forfeit the revision option.) There will be, in addition to five equally-weighted essays, a comprehensive final exam with both essay and objective elements. That exam will have the same value as each of the essays—15% of your semester average. (Thus, the six major grades account for 90% of your grade in the course. The other 10% is derived from class participation and short “daily” assignments. In this class, 90 will be an A, 80 a B, and so on.

Specific Aims: This course is intended—

primarily, to provide opportunity for you to “advance” your skills in composition through a program of reading literature and writing and revising essays concerning that literature;

secondarily, to give you a fuller knowledge of literary forms, terms, and techniques about which every serious writer should be knowledgeable--and of literary figures whose works (even if fictional) can serve, in large and small ways, as profitable models for all who wish to create clear, engaging, and forceful essays;

and finally, to broaden your knowledge of the functions of literary criticism by having you look at scholarly articles about assigned genres and texts (without the felt obligation to agree with each article point-by-point).

Attendance Policy: On-time, full-time, every-time attendance is the best policy. Every unexcused absence after the third will result in a two-point deduction from your semester grade. Coming to class late or leaving early counts as half-an-absence.

To claim an excuse for an absence, you must print and complete the "Excused Absence" found on Blackboard. Present the form (and any supporting material) to me at the next class meeting. This rule applies even to absences associated with University activities.

Regarding Late Essays: Each class day that an essay is late (without excuse) will reduce its value by ten points.

There will be no make-ups for missed "daily" assignments, but I will drop the lowest three such grades.

The following statements are taken from official SHSU documents:

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. [In these classes, an act of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero on the assignment in question. A second such act will mean a grade of F for the semester.]

Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reasons of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the University. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performances should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936 294 3512, TDD 936 294 3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Religious Holidays: Sections 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher learning excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for this absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment form which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

“Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis by the instructor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar’s Office.

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

See <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

English Department Cell Phone Policy: The use (including visible presence) of cell phones and all similar electronic devices is prohibited. All such devices should be turned off or put in a silent mode and not be taken out during any class. In extenuating circumstances, you should ask the instructor for permission to have your phone “on” during class.

Classroom Disruptions: Avoid the following “Ings”: eating in class, sleeping in class, noisily packing up materials before class is over, leaving class early, If ill health obliges you to exit the classroom prematurely, you must email me afterwards (explaining the circumstances) in order to avoid being charged with an unexcused absence. Exiting and re-entering the classroom at the same meeting is a double disruption. Persistently disruptive students will be penalized a letter on their semester grades.

Schedule of Assignments:

August 24	Organizational / Lecture: The Weight of Words / “The Story of an Hour” / Handout
September 5 September 7	Assigned Poems / Handouts <u>P</u> revious <u>A</u> ssignment <u>C</u> ontinued
September 12 September 14	Read “Writing about Plays” (Chapter 6 in <i>RWL</i>) PAC
September 19 September 21	PAC Essay 1 Assigned
September 26 September 28	Lecture: Susan Glaspell and the Hossack Case Read “Writing about Stories” (Chapter 5 in <i>RWL</i>) Essay 1 Due
October 3 October 5	Read “Writing about Plays” (Chapter 6 in <i>RWL</i>) / “A Jury of Her Peers” Handout Read “A Jury of Her Peers” / Essay 2 Assigned (Comparison of “Trifles” and “Jury”)
October 10 October 12	Conferences Essay 2 Due
October 17 October 19	Read “The Open Boat” (From this point on, reading assignments are in <i>BASF</i> .) Read “Bartleby the Scrivener” / Essay 3 Assigned / (Review of Selected Articles on “Boat” or “Bartleby”)
October 24 October 26	PAC Read “The Storm” and “The Jilting of Granny Weatherall” / Essay 3 Due
October 31 November 2	Read “Young Goodman Brown” and “The Tell-Tale Heart” [I’m sure you’ll recognize the symmetry here.] Essay 4 Assigned (Response to an Assigned Story)

November 7	Read "Araby" and "My Lucy Friend Who Smells Like Corn"
November 9	PAC / Essay 4 Due
November 14	Read "The Garden Party"
November 16	Read "Sonny's Blues" / Essay 5 Assigned
November 21	Essay 5 in Class (Analysis of an Assigned Story)
November 28	Review
November 30	Review
December 5	Final Exam (3:30-5:30)

Note: Students will be asked to complete an online course/instructor evaluation form at some point late in the semester.