



Honors Seminar 3331.02
Culture and Society: Harry Potter
W 2:00-4:50
Margaret Lea Houston Bldg. room 302

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The fascination with the magical world of Hogwarts and beyond continues to inspire readers and viewers twenty years after J.K. Rowling offered up her first novel in the Harry Potter Series. Translated into seventy languages, Rowling's series has "led to the creation of over 400 licensed products, 11 video games, and two theme parks" (DiLallo, Matthew. "What is J.K. Rowling's Net Worth?" *The Motley Fool*). We seek to explore the ways in which this literary phenomenon has affected our culture and society, and indeed how the world of Hogwarts self-consciously mirrors our own. Through a combination of group discussions and lectures, we will concentrate on analyzing, evaluating, and enjoying these texts, while examining their historical and cultural contexts as well as exploring the philosophical insights and aesthetic values they express. We will discuss a variety of textual aspects, including theme, imagery, character development, narrative structure, and genre. We will also consider, among other elements, social constructs, science, education, film, and the archetype of the hero's quest. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the material by actively participating in class discussions, and by successfully completing the following assignments: a scholarly project, a creative project (group or individual), a House research project, and participation in weekly discussions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To enhance understanding of assigned texts by learning literary terminology
- To discover the universal themes and common concerns of literature
- To develop a more cosmopolitan outlook, both aesthetically and philosophically
- To explore the ideas, values, and beliefs that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation as expressed in these literary texts so as to gain a deeper understanding of the human condition
- To develop written, analytical, and critical skills through oral communication and written assignments

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i>	Scholastic: ISBN-13: 978-0439708180
<i>Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets</i>	Scholastic: ISBN-13: 978-0439064873
<i>Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban</i>	Scholastic: ISBN-13: 978-0439136365
<i>Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire</i>	Scholastic: ISBN-13: 978-0439139601
<i>Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince</i>	Scholastic: ISBN-13: 978-0439785969
<i>Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix</i>	Scholastic: ISBN-13: 978-0439358071
<i>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows</i>	Arthur Levine: ISBN-13: 978-0545139700

*Other texts may be made available on Blackboard

GRADING:

	Percentages	Due Dates
Class Participation/Writing	20%	Daily
Scholarly Project	20%	October 18
House Research Project/ Presentation	30%	Last class day
Creative Project	30%	End of term feast

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

HOUSES

The Sorting Hat has assigned each student to his/her respective House, taking into account the student's scholarly interests. Students must sit together in their common room to facilitate group membership, communication, and research.

HEADS OF HOUSES

Each House will select one student to serve as Head of House. This student will be responsible for ensuring that House members adhere to all class policies. The Head of House should also foster a sense of camaraderie in the House by engaging house members with one another both in the fulfillment of their course responsibilities and in any extracurricular activities the House might pursue.

HOUSE POINTS

Each House competes for the glories of the House Cup. Points can be earned in numerous ways, all at the discretion of the professors. Answering a question with particular insight, wit, or clarity, and otherwise contributing to the class's atmosphere of pleasurable erudition will likely earn house points. Sadly, points can be lost as well – and these losses affect not merely the student who incurs the penalty but his or her House as well. Some infractions that result in the loss of House points include coming to class without the required text and/or without wearing your House badge, using cell phones or texting, or not sitting in the proper common room. This list of points and penalties is by no means exhaustive, and the professors reserve the right to reward or penalize Houses as they see fit.

HOUSE DISCUSSION TOPICS

Each student of each House is responsible for each class to lead discussion on the following topics as they are pertinent to the current novel. House members are encouraged to discuss these topics amongst themselves prior to class so that their House is not penalized for poor performances. If at any time students declare that they are not prepared to lead discussion on their House's topic, their House will lose ten, or possibly more, points. Houses will be randomly tasked with leading class discussion, though all Houses are expected to participate.

Gryffindor: Social Class and the Individual
Hufflepuff: Culture and Social Justice – magical and muggle
Ravenclaw: Space and Place – Landscape and the Individual
Slytherin: Rebellion and the Importance of the Individual

HOGWARTS'S POLICIES:

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory. If a student misses more than two classes (excused or unexcused), the student's final grade will be penalized 5% per additional absence. If a student misses more than three classes, the student must drop. Students are responsible for obtaining missed materials or assignments from their House colleagues and should check Blackboard for any announcements or handouts.

Reading: Learning how to read closely and critically is essential to understanding literature. Students should arrange their schedules to allow ample time for reading (and re-reading select passages of) all of the material by the appropriate due dates. Students are encouraged to write comments in the margins of books.

Writing: All formal written assignments must be typed and free from grammatical errors and typos. Your full participation and completion of all assignments is the minimum requirement to possibly pass the course. Attendance is, of course, expected, as is submitting assignments on time (and in hard copy). Assignments turned in late will be penalized one full letter grade unless arrangements have been made in advance

See the handout on each writing assignment. Grades will always be distributed in class, never on Blackboard or by e-mail or phone.

Writing Center: Sam Houston's Writing Center, located at 111 Farrington, is open M-TH 8-7, F 8-3, and Sun. 2-7. Writing tutors will work with students to help them generate, organize, or revise a draft of any assignment. Call 936-294-3680 or go to their website at <http://www.shsu.edu/centers/academic-success-center/writing/> to schedule an appointment. Also visit their website to learn more about their services. Ultimately, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the information is accurate.

For more information on the following policies, visit www.shsu.edu/syllabus/

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 experience 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, including a final grade of F in the class. 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. Put simply, plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of someone else's ideas or words without giving that person credit; plagiarism is also the purchasing or borrowing of a paper or assignment.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones must be turned off before class begins and iPods, etc. put away. Students are prohibited from making offensive remarks, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, doing work for other classes, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Such inappropriate behavior in the classroom will result in a directive to leave class immediately, and the student will receive an absence for the day and lose House points; those students who are especially disruptive will also be reported to the Dean of Students for immediate disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Visitors in the Classroom: Students who wish to bring visitors to class must discuss it with the professors in advance. Visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance.

Professor Evaluations: Students will be asked to complete a course evaluation form near the end of the semester.

Americans with Disabilities Acts: Any student who has a disability that may adversely affect his or her work in this class is encouraged to register with the Counseling Center and to talk with the professors about any necessary accommodations. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept confidential. Note: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center. Contact the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or call 936-294-1720.

University Policy Regarding Student Absences for Religious Holy Days: Any student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day must make up any coursework (exam, assignments, *et cetera*) within a reasonable amount of time, to be determined by the professors; moreover, any student who will be absent for a religious holiday must inform the professors no later than the twelfth day of classes.

Nota Bene: This syllabus is a contract; your continued enrollment implies agreement with and adherence to the requirements of the course.

This calendar is tentative, and we reserve the right to change it. Any changes will be announced through Blackboard or in class. It is up to the student to keep up with the changes, should there be any.
NB: Each House will be responsible for discussions of assigned topics on each class meeting.

Week 1 August 23: Introduction to course, explanation of assignments, sorting

Guest Lecture: Dr. Jaime Anderson (Houses)

Week 2 August 30: *Philosopher's Stone* (aka *Sorcerer's Stone*)

Guest speaker: Travis Ward (Quidditch)

Week 3 September 6: *Chamber of Secrets*

Lecture: Dr. Tracy Bilsing (Hogwarts)

Week 4 September 13: *Prisoner of Azkaban*

Guest lecture: Dr. Grant Wiedenfeld and Dr. Elisa Hermann (Films)

Week 5 September 20: *Goblet of Fire*

Guest lecture: Dr. Renee James (The Stars)

Week 6 September 27: *Goblet of Fire*

Guest lecture: Dr. Michelle Hoogterp and Kim Davis (Books & Libraries)

Week 7 October 4: *Order of the Phoenix*

Groups present informal overview of research topic

*Guest lecture: Dr. Debra Price (Ministry of Education)

Week 8 October 11: *Order of the Phoenix*

Guest lecture: Dr. Magdalena Denham (Defense Against the Dark Arts)

Week 9 October 18: *Half-Blood Prince*

Guest lecture: Dr. Darren Williams (Potions)

Week 10 October 25: *Half-Blood Prince*

Week 11 November 1: *Deathly Hallows*

Week 12 November 8: *Deathly Hallows*

Week 13 November 15: *Deathly Hallows*

Lecture: Dr. Kimberly Bell (Heroic Quest)

Week 14 November 22 (Thanksgiving Break – No Class Meeting)

Week 15 November 29 Last class day

House Presentations

Final exam: Feast in the Great Hall: Creative Projects and Presentation of House Cup